



AIA Michigan

Some Key Things you Should Know about Practicing Architecture in Michigan

The following are excerpts from some the Michigan laws impacting the practice of architecture in our State. You should, of course, familiarize yourself with all the salient requirements and not rely solely on these limited excerpts. They are only offered here as a response to, and reference for, a number of important questions that are often raised by our members.

The Occupational Code (Public Act 299 of 1980) of the State of Michigan states in Article 6 Section 339.601 (1) A person shall not engage in or attempt to engage in the practice of an occupation regulated under this act or use a title designated in this act unless the person possesses a license or registration issued by the department for the occupation.” Article 20 covers the majority of such requirements related to the licensing and practice of architects, professional engineers and professional surveyors in Michigan.

The following relevant definitions and requirements are included in Article 20:

Section 339.2001 Definitions:

(e) The “Practice of Architecture” means professional services, such as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design, or review of material and completed phases of work in construction, alteration, or repair in connection with a public or private structure, building, equipment, works, or project if the professional service requires the application of a principle of architecture or architectural design.

(h) “Principal” means a sole proprietor, partner, the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, or director of a corporation, or a member or manager of a limited liability company.

Section 339.2008 Sealing documents not prepared by licensee prohibited:

(3) A licensee shall not seal a plan, drawing, map, plat, report, specification, or other document that is not prepared by the licensee or under the supervision of the licensee as the person in responsible charge.

Section 339.2010 Firm; Practice of Architecture:

- (1) A firm may engage in the practice of architecture...in this state, if not less than 2/3 of the principals of the firm are licensees.
- (2) However, a nonlicensed principal and the principal’s firm shall apply for and receive an approval from the department to engage in the practice of architecture...if the conduct of the firm and its principals comply with rules promulgated by the department.

- (4) A firm shall employ a person in responsible charge in the field of services offered at each place of business in the state where services are offered by the firm, except at a field office which provides only a review of construction.

Section 339.2012 Persons exempted:

- (1) The following persons are exempt from the requirements of this article: (d) A person not licensed under this article who is planning, designing, or directing the construction of a detached 1- and 2-family residence building not exceeding 3,500 square feet in calculated floor area.

Section 339.2014 Prohibited conduct; penalties:

A person is subject to the penalties set forth in article 6 who commits 1 of the following:

- (a) Uses the term “architect...” or a similar term in conjunction with the person’s name unless the person is licensed in the appropriate practice under this article.
- (b) Presents or attempts to use as the person’s own the license or seal of another.
- (d) Uses the word “architecture...” or a similar term in a firm name without authorization by the appropriate board.
- (e) Submits to a public official of this state or a political subdivision of this state for approval, a permit or a plan for filing as a public record, a specification, a report, or a land survey that does not bear 1 or more seals of a licensee as required by this article...

The **Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)** of the State of Michigan established “Architects – General Rules” including: “Part 2. Licensing Criteria; Part 3. Licensure, Reciprocity, and Renewal; Part 4. Standards of Practice and Professional Conduct; and Part 5. Continuing Education.”

Resources:

Information in greater detail about all of the above requirements and regulations can be found on the www.michigan.gov website under the [Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs > Professional Licensing > Architects](#). In addition, the process to file complaints regarding possible violations of the licensing law may also be found on the www.michigan.gov website under the [Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs > Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing > Enforcement Division > Complaints](#).

AIA Michigan, through its Government Affairs Committee (GAC), is also available as an informal resource to answer questions for members and aspiring professionals. The GAC endeavors to serve as an initial clearinghouse regarding possible licensing violation concerns. Informal questions concerning any of the above matters may be directed to AIA Michigan and the GAC at (313) 965-4100 or aiami@aiami.com.

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