



The Law Society of
Upper Canada | Barreau
du Haut-Canada

September 25, 2014

Canadian Association of Muslim Women in Law
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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 11, 2014.

The Law Society's Examination Rules and Protocol were established in 2005, when the new Licensing Process was introduced. The Rules and Protocol were developed in accordance with best practices for ensuring examination security, as demonstrated by international testing bodies. The restrictions around hats, hoodies, scarves, jackets, etc. are designed to maintain the integrity of the testing site. Candidates coming through the screening process at the examination sites are questioned to ensure that they are not carrying electronic devices or other prohibited items, which may include asking the candidate to check their pockets or to confirm that they are not carrying extra clothing beyond what is normally permitted. Screening is carried out in a discrete and non-confrontational manner.

Notice requirements for religious apparel are in place to facilitate the smooth entry into the examination site of candidates whose attire may include a head covering, scarf other similar item of clothing. Practically speaking, the Law Society has always accommodated candidates wearing religious apparel, even where the process for providing advance notice has not been followed.

In light of the concerns raised in your letter, the Law Society will be reviewing its Examination Rules and Protocol to ensure that they remain transparent and defensible. The questions posed in your letter will be included as a part of that review.

Yours truly,

Janet E. Minor
Treasurer