

Extension of an unacknowledged certificate



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A certificate will expire 90 days after it is issued if it is not acknowledged by a roster member or staff lawyer within that time period. LAO will extend an expired, unacknowledged certificate where the following requirements are met:

1. the client has signed any required contribution agreement or lien
2. LAO has not been prejudiced by releasing a client from a contribution agreement or lien because the certificate has expired
3. the client indicates and provides details of their inability to find a roster member willing to take the certificate due to the nature of the case or a shortage of roster members available within the client's geographical area
4. the client indicates and provides details of their inability to find a roster member due to ill health or other personal circumstances that prevented the client from doing a proper search; or
5. the client provides other information to LAO that satisfactorily explains why the certificate expired

In circumstances where a certificate has expired because it has not been acknowledged by a roster member or staff lawyer and 180 days has elapsed since it was issued, the individual seeking legal aid will be required to reapply, and establish their financial and legal eligibility for a new certificate.