Barreau du Québec

# Progression of an inquiry request at the Syndic's Office

The request for inquiry, the inquiry itself and the outcome of the inquiry remain confidential. Only the complainants and the lawyer involved receive a letter from the Syndic's Office, informing them that no complaint will be filed.

Complainants may submit a request for review to the Barreau du Québec.

The Syndic's Office does not file a complaint with the Disciplinary Council.

The decision becomes public once it is served on the parties. The Barreau never comments on the Disciplinary Council's decisions.

The penalties range from a reprimand, to limitations to practising the profession to the permanent striking off the roll.

Request for inquiry received or generated

Assessment and verification of the grounds of the request for inquiry

Opening of an inquiry file

Following the inquiry, the Syndic's Office files a complaint with the Disciplinary Council.

- Hearing on preliminary exceptions
- Hearing on guilt
- Hearing on penalty (if the lawyer is found guilty)

DECISION

Receipt of an inquiry request is always confidential (examples of sources: from the public, media, community group, lawyer, judge, Syndic).

The complaint becomes public and is registered on the hearing roll, on the Barreau's website. Only the nature of the complaint and the name of the respondent lawyer are of a public nature.*

**Nevertheless, the Disciplinary Council may, of its own initiative or upon request, order that a hearing be held in camera or ban the disclosure, publication or release of any information or document it indicates, in the general interest or in the interest of public order, in particular to preserve professional secrecy or to protect a person's privacy or reputation.*

The detailed complaint is made public on the first day of the hearing.

CONFIDENTIAL process and information

PUBLIC process and information