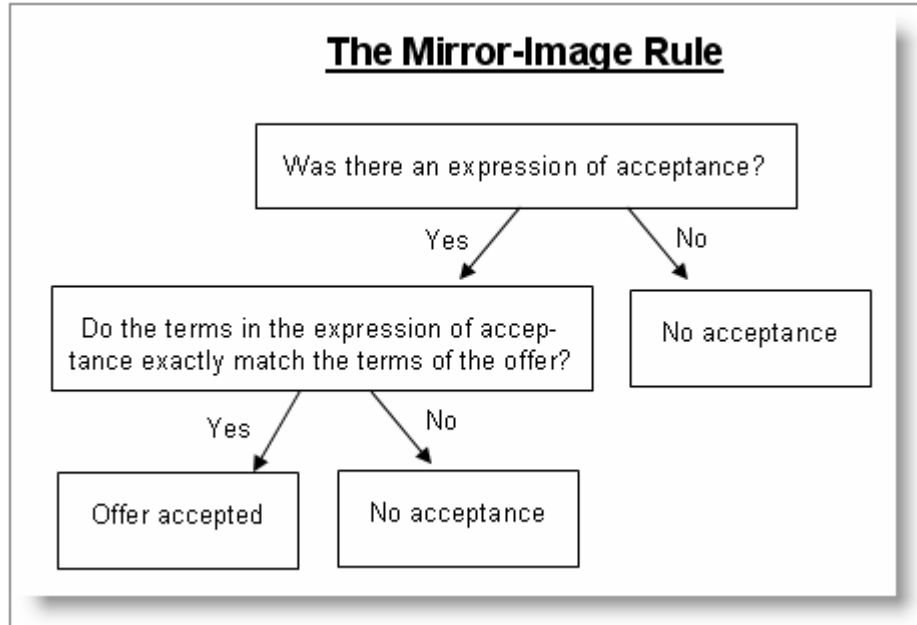


Flow Chart of the Mirror-Image Rule

As the flow chart illustrates, the mirror image rule looks uncomplicated:



However, given the way courts apply the rule, the rule is less straightforward than it looks.

When courts are convinced the parties reached a mutually acceptable agreement, they will divide an attempted acceptance into two parts—one matches the offer exactly; the other they describe as something else.

The "something else" can be an offer to modify the contract, an inquiry about willingness to negotiate further about other matters, or whatever the circumstances indicate.