CX-89-1863 STATE OF MINNESOTA IN SUPPLIATE COURT

m re:

Supreme Court Advisory Committee on General Rules of Practice

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Recommendations of Minnesofa Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Ceneral Rules of Practice

> Æinal Keport November 6, 2007

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Introduction

The Court's Advisory Committee on General Rules of Practice has convened on several occasions during 2007 to consider issues relating to the General Rules of Practice. The most prominent of the issues the committee has addressed relates to the current rules limiting the use of cameras in Minnesota courtrooms. On that issue, the committee reports that it is continuing its process of gathering information and information and expects to make a recommendation to the court within the next few months.

The committee has also examined other issues and reports on those issues now. These issues include two on which rule revisions are recommended, and several as to which the committee does not recommend any action. The committee has reexamined an issue relating to a recommended rule on testimony of child witnesses, and now recommends that no rule be adopted (withdrawing its earlier recommendation on that subject). Finally, the committee recommends that one proposed rule, relating to interpreters, receive further and broader consideration. Each of these recommendations is summarized in the following section.

Summary of Committee Recommendations

The committee's specific recommendations are briefly summarized as follows:

Recommendations that the rules be amended or a new rule adopted

- 1. The Court should implement amendments to the Code of Ethics Enforcement Procedure for Rule 114 neutrals as recommended by this Court's ADR Review Board
- 2. The procedure for streamlining uncontested marriage dissolution proceedings for marriages without children, adopted in 2003 as Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 302.01, should be extended to apply to marriages with children.

As an additional part of this recommendation, Form 12 of Title IV of the rules will need to be revised. The committee believes, however, that the vast majority of the forms in the General Rules should be removed from the rules themselves, and instead maintained and made available on the Court Administrator's website. This procedure would allow the maintenance of these forms on an ongoing basis without requiring review by the advisory committee or formal orders of the Court to implement. Changes are included in this report that address the forms in Title IV of these rules. Future reports will address other forms.

- 3. This Court should amend the rules for the expedited child support process in accordance with recommendations of Court Services Staff or Family Services, and the State Court Administrator's Office.
- 4. Rule 803 should be amended to make its language more precisely describe the duties of jury commissioners. These changes are essentially technical and minor in nature.

Recommendations that proposed rule changes not be adopted

- 5. The committee withdraws its recommendation, contained in its October 20, 2006, Report (filed as this Report is captioned) that a new Rule 12 be adopted, and recommends that no such rule be adopted at this time. That rule would have provided a special rule for dealing with child witnesses.
- 6. The committee considered a proposal to revise Rule 119, relating to motions for attorney fees. The committee believes the rule as currently written does not require revision.
- 7. The committee considered expressed concerns about the interplay of Rule 144, dealing with wrongful death cases, and Rule 145, dealing with minor settlements, and the different court approval processes required by those rules. The committee concludes that the rules do not conflict and that no amendment to either rule is needed.

Recommendation that one proposal receive broader attention.

8. The committee considered one proposed rule, on recommendation from the evidence advisory committee, that should receive further and broader consideration. That rule would require any proceedings in which an interpreter is used to be recorded by audio- or video-recorded so as to permit review of the interpretation.

The concern over occasional interpretation issues, particularly in situations where no certified interpreter is available, is one that potentially interferes with the parties' rights to a fair trial, and should be studied further. The committee also believes this proposal presents potential resource issues that should be reviewed by the State Court Administrator as well as unresolved issues relating to the procedures to be followed to allow review of claimed interpreter errors.

Cameras in Courtrooms

The committee is continuing to confer and hear from witnesses on the issues surrounding the accessibility of Minnesota courtrooms to cameras and audio recording equipment of news media. The committee believes it will be able to make a recommendation to the Court during the second quarter of 2008.

Effective Date

The committee believes these amendments can be adopted, after public hearing if the Court determines a hearing is appropriate, in time to take effect on January 1, 2008.

Style of Report

The specific recommendations are reprinted in traditional legislative format, with new wording <u>underscored</u> and deleted words struck through.

Respectfully submitted,

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RULES OF PRACTICE **Recommendation 1:** The Code of Ethics Enforcement Procedure of the ADR Review Board should be amended as recommended by that Board and its staff.

Introduction

This Court's ADR Review Board has recommended minor modifications to the Code of Ethics Enforcement Procedure for which it has responsibility. These amendments largely conform the code to current practice before the board. These amendments are appropriate for implementation by the Court, in the opinion of this advisory committee.

Specific Recommendation

Specific Recommendation 1. The Code of Ethics Enforcement Procedure should be amended as follows:

CODE OF ETHICS 1 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE 2 * * *

Rule II. Procedure

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- B. The State Court Administrator's Office, in conjunction with one
- ADR Review Board member shall review the complaint and recommend to 7
- determine whether the allegations(s), if true, constitute a violation of the Code of 8
- Ethics, and whether to refer the complaint to mediation. The State Court 9
- Administrator's Office and ADR Review Board member may also request 10
- additional information from the complainant if it is necessary prior to making a 11
- recommendation. 12
- C. If the allegations(s) of the complaint do not constitute a violation of 13 the Code of Ethics, the complaint shall be dismissed and the complainant and the 14 neutral shall be notified in writing. 15

D. If the Board concludes that the allegation(s) of the complaint, if true, constitute a violation of the Code of Ethics, the Board will undertake such review, investigation, and action it deems appropriate. In all such cases, the Board shall send to the neutral, by certified mail, a copy of the complaint, a list identifying the ethical rules which may have been violated, and a request for a written response to the allegations and to any specific questions posed by the Board. It shall not be considered a violation of Rule 114.08(e) of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice or of Rule IV of the Code of Ethics, Rule 114 Appendix, for the neutral to disclose notes, records, or recollections of the ADR process complained of as part of the complaint procedure. Except for good cause shown, if the neutral fails to respond to the complaint in writing within thirty (30) days, the allegations(s) shall be deemed admitted.

The complainant and neutral may agree to mediation or the State Court

Administrator's Office or Board, at its discretion, may refer them complainant and neutral to mediation conducted by a volunteer qualified neutral to resolve the issues raised by the complainant. Mediation shall proceed only if both the complainant and neutral consent. If the complaint is resolved through mediation, the Board shall dismiss the complaint shall be dismissed, unless the resolution includes sanctions to be imposed by the Board. If no agreement is reached in mediation, the Board shall determine whether to proceed further.

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Advisory Committee Comments—2007 Amendments

Rule II. B. is amended in 2007 to implement a streamlined process so that one ADR Review Board member together with state court administration staff can make initial determinations. This will allow the process to proceed instead of waiting for monthly board meetings. Rule II.E. is amended to clarify that the parties may voluntarily elect mediation in addition to mediation being offered by the Board.

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Rule IV. Confidentiality

47	D. Accessibility to records maintained by district court administrators
48	relating to complaints or sanctions about <u>neutrals</u> parenting time expeditors shall
49	be consistent with this rule.
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51	Advisory Committee Comments—2007 Amendments
52	Rule IV. D. is amended in 2007 to clarify that accessibility to district
53	court information about sanctions is consistent with Rule 114 for all neutrals.
54	In addition to maintaining local rosters of parenting time expediters, district
55	courts receive notice of sanctions imposed by the ADR Review Board.

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Recommendation 2:

The streamlined procedure for using a combined Joint Petition, Agreement, and Judgment and Decree in Rule 302.01(b), now available for marriage dissolution proceedings in marriages without children, should be made available by rule amendment for use in any marriage dissolution case.

Introduction

In 2003 this committee recommended that Rule 302.01 be amended to create a procedure that allowed uncontested marriage dissolution actions to be commenced and adjudicated by a combined Joint Petition, Agreement, and Judgment and Decree. This recommended change was ordered by the court and has operated well since adoption. Following requests from several lawyers, the committee revisited this rule, with specific reference to whether this streamlined procedure should be made available in proceedings for dissolution of a marriage with children when the parties have reached agreement on all issues. The committee is satisfied that this rule should be amended to allow the combined document to be used in any uncontested proceeding.

Specific Recommendations

Specific Recommendation 1. Rule 302.01 should be amended as follows:

RULE 302. COMMENCEMENT; CONTINUANCE;
TIME; PARTIES
Rule 302.01 Commencement of Proceedings

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(b) Joint Petition.

- (1) No summons shall be required if a joint petition is filed. 62 Proceedings shall be deemed commenced when both parties have signed the verified petition. 64
- (2) Where the parties to a proceeding agree on all property issues, 65 have no children together, the wife is not pregnant, and the wife has not give birth 66 since the date of the marriage to a child who is not a child of the husband, the 67 parties may proceed using a joint petition, agreement, and judgment and decree for 68 marriage dissolution. without children. Form 12 appended to these rules is a 69 sufficient form for this purpose. 70
 - (3) Upon filing of the "Joint Petition, Agreement and Judgment and Decree," and Form 11.1 appended to Title I of these rules, and a Notice to the Public Authority if required by Minn. Stat. § 518.551, subd. 5, the court administrator shall place the matter on the appropriate default calendar for approval without hearing pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518.13, subd. 5. A Certificate of Representation and Parties and documents required by Rules 306.01 and 306.02 shall not be required if the "Joint Petition, Agreement and Judgment and Decree" provided in Form 12 published by the state court administrator is used.
 - The state court administrator shall maintain, publish and (4) regularly update, or provide references to, forms that may be used by parties for purposes of this rule. Court Administrators in each Judicial District shall make the forms "Joint Petition, Agreement and Judgment and Decree for Marriage Dissolution Without Children" available to the public at a reasonable cost, as a fill in the blank form.

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Advisory Committee Comments—2007 Amendments

Rule 302(b) is amended to expand the availability of the streamlined procedure allowing a marriage dissolution to proceed by use of a single pleading that combines a joint petition, marital termination agreement, and judgment and decree. The prior rule allowed this procedure only in marriages with no children; the amendment allows its use in marriage dissolution proceedings with children where the parties have agreed on all issues. combined form permits the parties to proceed more expeditiously and make it easier for the parties and the court to verify that the judgment and decree to be entered by the court conforms to the parties' agreement.

Specific Recommendation 2. Form 12 should be deleted from the rules.

The combined Joint Petition, Agreement, and Judgment and Decree form, currently Form 12, will need to be revised or split into separate versions to permit its use in marriages either with or without children. In accordance with the recommendation made elsewhere in this report, Form 12 should be removed from the rules, and should be maintained by the state court administrator. Dissolution forms are currently maintained on the state court website (www.mncourts.gov).

Specific Recommendation 3. The following modifications are necessary to remove the forms from Title IV of the rules and transfer their oversight to the state court administrator. All forms in Title IV should also be removed from the rules.

Rule 303.02 Form of Motion

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(b) Application for Temporary Relief. When temporary financial relief is initially requested, such as child support, maintenance and attorney's fees, the application for temporary relief form developed by the state court administrator set forth at form 1 appended to these rules shall be served and filed by the moving and responding parties. Additional facts, limited to relevant and material matters, shall be added at paragraph 10 of to the application form or by supplemental affidavit. Sanctions for failure to comply include, but are not limited to, the striking of pleadings or hearing.

Rule 304.02 The Party's Informational Statement

(a) **Timing.** Within 60 days after filing an action or, if a temporary hearing is scheduled within 60 days of the filing of the action, then within 60 days after a temporary hearing is initially scheduled to occur, whichever is later, each party shall submit, on a form to be available from the court <u>and developed by the state court administrator</u> (see Forms 9A and B appended to these rules), the information needed by the court to manage and schedule the case.

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(c) Unrepresented Parties. Parties not represented by a lawyer <u>may</u> use forms developed specially by the state court administrator for unrepresented <u>parties</u> shall, instead of providing the information required above on Form 9A, provide substantially the information required on Form 9B.

Rule 305.01 Prehearing Statement

Each party shall complete a prehearing conference statement substantially in the form <u>developed by the state court administrator</u> set forth at form 2 appended to these rules which shall be served upon all parties and mailed to or filed with the court at least 10 days prior to the date of the prehearing conference.

Rule 306.01 Scheduling of Final Hearing

Except when proceeding under Rule 302.01 (b) by Joint Petition, Agreement and Judgment and Decree, to place a matter on the default calendar for final hearing or for approval without hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 518.13, subdivision 5, the moving party shall submit a default scheduling request substantially in the form developed by the state court administrator set forth in Form 10 appended to these rules and shall comply with the following, as applicable:

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136	RULE 311. FORMS
137	The forms developed by the state court administrator contained in the
138	Appendix of Forms are sufficient under these rules.
139	Advisory Committee Comment
140	The responsibility for forms development and review is being handed off
141	to the state court administrator to permit more effective forms management and
142	review. This process is already followed for the expedited process. Gen. R.
143	Prac. 379.02.

Recommendation 3: The Expedited Child Support Process Rules should be updated to reflect changes in the process and various statutory changes.

Introduction

By memorandum dated July 23, 2007, Deanna J. Dohrmann, Staff Attorney with Court Services, Family Services, State Court Administrator's Office, and Jodie Metcalf, Manager of the Child Support Magistrate Unit, recommended changes to the Rules of the Expedited Child Support Process. These rules include technical amendments as well as modest substantive amendments to the rules based on experience gained by the child support process. The advisory committee has reviewed these proposed changes, believe they are appropriate for adoption, and accordingly recommend them to the Court.

Specific Recommendations

Specific Recommendation 1. Rule 352.01 should be amended as follows:

RULE 352. DEFINITIONS

Rule 352.01. Definitions

For purposes of these rules, the following terms have the following meanings:

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(b) "Child support" means basic support; child care support; medical support, including the obligation to carry health care coverage, costs for health care coverage, and unreimbursed / uninsured health-related medical expenses; expenses for confinement and pregnancy; arrearages; reimbursement; past support; related costs and fees; and interest and penalties. "Support" also means the

- enforcement of spousal maintenance when combined with basic support, child care support, or medical support.
- (c) "Child support magistrate" means an individual appointed by the chief judge of the judicial district to preside over matters in the expedited process. "Child support magistrate" also means any family court referee or district court judge presiding over matters in the expedited process.
- (c) "County agency" means the local public authority responsible for child support enforcement
- (d) "County attorney" means the attorney who represents the county agency public authority, whether that person is employed by the office of the county attorney or under contract with the office of the county attorney.

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(f) "IV-D case" means any proceeding where a party has either (1) assigned to the state rights to child support because of the receipt of public assistance as defined in Minn. Stat. § 256.741 (2000), or (2) applied for child support services under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 654(4) (1994). "IV-D case" does not include proceedings where income withholding is the only service applied for or received under Minn. Stat. § 518.6111 (2000) 518A.53 (2006).

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- (k) "Public authority" means the local unit of government, acting on behalf of the state, that is responsible for child support enforcement or the Department of Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Division.
- (kl) "Response" means a written answer to the complaint or motion, a "request for hearing" form, or, in a parentage matter, a "request for blood or genetic testing" form.
 - (l) "Support" means child support; child care support; medical support, including medical and dental insurance, and unreimbursed medical and dental expenses; expenses for confinement and pregnancy; arrearages; reimbursement;

past support; related costs and fees; and interest and penalties. "Support" also means the enforcement of spousal maintenance when combined with child support, child care support, or medical support.

187 Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment 188 Rule 352.01(f) is amended to reflect the recodification, effective on 189 January 1, 2007, of portions of the relevant statutes, to become part of Minn. 190 Stat. ch. 518A.

Specific Recommendation 2. Rule 353.02, subds. 1 & 3 should be amended to replace "county agency" with "public authority" as follows:

RULE 353. TYPES OF PROCEEDINGS

Rule 353.01. Types of Proceedings

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Rule 353.02. Procedure When Prohibited Issues

Subdivision 1. Generally. These rules do not prevent a party, upon timely notice to all parties and to the county agency <u>public authority</u>, from commencing a proceeding or bringing a motion in district court if the proceeding or motion involves one or more issues identified in Rule 353.01, subd. 1, and one or more issues identified in Rule 353.01, subd. 3.

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Subd. 3. Prohibited Issues in Expedited Child Support Process. If a proceeding is commenced in the expedited process and the complaint, motion, answer, responsive motion, or counter motion raises one or more issues identified in Rule 353.01, subd. 3, all parties, including the county agency public authority, may agree in writing to refer the entire matter to district court without first appearing before the child support magistrate. Notice of the agreement must be

filed with the court at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled hearing in the expedited process. The child support magistrate shall issue an order referring the entire matter to district court. Absent an agreement by all parties and upon motion of a party or upon the child support magistrate's own initiative, the child support magistrate assigned to the matter shall, either before or at the time of the hearing, decide whether to:

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Specific Recommendation 3. Rule 354.03 should be amended to include reference to "Columbus Day" as a legal holiday, given the recent decision of Commandeur LLC v. Howard Hartry, Inc., 724 N.W.2d 508 (Minn. 2006):

RULE 354. COMPUTATION OF TIME

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Rule 354.03. "Business Day" Defined

A "business day" means any day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. As used in these rules, "legal holiday" means New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Washington's and Lincoln's Birthday (Presidents' Day), Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and any other day designated as a holiday by the President or Congress of the United States, by the State, or by a county.

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Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment

In 2006 the Minnesota Supreme Court addressed the ambiguity in the rules and the ambiguity between the rules and statutes over how Columbus Day, a day that is not only optionally a state holiday but is a federal and U.S. Mail holiday should be treated. Because the rules generally allow service by mail, the Court in *Commandeur LLC v. Howard Hartry, Inc.*, 724 N.W.2d 508

232	(Minn. 2006), ruled that where the last day of a time period occurred on
233	Columbus Day, service by mail permitted by the rules was timely if mailed on
234	the following day on which mail service was available. The amendment to
235	Rule 354.03 makes it clear that Columbus Day is a "legal holiday" for all
236	purposes in these rules, even if that is not necessarily so by the statutory
237	definition, Minn. Stat. § 645.44, subd. 5 (2006).

Specific Recommendation 4. Rule 355 should be amended as follows:

RULE 355. METHODS OF SERVICE

Rule 355.01. Generally

Subdivision 1. Service Required. Except for ex parte motions allowed by statute or these rules, every paper or document filed with the court shall be served on all parties and the county agency public authority.

Subd. 2. Service Upon Attorney for Party. If a party, other than the eounty agency public authority, is represented by an attorney as shown by a certificate of representation in the court file, service shall be made upon the party's attorney, unless personal service upon the represented party is required under these rules. Except where personal service upon the eounty agency public authority is required under these rules, service upon the eounty agency public authority shall be accomplished by serving the county attorney.

Rule 355.02. Types of Service

- Subdivision 1. Personal Service.
- (a) Upon Whom.

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- (2) Upon the County Agency Public Authority. Personal service upon the county agency public authority shall be accomplished by serving the director of the county human services department or the director's designee.
- **(b) By Whom Served.** Unless otherwise ordered by the child support magistrate, personal service shall be made only by the sheriff or by any other

person who is at least 18 years of age who is not a party to the proceeding.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518.5513 (2000) 518A.46 (2006), an employee of the county agency may serve documents on parties.

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Subd. 2. Service by U.S. Mail. Service by U.S. mail means mailing a copy of the document by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the person to be served at the person's last known address. Service by mail shall be made only by the sheriff or by any other person who is at least 18 years of age who is not a party to the proceeding. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518.5513 (2000) 518A.46 (2006), an employee of the county agency public authority may serve documents on the parties.

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Specific Recommendation 5. Rule 360.01 should be amended to replace "county agency" with "public authority" as follows:

RULE 360. INTERVENTION

Rule 360.01. County Agency Public Authority

Subdivision 1. Intervention as a Matter of Right. To the extent allowed by law, the county agency public authority may, as a matter of right, intervene as a party in any matter conducted in the expedited process. Intervention is accomplished by serving upon all parties by U.S. mail a notice of intervention. The notice of intervention and affidavit of service shall be filed with the court.

Subd. 2. Effective Date. Intervention by the county agency public authority is effective when the last person is served with the notice of intervention.

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RULE 361. DISCOVERY

Rule 361. 01. Witnesses

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Any party may call witnesses to testify at any hearing. Any party intending to call a witness other than an employee of the county agency public authority or any party to the proceeding shall, at least five (5) days before the hearing, provide to the other parties and the county agency public authority written notice of the name and address of each witness.

Rule 361.02. Exchange of Documents

Subdivision 1. Documents Required to be Provided Upon Request. If a complaint or motion has been served and filed in the expedited process, a party may request any of the documents listed below. The request must be in writing and served upon the appropriate party. The request may be served along with the pleadings. A party shall provide the following documents to the requesting party no later than ten (10) days from the date of service of the written request.

- (a) Verification of income, health/dental insurance costs and availability of dependent health care coverage, child care costs, and expenses.
 - (b) Copies of last three months of pay stubs.
- A copy of last two years' State and Federal income tax returns with (c) all schedules and attachments, including Schedule Cs, W-2s and/or 1099s.
- (d) Written verification of any voluntary payments made for support of 300 joint child.
 - (e) Written verification of any other court-ordered child support obligations for a nonjoint child.

(f) Written verification of any court-ordered spousal maintenance obligation for a former spouse.

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Subd. 3. Financial Statement. If a complaint or motion has been served, any party may request in writing that a financial statement be completed by a party, other than a county public agency, and submitted five (5) days prior to hearing, or if no hearing is scheduled, within ten (10) days from the request being served. Failure to comply is subject to remedies under Rule 361.04. Where a financial statement requests supporting documentation, it shall be attached.

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Rule 361.06. Subpoena

Subd. 2. Service of Subpoenas Shall be by Personal Service. All subpoenas shall be personally served by the sheriff or by any other person who is at least 18 years of age who is not a party to the action. Employees of the county agency public authority may personally serve subpoenas. The person being served shall, at the time of service, be given the fees and mileage allowed by Minn. Stat. § 357.22 (2000). When the subpoena is requested by the county agency public authority, fees and mileage need not be paid. The cost of service, fees, and expenses of any witnesses who have been served subpoenas shall be paid by the party at whose request the witness appears. The person serving the subpoena shall provide proof of service by filing the original subpoena with the court, along with an affidavit of personal service.

Specific Recommendation 7. Rule 362.02 should be amended by replacing "county agency" with "public authority":

328	RULE 362. SETTLEMENT	
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330	Rule 362.02. Signing of Order	
331	Subdivision 1. Preparation and Signing. If the parties reach an	
332	agreement resolving all issues, one of the parties shall prepare an order setting	
333	forth the terms of the agreement. If the parties are not represented by counsel and	
334	the county agency public authority is a party, the county agency public authority	
335	shall prepare the order. All parties to the agreement, including the county agency	
336	public authority, shall sign the original order. The order shall state that the parties	
337	have:	
338	(a) waived the right to a hearing;	
339	(b) waived the right to counsel where a party is not represented by	
340	counsel; and	
341	(c) received and reviewed all documents used to prepare the order.	
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	Specific Recommendation 8. Rule 363 should be amended as follows:	
343	RULE 363. DEFAULT	
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345	Rule 363.02. Procedure	
346	The initiating party may proceed by default if:	

- 347 (a) all noninitiating parties have been properly served with the summons 348 or notice of motion;
 - (b) the summons or notice of motion did not contain a hearing date; and
 - (c) there has been no written answer or return of the request for hearing form from any party within twenty (20) days from the date the last party was served.

The initiating party shall file an order with the court within forty-five (45) days from the date the last noninitiating party was served with the summons and complaint or notice of motion and motion. The initiating party shall also file with the court a current affidavit of default and a current affidavit of non-military status. If an order is not filed with the court within forty-five (45) days, the court administrator shall mail a notice to all parties that the matter shall be scheduled for hearing unless the initiating party files an order along with all necessary documents within ten (10) days from the date notice was mailed. If the initiating party fails to file the necessary documents within the allotted ten (10) days, the court administrator shall set the matter on for hearing and serve upon all parties and the county agency public authority by U.S. mail at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled hearing, notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

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Rule 363.04. Order Not Accepted

The child support magistrate may reject an order filed pursuant to Rule 363.02 if the child support magistrate finds the order contrary to law, or unreasonable and unfair. If the child support magistrate rejects the order, the child support magistrate shall prepare a notice of deficiency, stating the reason(s) why the order cannot be signed. The notice of deficiency shall inform the initiating party of the following options:

- (a) to file and serve any missing documents;
- (b) to file a revised order;

- 375 (c) to file a revised order and attach any missing or additional documents:
- 377 (d) to appear at a hearing, notice of which shall be issued by the court
 378 administrator to all parties;
 - (e) to appear at any previously scheduled hearing; or
 - (f) to withdraw the matter without prejudice.

The court administrator shall mail the notice of deficiency to the initiating party. The initiating party shall either correct the deficiency or set the case on for a hearing and serve notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing upon all parties pursuant to Rule 364. If the initiating party submits a revised order that raises new issues beyond the scope of the complaint or motion, amended pleadings shall be served and filed and served on all parties pursuant to Rule 370.06 or Rule 372.06 within 10 days from the date the notice of deficiency was mailed. If the noninitiating party chooses to respond to the amended pleadings, the response must be served and filed within 10 days from service of the amended pleadings. If the initiating party fails to schedule a hearing or comply with the notice of deficiency within forty-five (45) days of the date the notice was mailed, the child support magistrate shall dismiss the matter without prejudice.

Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment

Rule 356.043 is amended to include an explicit deadline for serving and filing any response to a notice of deficiency. The ten-day period runs from the date of mailing the notice of deficiency. The rule also creates a ten-day deadline for responding to any amended pleadings served in response to a notice of deficiency, but this period runs from service, not mailing.

Specific Recommendation 9. Rule 364.02 and Rule 364.10, subd. 3 should be amended to replace "county agency" with "public authority" as follows:

RULE 364. HEARING PROCESS

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Rule 364.02. Scheduling of Hearing

The initiating party shall schedule a hearing if a written answer or a request for hearing form is received. The initiating party shall contact the court administrator or the court administrator's designee to obtain a hearing date and shall serve upon all parties and the county agency public authority by U.S. mail at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled hearing, notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

Rule 364.10. Evidence

Subd. 3. Documents. Ordinarily, copies or excerpts of documents instead of originals may be received or incorporated by reference. The child support magistrate may require the original or the complete document if the copy is not legible, there is a genuine question of accuracy or authenticity, or if it would be unfair to admit the copy instead of the original. Any financial documents prepared by the employee of the county agency <u>public authority</u> are admissible without requiring foundation testimony or appearance of the employee of the county agency.

Specific Recommendation 10. Rule 366.01, subd. 2 should be amended to replace "county agency" with "public authority" as follows:

RULE 366. TRANSCRIPT

Rule 366.01. Ordering of Transcript

Subd. 2. Clerical or Review Requests. If a party chooses to request a transcript for purposes of bringing or responding to a motion to correct clerical mistakes, a motion for review, or a combined motion, a request for transcript form shall be filed with the court within the time required under Rule 377.02 and 377.04. The party requesting the transcript must make satisfactory arrangements for payment with the transcriber within thirty (30) days of ordering the transcript or the request for the transcript shall be deemed cancelled. The requesting party may withdraw that party's request for a transcript any time prior to the time transcription has begun. The transcriber shall file the original with the court and serve each party, including the county agency public authority if a party, with a copy. The transcriber shall also file with the court an affidavit of service verifying that service has been made upon all parties. Ordering and filing of a transcript does not delay the due dates for the submissions described in Rule 377.02 and Rule 377.04. Filing of the transcript with the court closes the record for purposes of Rule 377.09, subd. 1.

RULE 369. ROLE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY AGENCY PUBLIC AUTHORITY

Rule 369.01. Role of County Attorney

Subdivision 1. Approval as to Form and Content. The county attorney shall review and approve as to form and content all legal documents prepared by employees of the county agency <u>public authority</u> for use in the expedited process or in district court.

Subd. 2. Attendance at Hearings. The county agency public authority shall appear through counsel. However, the county attorney may authorize an employee of the county agency public authority to appear on behalf of the county attorney to present an agreement or stipulation reached by all the parties. An employee of the county agency public authority shall not advocate a position on behalf of any party. The county attorney is not required to be present at any hearing to which the county agency public authority is not a party.

Rule 369.02. Role of Employees of County Agency Public Authority

Subdivision 1. County Attorney Direction. Under the direction of, and in consultation with, the county attorney, and consistent with Rules 5.3 and 5.5 of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct, employees of the county agency public authority may perform the following duties:

- (a) meet and confer with parties by mail, telephone, electronic, or other means regarding legal issues;
- (b) explain to parties the purpose, procedure, and function of the expedited child support process and the role and authority of nonattorney employees of the county agency public authority regarding legal issues;

exercise other powers and perform other duties as permitted by (i) 464 statute or these rules. 465 Employees of the county agency public authority shall not represent the 466 county agency public authority at hearings conducted in the expedited process. 467 **Subd. 2. Support Recommendations Precluded.** Employees of the 468 county agency public authority may not offer recommendations regarding support 469 at the hearing unless called as a witness at the hearing. Computation and 470 presentation of support calculations are not considered recommendations as to 471 support. 472 Subd. 3. County Attorney Direction Not Required. Without direction 473 from the county attorney, employees of the county agency public authority may 474 perform the duties listed under Minn. Stat. § 518.5513, subd. 2(c) (2000) 518A.46, 475 subd. 2(c) (2006). In addition, employees of the county agency may testify at 476 hearings at the request of a party or the child support magistrate. 477 Subd. 4. Performance of Duties Not Practice of Law. Performance of 478 the duties identified in Rule 369.02 by employees of the county agency public 479 authority does not constitute the unauthorized practice of law for purposes of these 480 rules or Minn. Stat. § 481.02 (2000). 481

Specific Recommendation 12. Rule 370 should be amended as follows:

DDOOREDINGS

482	II. PROCEEDINGS
483	RULE 370. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT PROCEEDINGS
484	* * *
485 486	Rule 370.02. Content of Summons, Complaint, Supporting Affidavit, and Request for Hearing Form
187	Subdivision 1. Content of Summons. A summons shall:

488	(a)	state the name of the court;
489	* * *	
490	(k)	be signed by the initiating party or that party's attorney.
491	If the	re is reason to believe that domestic violence exists or if an order for
492	protection ha	as been issued, the party may provide an alternative address and
493	telephone nu	imber. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518.005, subd. 5 (2000), in all
494	actions in wh	nich public assistance is assigned or the county agency public
495	authority is p	providing services to a party or parties to the action, information
496	regarding the	e location of one party may not be released by the county agency
497	public author	rity to any other party if the county agency public authority has
498	knowledge tl	hat a protective order with respect to the other party has been entered
499	or has reason to believe that the release of the information may result in physical	
500	or emotional harm to the other party.	
501	* * *	
502	Subd	. 3. Content of Supporting Affidavit. A supporting affidavit is
503	required whe	en the summons does not contain a hearing date. The supporting
504	affidavit shal	11:
505	(a)	state detailed facts supporting the request for relief;
506	(b)	provide all information required by Minn. Stat. § 518.5513, subd.
507	3(a) (2000) <u>5</u>	518A.46, subd. 3(a) (2006), if known; and
508	(c)	be signed and sworn to under oath.
509		
510		Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment
511		Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518.5513, subd. 3(a) 518A.46, subd. 3(b), for
512 513		all cases involving establishment or modification of support, the pleadings are to contain specific information. At times, it may be necessary to attach
514		additional supporting documents. Each county should establish its own local
515		policy regarding the attachment of supporting documents.
516		
517	* * *	

Rule 370.03. Service of Summons and Complaint

518

519	Subdivision 1. Who is Served. All parties, and the county agency public	
520	authority even if not a party, shall be served pursuant to subdivision 2.	
521	Subd. 2. How Served. The summons and complaint, and if required the	
522	supporting affidavit and request for hearing form, shall be served upon the parties	
523	by personal service, or alternative personal service, pursuant to Rule 355.02,	
524	unless personal service has been waived in writing. Where the county agency	
525	<u>public authority</u> is the initiating party, the party who is receiving assistance from	
526	the county or who has applied for child support services from the county may be	
527	served by any means permitted under Rule 355.02.	
528	Rule 370.04. Filing Requirements	
529	* * *	
530	Subd. 2. Responding Party. If a noninitiating party responds with a	
531	written answer pursuant to Rule 370.05, the following shall be filed with the court	
532	no later than five (5) days before any scheduled hearing or, if no hearing is	
533	scheduled, within fourteen (14) twenty (20) days from the date the last party was	
534	served:	
535	(a) the original written answer; and	
536	(b) a financial affidavit pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518A.28; and	
537	(c) proof of service upon each party pursuant to Rule 355.04.	
538	* * *	
	Specific Recommendation 13. Rule 371 should be amended as follows:	
539	RULE 371. PARENTAGE ACTIONS	
540	* * *	
541	Dula 271 02 Contant of Summons Complaint and Summonting Affilactic	
541 542	Rule 371.02. Content of Summons, Complaint, and Supporting Affidavit Subdivision 1. Content of Summons. A summons shall:	
3/1/	SIGNAL VISIONER EL LE COMPENS DE SIGNAL DE LA COMPUNICION COMPUNIC	

543	(a)	state the name of the court;
544	* * *	
545	(j)	be signed by the initiating party or that party's attorney.
546	If ther	re is reason to believe that domestic violence exists or if an order for
547	protection ha	as been issued, a party may provide an alternative address and
548	telephone nu	mber. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 257.70(b) (2000), in all actions in
549	which public	assistance is assigned or the eounty agency public authority is
550	providing ser	rvices to a party or parties to the action, information regarding the
551	location of o	ne party may not be released by the county agency public authority to
552	any other par	ty if the county agency public authority has knowledge that a
553	protective or	der with respect to the other party has been entered or has reason to
554	believe that t	he release of the information may result in physical or emotional
555	harm to the o	other party.
556	* * *	
557	Subd.	3. Content of Supporting Affidavit. A supporting affidavit shall:
558	(a)	state detailed facts supporting the request for relief, including the
559	facts establis	hing parentage;
560	(b)	provide all information required by Minn. Stat § 518.5513, subd.
561	3(a) <u>518A.46</u>	6, subd. 3(a) (2006), if known; and
562	(c)	be signed and sworn to under oath.
563		Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment
564		Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518.5513, subd. 3(a) 518A.46, subd. 3(a), for
565 566		all cases involving establishment or modification of support, the pleadings are to contain specific information. At times, it may be necessary to attach
567		additional supporting documents. Each county should establish its own local
568		policy regarding the attachment of supporting documents.
569	Rule 371.03.	Service of Summons and Complaint

Rule 371.03. Service of Summons and Complaint

570

571

Subdivision 1. Who is Served. The biological mother, each man presumed to be the father under Minn. Stat. § 257.55 (2000), each man alleged to

be the biological father, and the county agency public authority even if not a party, 572 shall be served pursuant to subdivision 2. 573 * * * 574 Rule 371.04. Filing Requirements 575 **Subdivision 1. Initiating Party.** No later than five (5) days before any 576 scheduled hearing or, if no hearing is scheduled, within fourteen (14) days from 577 the date the last party was served, the initiating party shall file the following with 578 the court: 579 (a) the original summons; 580 * * * 581 **Subd. 2. Responding Party.** If a noninitiating party responds with a 582 written response pursuant to Rule 371.05, the following, if served, shall be filed 583 with the court no later than five (5) days before any scheduled hearing: 584 the original written answer along with a financial affidavit pursuant (a) 585 to Minn. Stat. § 518A.28; or 586 (b) a request for blood or genetic testing; and 587 (c) proof of service upon each party pursuant to Rule 355.04. 588 * * * 589 Rule 371.05 Response 590 **Subdivision 1. Response Options.** In addition to appearing at the hearing 591 as required under Rule 371.10, subd. 1, a noninitiating party may do one or more 592 of the following: 593 contact the initiating party to discuss settlement; or (a) 594 within fourteen (14) twenty (20) days of service of the summons and (b) 595 complaint, serve upon all parties one or more of the written responses pursuant to 596 subdivision 2. 597 * * *

598

Subd. 2. Exception. If all parties, including the county agency <u>public</u> authority, sign an agreement that contains all statutory requirements for a parentage adjudication, including a statement that the parties waive their right to a hearing, the hearing may be stricken. The matter shall not be stricken from the court calendar until after the child support magistrate reviews and signs the agreement. The court administrator shall strike the hearing upon receipt of the agreement signed by the child support magistrate.

Specific Recommendation 14. Rule 372 should be amended as follows:

RULE 372. MOTIONS TO MODIFY, MOTIONS TO SET SUPPORT, AND OTHER MATTERS

Rule 372.01. Commencement

612 ***

Subd. 2. Other Motions. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, all proceedings shall be commenced in the expedited process by service of a notice of motion, motion, and supporting affidavit. Service shall be made at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled hearing.

Rule 372.02. Content of Notice of Motion, Motion, Supporting Affidavit, and Request for Hearing Form

Subd. 3. Content of Supporting Affidavit. A supporting affidavit shall:

622	(a)	state detailed facts supporting the request for rener;
623	(b)	for motions to modify support and motions to set support, provide all
624	information r	equired by Minn. Stat. § 518.5513, subd. 3(a) <u>518A.46, subd. 3(a)</u>
625	(2006), if kno	own; and
626	(c)	be signed and sworn to under oath.
627	* * *	
628 629 630		Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518.5513, subd. 3(a) 518A.46, subd. 3(a), for all cases involving establishment or modification of support, the pleadings are
631 632 633		to contain specific information. At times, it may be necessary to attach additional supporting documents. Each county should establish its own local policy regarding the attachment of supporting documents.
634	Rule 372.03.	Service of Notice of Motion and Motion
635	Subdi	vision 1. Who is Served. All parties, and the county agency public
636	authority eve	n if not a party, shall be served pursuant to subdivision 2.
637	* * *	
638	Rule 372.05.	Response
639	* * *	
640	Subd.	2. Hearing Date Not Included in the Notice of Motion. If the
641	notice of mot	ion does not contain a hearing date, within fourteen (14) days from
642	service of the	motion, a noninitiating party shall either:
643	(a)	request a hearing by returning the request for hearing form to the
644	initiating part	y; or
645	(b)	within fourteen (14) days of service of the notice of motion and
646	motion, serve	upon all other parties a responsive motion or counter motion.
647	* * *	

648	Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment
649	Rule 372.05, subd. 2, is amended to apply the 14-day deadline for
650	responding to a motion to either of the permitted responses: to request a hearing
651	or to file a responsive motion or counter-motion.

Specific Recommendation 15. Rule 377 should be amended as follows:

RULE 377. PROCEDURE ON A MOTION TO CORRECT CLERICAL MISTAKES, MOTION FOR REVIEW, OR COMBINED MOTION

Rule 377.02. Timing of Motion

To bring a motion to correct clerical mistakes, the aggrieved party shall perform items (a) through (e) as soon as practicable after discovery of the error. To bring a motion for review or a combined motion, the aggrieved party shall perform items (a) through (f) within twenty (20) days of the date the court administrator served that party with the notice form as required by Rule 365.04.

- (a) Complete the motion to correct clerical mistakes form, motion for review form, or combined motion form.
- (b) Serve the completed motion for clerical mistakes form, motion for review form, or combined motion form upon all other parties and the county agency <u>public authority</u>. Service may be made by personal service or by U.S. mail pursuant to Rule 355.02.

Rule 377.04. Response to Motion

Subdivision. 1. Timing of Response to Motion. A party may respond to a motion to correct clerical mistakes or a motion for review. Any response shall state why the relief requested in the motion should or should not be granted. If a responding party wishes to raise other issues, the responding party must set forth

those issues as a counter motion in the response. To respond to a motion to correct clerical mistakes the party shall perform items (a) through (e) within ten (10) days of the date the party was served with the motion. To respond to a motion for review or a combined motion the party shall perform (a) through (f) within thirty (30) days of the date the party was served with the notice under Rule 365.04. To respond to a counter motion, the party shall perform items (a) through (f) within forty (40) days of the date the party was served with the notice under Rule 365.04.

- (a) Complete the response to motion to correct clerical mistakes form, response to motion for review form, or response to combined motion form.
- (b) Serve the completed response to motion for clerical mistakes form, response to motion for review form, or response to combined motion form upon all other parties and the county agency public authority. Service may be made by personal service or by U.S. mail pursuant to Rule 355.02.

* * *

Rule 377.09. Basis of Decision and Order

Subdivision 1. Timing. Within forty-five (45) days of the close of the record, the child support magistrate or district court judge shall file with the court an order deciding the motion. In the event a notice to remove is granted pursuant to Rule 368, the forty-five (45) days begins on the date the substitute child support magistrate or district court judge is assigned. The record shall be deemed closed upon occurrence of one of the following, whichever occurs later:

(a) filing of a response pursuant to Rule 377.04;

97 ***

(d) submission of new evidence under subdivision 4.

If none of the above events occur, the record <u>on a motion for review or combined motion</u> shall be deemed closed forty-six (46) days after service of the notice of filing as required by Rule 365.04, despite the requirements of Rule

354.04. For a motion to correct clerical mistakes and none of the above events occur, the record shall be deemed closed 15 days after service of the motion to correct clerical mistakes.

Subd. 2. Decision.

706 ***

(b) Motion for Review. The child support magistrate or district court judge shall make an independent review of any findings or other provisions of the underlying decision and order for which specific changes are requested in the motion. The child support magistrate or district court judge shall may affirm the order without making additional findings. unless If the court determines that the findings and order are not supported by the record or the decision is contrary to law. The child support magistrate or district court judge may issue an order:

Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment

Rule 377.09, subd. 2(b) is amended to correct language of the existing rule that could be interpreted to have a mandatory meaning not intended by the drafters. The revised rule allows the child support magistrate to affirm an order without findings, but does not require that. The rule is intended to adopt expressly a de novo standard of review. The reviewing court need not make findings if the decision is to affirm. De novo review is consistent with the reported decisions construing the former rule. *See, e.g., Kilpatrick v. Kilpatrick,* 673 N.W.2d 528, 530 n.2 (Minn. Ct, App. 2004); *Davis v. Davis,* 631 N.W.2d 822, 825 (Minn. Ct. App. 2001); *Blonigen v. Blonigen,* 621 N.W.2d 276, 280 (Minn. Ct. App. 2001), *review denied* (Minn. Mar. 13, 2001)."

Specific Recommendation 16. Rule 379 should be amended as follows:

4. FORMS728 **RULE 379. FORMS**

729 ***

Rule 379.05. Exception from Rules Governing Civil Actions

731	Subdivision 1. Informational Statement. The Informational Statement
732	required by Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 304.02 is not required to be filed in cases brought
733	in the expedited process.
734	Subd. 2. Prehearing Statement. The Prehearing Statement required by
735	Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 305.01 is not required to be filed in cases brought in the
736	expedited process.

Recommendation 4: The court should amend Rule 806 to make its language more precisely state the obligations of jury commissioners.

Introduction

In its 2006 report this advisory committee recommended that Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 803 be amended to clarify that a jury commissioner should not be made responsible for the representativeness of any jury source list, as the commissioner has no ability to control the composition of these lists. A jury commissioner does have control over the use of those lists to assemble a jury pool that is representative of the relevant adult population. Because Rule 806 contains language similar to that in Rule 803 before the amendment recommended in 2006, the committee believes Rule 806 should now be amended to make it clear that the jury commissioner's responsibility is to report on the overall results of his or her efforts to maintain representative juror pools.

Specific Recommendation

Specific Recommendation 1. Rule 806 should be amended as follows:

RULE 806. JURY SOURCE LIST

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(e) The jury commissioner shall review the jury source list once every four years for its representativeness and inclusiveness and the jury pool for its representativeness of the adult population in the county and report the results to the chief judge of the judicial district.

(f) If the chief judge, or designee, determines that improvement is needed in <u>either</u> the <u>representativeness or</u> inclusiveness of the jury source list <u>or the</u> <u>representativeness of the jury pool</u>, appropriate corrective action shall be ordered.

Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment

Rules 806(e) & (f) are amended to state the jury commissioner's responsibility more precisely. Because a jury commissioner does not have control over the composition of the jury source list, the rule should not impose a duty relating to the source list. It shifts that responsibility, however, to require the jury commissioner assess the representitiveness of the jury pool as a whole, not the constituent lists. This amendment is not intended to lessen in any way the representitiveness of jury pools. This change is similar in purpose and form to the amendment of Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 803, effective January 1, 2007.