

Minnesota General Rules of Practice for the District Courts
with amendments effective September 1, 2024

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RULE 1. SCOPE OF RULES; MODIFICATION; SERVICE ON PARTIES; APPLICABILITY TO SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

Rule 1.01 Scope

These rules shall apply in all trial courts of the state. These rules may be cited as Minn. Gen. R. Prac. ____.

Rule 1.02 Modification

A judge may modify the application of these rules in any case to prevent manifest injustice.

Rule 1.03 Service on Parties

When a document is to be served on a party under these rules, service shall be made on the party's lawyer if represented, otherwise on the self-represented litigant directly.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Rule 1.04 Responsibility of Self-Represented Litigants

Whenever these rules require that an act be done by a lawyer, the same duty is required of a self-represented litigant.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Cross Reference: Minn. R. Civ. P. 5.02, 83.

RULE 2. COURT DECORUM; ROLES OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS

Rule 2.01 Behavior and Ceremony in General

(a) **Acceptable Behavior.** Dignity and solemnity shall be maintained in the courtroom whether in person or using remote technology. Appropriate courtroom clothing is required. Hats and head coverings that are not worn for religious or medical reasons shall be removed unless permitted by the presiding judicial officer. There shall be no consumption of food or beverages, with the exception of water by permission of the judge. There shall be no gum chewing, smoking or use of vaping products, unnecessary conversation, background noise, loud whispering, newspaper, electronic device or magazine reading, or other distracting activity in the courtroom while court is in session. While using remote technology, attorneys, parties, participants, and observers shall remain in a stationary location in front of the device camera, mute their microphone when not speaking, and not engage in distracting activities. The court or presiding judicial officer has discretion to limit or prohibit the use of electronic devices in the courtroom. The court or presiding officer's discretion is limited by [Rule 4](#) of these Rules as it pertains to electronic devices

used to photograph or record the proceedings. Permitted electronic devices must in all instances be set to silent mode, and must be used in an unobtrusive manner.

(b) Flag. The flags of the United States and the State of Minnesota shall be displayed on or in close proximity to the bench when court is in session but need not be displayed at all times when using remote technology.

(c) Formalities in Opening Court. At the opening of each court day, the formalities to be observed shall consist of the following: court personnel shall direct all physically present to stand, and shall say clearly and distinctly: Everyone please rise! The District Court of the _____ Judicial District, County of _____, State of Minnesota is now open. Judge _____ presiding. Please be seated. (Rap gavel or give other signal immediately prior to directing audience to be seated.)

At any time thereafter during the day that court is reconvened court personnel shall give warning by gavel or otherwise, and as the judge enters, cause all physically present to stand until the Judge is seated.

(The above rule (to) or (to not) apply to midmorning and midafternoon recesses of the court at the option of the judge.)

(d) The Jury. Court personnel shall assemble the jurors when court is reconvened. When a jury has been selected and is to be sworn, the presiding judge or clerk shall request everyone physically present in the courtroom to stand.

(e) Court Personnel. Court personnel shall maintain order as litigants, witnesses and the public assemble in the courtroom, during trial and during recesses. Court personnel shall direct them to seats and refuse admittance to the courtroom in such trials where the courtroom is occupied to its full seating capacity. In proceedings where remote technology is used, court personnel shall assist with decorum as directed by the judge.

(f) Swearing of Witnesses. When the witness is sworn, court personnel shall request the witness' full name, and after being sworn, courteously invite the witness if physically present to be seated on the witness stand.

(g) Manner of Administration of Oath. Oaths and affirmations shall be administered to jurors and witnesses in a slow, clear, and dignified manner. Witnesses physically present in the courtroom should stand near the bench, or witness stand as sworn. The swearing of witnesses should be an impressive ceremony and not a mere formality.

(Amended effective November 22, 2023.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

The amendments to Rule 2.01 bring the rule up to date with respect to modern distractions. The use of hand-held devices (such as mobile phones, smart phones, and laptop computers), or myriad other devices that are now ubiquitous can be just as distracting or disruptive as newspaper reading or loud conversation. The rule permits the presiding judge to place appropriate restrictions on the use of these devices. The rule

incorporates the limitations of Rule 4 of these rules on the use of devices for audio- or video-recording of court proceedings.

Rule 2.02 Role of Judges

(a) Dignity. The judge shall be dignified, courteous, respectful and considerate of the lawyers, the jury and witnesses. The judge shall wear a robe at all trials and courtroom appearances. The judge shall at all times treat all lawyers, jury members, and witnesses fairly and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or age.

(b) Punctuality. The judge shall be punctual in convening court, and prompt in the performance of judicial duties, recognizing that the time of litigants, jurors and attorneys is of value and that habitual lack of punctuality on part of a judge justifies dissatisfaction with the administration of the business of the court.

(c) Impartiality. During the presentation of the case, the judge shall maintain absolute impartiality, and shall neither by word or sign indicate favor to any party to the litigation. The judge shall be impersonal in addressing the lawyers, litigants and other officers of the court.

(d) Intervention. The judge should generally refrain from intervening in the examination of witnesses or argument of counsel; however, the court shall intervene upon its own initiative to prevent a miscarriage of justice or obvious error of law.

(e) Decorum in Court. The judge shall be responsible for order and decorum in the court whether in person or using remote technology and shall see to it at all times that parties and witnesses in the case are treated with proper courtesy and respect.

(f) Accurate Record. The judge shall be in complete charge of the trial at all times and shall see to it that everything is done to obtain a clear and accurate record of the trial. It is a duty to see that the witnesses testify clearly so that the reporter may obtain a correct record of all proceedings in court.

(g) Comment Upon Verdict. The judge should not comment favorably or adversely upon the verdict of a jury when it may indirectly influence the action of the jury in causes remaining to be tried.

(Amended effective November 22, 2023.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

Rule 2.02(a) is amended to refer to “sexual orientation” rather than “sexual preference.” This change is consistent with terms used in legislative definitions of prohibited discriminatory conduct. See, e.g. Minn. Stat. §§ 363A.02 (Minnesota Human Rights Act); § 82B.195, subd. 3 (vii) (real estate appraisers).

Rule 2.03 Role of Attorneys

(a) **Officer of Court.** The lawyer is an officer of the court and should at all times uphold the honor and maintain the dignity of the profession, maintaining at all times a respectful attitude toward the court.

(b) **Addressing Court or Jury.** Except when making objections, lawyers physically present in the courtroom should rise and remain standing while addressing the court or the jury. In addressing the court, the lawyer should refer to the judge as “Your Honor” or “The Court.” Counsel shall not address or refer to jurors individually or by name or occupation, except during voir dire, and shall never use the first name when addressing a juror in voir dire examination. During trial, counsel shall not exhibit familiarity with the judge, jurors, witnesses, parties or other counsel, nor address them by use of first names (except for children).

(c) **Approaching Bench.** The lawyers should address the court from a position at the counsel table. If a lawyer finds it necessary to discuss some question out of the hearing of the jury at the bench, the lawyer may so indicate to the court and, if invited, approach the bench for the purpose indicated. In such an instance, the lawyers should never lean upon the bench nor appear to engage the court in a familiar manner.

(d) **Non-Discrimination.** Lawyers shall treat all parties, participants, other lawyers, and court personnel fairly and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or age.

(e) **Attire.** Lawyers shall appear in court in appropriate courtroom attire.

(Amended effective November 22, 2023.)

Advisory Committee Comment--1997 Amendment

The majority of this rule was initially derived from the former Rules of Uniform Decorum. The adoption of these rules in 1991 included these provisions in Part H, Minnesota Civil Trialbook. They are recodified here to make it clear that the standards for decorum, for lawyers and judges, apply in criminal as well as civil proceedings.

The Task Force on Uniform Local Rules considered the recommendations of the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Gender Fairness, and recommended [Rule 2.03\(d\)](#) be adopted to implement, in part, the recommendations of that body. See Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force for Gender Fairness in the Courts, 15 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 825 (1989). The rule specifically incorporated the definition of discriminatory conduct in the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes, section 363.01, subd. 1(1) (1990). The Task Force added to the statutory definition of discrimination the category of sexual preference.

The inclusion of these provisions in the rules is intended to establish uniform standards to be followed in most cases. Nothing in this rule limits the power of the court

to modify the rules or their application in a particular case. See [Rule 1.02](#). It is not intended that the failure to follow these rules, in itself, would be the subject of claimed error in the conduct of the trial court proceedings in the absence of aggravating circumstances, such as repeated violations or persistent violation after objections by a party or direction from the court.

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

[Rule 2.03](#)(d) is amended to refer to “sexual orientation” rather than “sexual preference.” This change is consistent with terms used in legislative definitions of prohibited discriminatory conduct. See, e.g., Minn. Stat. § 363A.02 (Minnesota Human Rights Act); §§ 82B.195, subd. 3 (vii) (real estate appraisers).

Advisory Committee Comment—2023 Amendments

[Rule 2](#) is modified in 2023 to reflect broader use of remote court proceedings and the decorum challenges that arise in the remote context.

RULE 3. EX PARTE ORDERS

Rule 3.01 Notice

In any application for ex parte relief, the court may require a demonstration or explanation of the efforts made to notify affected parties, or the reasons why such efforts were not made. The reasons supporting ex parte relief should be recited in the order.

Rule 3.02 Prior Application

Before an ex parte order is issued, an affidavit shall be submitted with the application showing:

- (1) No prior applications for the relief requested or for a similar order have been made;
- or,
- (2) The court and judge to whom the prior application was made; the result of the prior application; and what new facts are presented with the current application. Failure to comply with this rule may result in vacation of any order entered.

Task Force Comment--1991 Adoption

[Rule 3.01](#) is new, although it codifies the practice of the vast majority of judges.

[Rule 3.02](#) is derived from Rule 10 of the Code of Rules for the District Courts. This rule applies in all trial court proceedings, including criminal actions. The Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Criminal Procedure joins the Task Force in recommending that this rule apply in all trial court proceedings.

The review of the efforts made to provide notice is an integral part of permitting ex parte relief to be granted. The rule does not specify what showing must be made and

does not state how it is to be made because the Task Force recognizes that a wide variety of circumstances apply to the seeking and obtaining of ex parte orders. In some circumstances, there may be proper reasons to justify ex parte relief even if notice could be given, and in those limited instances, a showing of those reasons should be made and reviewed by the court. The more common situation will involve description of the efforts made to give notice. The court may require the information in written or affidavit form, may take oral testimony, or may base the decision on the statements of counsel, either in person or by telephone. The Task Force also believes that if notice to affected parties is deemed unnecessary, the order should state the facts supporting ex parte relief without notice.

RULE 4. VISUAL AND AUDIO RECORDINGS

Rule 4.01 General Rule

Except as set forth in this rule, no visual or audio recordings, except the recording made as the official court record, shall be taken in any courtroom, whether in person or using remote technology, area of a courthouse where courtrooms are located, or other area designated by order of the chief judge made available in the office of the court administrator in the county, during a trial or hearing of any case or special proceeding incident to a trial or hearing, or in connection with any grand jury proceedings. Visual and audio coverage or recording includes film, video, livestreaming, and still photography. For purposes of this rule, a hearing held remotely using video technology is not considered livestreaming and any recording or broadcasting of such hearings is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the presiding judge.

This rule may be superseded by specific rules of the Minnesota Supreme Court relating to use of cameras in the courtroom for courtroom security purposes, for use of video or audio recording of proceedings to create the official recording of the case, for interactive video hearings pursuant to rule or order of the supreme court, or by exceptions listed in [Rule 4.02](#). This [Rule 4](#) does not supersede the provisions of the Minnesota Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch.

(Amended effective January 1, 2024.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2023 Amendments

[Rule 4.01](#) is modified in 2023 to reflect broader use of remote court proceedings and to ensure consistent limits on recording of proceedings regardless of format.

Rule 4.02 Exceptions

(a) A judge may authorize the use of electronic or photographic means for the presentation of evidence, for the perpetuation of a record or for other purposes of judicial administration.

(b) A judge may authorize the broadcasting, televising, recording or photographing of investitive, ceremonial or naturalization proceedings.

(c) In civil proceedings, a judge may authorize, without the consent of all parties, the visual or audio recording and reproduction of appropriate court proceedings under the following conditions:

- (i) There shall be no visual or audio coverage of jurors at any time during the trial, including *voir dire*.
- (ii) There shall be no visual or audio coverage of any witness who objects thereto in writing or on the record before testifying.
- (iii) Visual or audio coverage of judicial proceedings shall be limited to proceedings conducted within the courtroom, and shall not extend to activities or events substantially related to judicial proceedings that occur in other areas of the court building.
- (iv) There shall be no visual or audio coverage within the courtroom during recesses or at any other time the trial judge is not present and presiding.
- (v) Preceding or during a jury trial, there shall be no visual or audio coverage of hearings that take place outside the presence of the jury. This provision does not prohibit visual or audio coverage of appropriate pretrial hearings in civil proceedings, such as hearings on dispositive motions.
- (vi) There shall be no visual or audio coverage in cases involving child custody, marriage dissolution, juvenile proceedings, child protection proceedings, paternity proceedings, civil commitment proceedings, petitions for orders for protection, and proceedings that are not accessible to the public.

(d) In criminal proceedings occurring before a guilty plea has been accepted or a guilty verdict has been returned, a judge may authorize the visual or audio recording and reproduction of trial proceedings unless there is a substantial likelihood that coverage would expose any victim, or witness who may testify at trial, to harm, threats of harm, or intimidation. To determine whether to grant a request for visual or audio recording and reproduction, the presiding judge may consider any relevant factors, including but not limited to (1) the positions of the parties and wishes of the victim(s); (2) the level of public interest in the trial; (3) the necessity of coverage to safeguard the defendant's right to a public trial or the public's right of access to criminal trials; (4) the existence of security issues, courtroom or courthouse facility limitations, or public health concerns that would merit restricting observers from the physical courtroom; (5) courtroom or courthouse facility limitations that would render coverage impractical; (6) the positive or negative impact of recording and reproduction on the dignity and decorum of the trial proceedings; and (7) the effect of recording and reproduction on transparency, public education, and public trust and confidence in the proceeding or the judicial system. Coverage under this paragraph is subject to the following limitations:

- (i) There shall be no visual or audio coverage during *voir dire*, and no visual or audio coverage of jurors at any time during the trial or at any time when the name or identity of a juror could be revealed such as the polling of the jury.
- (ii) There shall be no visual or audio coverage of any witness, victim, or defendant who is a minor at the time of trial. There shall be no visual or audio

coverage of any adult witness or adult victim who objects thereto in writing or on the record before testifying.

(iii) Visual or audio coverage of judicial proceedings shall be limited to proceedings conducted within the courtroom, and shall not extend to activities or events substantially related to judicial proceedings that occur in other areas of the court building.

(iv) There shall be no visual or audio coverage within the courtroom during recesses or at any other time the trial judge is not present and presiding.

(v) There shall be no visual or audio coverage of any pretrial proceedings, including but not limited to bail hearings, arraignment, pretrial or omnibus hearings, motions *in limine* or any other proceedings prior to the jury being sworn, or any hearings that take place outside the presence of the jury.

(vi) No visual or audio coverage is permitted in cases involving charges under Minn. Stat. §§ 609.293-.352, 609.185(a)(2), 609.365, 617.241, 617.246, or 617.247; or in cases in which a victim is a family or household member as defined in Minn. Stat. § 518B.01, subd. 2(b), and the charges include an offense listed in Minn. Stat. § 609.02, subd. 16, unless the victim(s) is an adult and makes a request in writing or on the record asking the judge to allow coverage.

In any court order authorizing visual or audio coverage of trial proceedings, the judge may include any other restrictions on coverage in the judge's discretion, including but not limited to restrictions on the coverage of certain parties, witnesses, or other participants, or graphic or emotionally disturbing or otherwise sensitive exhibits.

(e) In criminal proceedings occurring after a guilty plea has been accepted or a guilty verdict returned, a judge must, absent good cause, allow visual or audio coverage. The fact that a guilty plea will be accepted or a guilty verdict returned at the same hearing when sentencing will occur is not a basis to deny coverage of a sentencing proceeding. The consent of the parties is not required for coverage under this paragraph and lack of consent is not good cause to deny coverage. To determine whether there is good cause to prohibit coverage of the proceeding, or any part of it, the judge must consider (1) the privacy, safety, and well-being of the victim(s), defendant, participants, or other interested persons; (2) the likelihood that coverage will detract from the dignity of the proceeding; (3) the physical facilities of the court; and (4) the fair administration of justice. Coverage under this paragraph is subject to the following limitations:

(i) No visual or audio coverage is permitted of jurors at hearings to determine whether there are aggravating factors that would support an upward departure under the sentencing guidelines.

(ii) Visual and audio coverage is not permitted at any proceeding held in a treatment court, including drug courts, mental health courts, veterans courts, and DWI courts except if participants are nearing graduation and consent to visual and audio coverage, in which case coverage may be permitted for purposes of producing videos or materials for promotional, educational, or stories in the public interest.

(iii) No visual or audio coverage is permitted in cases involving charges under Minn. Stat. §§ 609.293-.352 or 609.185(a)(2), 609.365, 617.241, 617.246, or 617.247; or in case in which a victim is a family or household member as defined

in Minn. Stat. § 518B.01, subd. 2(b), and the charges include an offense listed in Minn. Stat. § 609.02, subd. 16, unless the victim(s) is an adult and makes a request in writing or on the record asking the judge to allow coverage.

(iv) No visual or audio coverage is permitted of a victim, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 611A.01(b), or a person giving a statement on behalf of the victim as the victim's proxy, unless the victim is an adult at the time of sentencing, and the adult victim, or when applicable the adult victim's proxy, affirmatively acknowledges and agrees in writing to the proposed coverage.

(v) Visual or audio coverage must be limited to proceedings conducted within the courtroom, and shall not extend to activities or events substantially related to judicial proceedings that occur in other areas of the court building.

(vi) No visual or audio coverage within the courtroom is permitted during recesses or at any other time the trial judge is not present and presiding.

(Amended effective January 1, 2024.)

Rule 4.03 Procedures Relating to Requests for Visual and Audio Coverage of Authorized District Court Proceedings

The following procedures apply to visual and audio coverage of district court proceedings where authorized under [Rule 4.02](#):

(a) **Notice.** Unless notice is waived by the trial judge, as far in advance as practicable, and at least 7 days before the commencement of the hearing or trial, the media shall provide written notice of their intent to cover authorized district court proceedings by either visual or audio means to the trial judge, and to the court administrator, who shall promptly provide a copy of the notice to all counsel of record, and any parties appearing without counsel. The media shall also provide a copy of the written notice to the State Court Administrator's Court Information Office. The media shall also notify their respective media coordinator, identified as provided under part (e) of this rule, of the request to cover proceedings in advance of submitting the request to the trial judge, if possible, or as soon thereafter as possible.

(b) **Objections.** If a party opposes visual or audio coverage, the party shall provide written notice of the party's objections to the presiding judge, the other parties, and the media requesting coverage as soon as practicable, and at least 72 hours before the commencement of the hearing or trial in cases where the media have given at least 7 days' notice of their intent to cover the proceedings. The media is not a party and is not entitled to file a written response to any objections. The judge shall rule on any objections and make a decision on visual or audio coverage before the commencement of the hearing or trial. However, the judge has the discretion to limit, terminate, or temporarily suspend visual or audio coverage of an entire case or portions of a case at any time.

(c) **Witness Information and Objection to Coverage.** At or before the commencement of the hearing or trial in cases with visual or audio coverage, each party shall inform all witnesses the party plans to call that their testimony will be subject to visual or audio recording unless the witness objects in writing or on the record before testifying. This provision

does not apply to victims giving a statement at a sentencing hearing, which is governed by [Rule 4.02\(e\)\(iv\)](#).

(d) **Appeals.** No ruling of the trial judge relating to the implementation or management of visual or audio coverage under this rule shall be appealable until the underlying matter becomes appealable, and then only by a party.

(e) **Media Coordinators.** Media coordinators for various areas of the state shall be identified on the main state court web site. The media coordinators shall facilitate interaction between the courts and the media regarding visual or audio coverage of authorized district court proceedings. Responsibilities of the media coordinators include:

(i) Compiling basic information (e.g., case identifiers, judge, parties, attorneys, dates and coverage duration) on all requests for use of visual and audio coverage of authorized trial court proceedings for their respective court location(s) as identified on the main state court web site, and making aggregate forms of the information publicly available;

(ii) Explaining to persons requesting visual or audio coverage of trial court proceedings for their respective court location(s) the local practices, procedures, and logistical details of the court related to visual and audio coverage;

(iii) Resolving all issues related to pooling of cameras and microphones related to visual or audio coverage of trial court proceedings for their respective court location(s).

(Amended effective January 1, 2020.)

Rule 4.04 Technical Standards for Visual, Audio, and Broadcast Coverage of Judicial Proceedings

The trial court may regulate any aspect of the proceedings to ensure that the means of recording will not distract participants or impair the dignity of the proceedings, including limiting coverage of non-parties present in the courtroom. In the absence of a specific order imposing additional or different conditions, the following provisions apply to all proceedings.

(a) **Equipment and personnel.**

(1) Not more than one portable television or movie camera, operated by not more than one person, shall be permitted in any trial court proceeding.

(2) Not more than one still photographer, utilizing not more than two still cameras with not more than two lenses for each camera and related equipment for print purposes, shall be permitted in any proceeding in any trial court.

(3) Not more than one audio system for radio broadcast purposes shall be permitted in any proceeding in any trial court. Audio pickup for all media purposes shall be accomplished from existing audio systems present in the court. If no technically suitable audio system exists in the court, microphones and related wiring essential for media purposes shall be unobtrusive and shall be located in places designated in advance of any proceeding by the trial judge.

(4) Any “pooling” arrangements among the media required by these limitations on equipment and personnel shall be the sole responsibility of the media without calling upon the trial judge to mediate any dispute as to the appropriate media representative or equipment authorized to cover a particular proceeding. In the absence of advance media agreement on disputed equipment or personnel issues, the trial judge shall exclude from a proceeding all media personnel who have contested the pooling arrangement.

(b) Sound and light.

(1) Only television camera and audio equipment which does not produce distracting sound or light shall be employed to cover judicial proceedings. Excepting modifications and additions made pursuant to Paragraph (e) below, no artificial, mobile lighting device of any kind shall be employed with the television equipment.

(2) Only still camera equipment which does not produce distracting sound or light shall be employed to cover judicial proceedings.

(3) Media personnel must demonstrate to the trial judge adequately in advance of any proceeding that the equipment sought to be utilized meets the sound and light requirements of this rule. A failure to demonstrate that these criteria have been met for specific equipment shall preclude its use in any proceeding.

(c) Location of equipment and personnel.

(1) Television camera equipment shall be positioned in such location in the court as shall be designated by the trial judge. The area designated shall provide reasonable access to coverage. When areas that permit reasonable access to coverage are provided, all television camera and audio equipment must be located in an area remote from the court.

(2) A still camera photographer shall be positioned in such location in the court as shall be designated by the trial judge. The area designated shall provide reasonable access to coverage. Still camera photographers shall assume a fixed position within the designated area and, once a photographer has established that position, the photographer shall act so as not to attract attention by distracting movement. Still camera photographers shall not be permitted to move about in order to obtain photographs of court proceedings.

(3) Broadcast media representatives shall not move about the court facility while proceedings are in session.

(d) Movement of equipment during proceedings. News media photographic or audio equipment shall not be placed in, or removed from, the court except before commencement or after adjournment of proceedings each day, or during a recess. Microphones or recording equipment, once positioned as required by (a)(3) above, may not be moved from their position during the pendency of the proceeding. Neither television film magazines nor still camera film or lenses may be changed within a court except during a recess in the proceedings.

(e) Courtroom light sources. When necessary to allow news coverage to proceed, modifications and additions may be made in light sources existing in the facility, provided such

modifications or additions do not produce distracting light and are installed and maintained without public expense. Such modifications or additions are to be presented to the trial judge for review prior to their implementation.

(f) Conferences of counsel. To protect the attorney-client privilege and the effective right to counsel, there shall be no video or audio pickup or broadcast of the conferences which occur in a court between attorneys and their client, co-counsel of a client, opposing counsel, or between counsel and the trial judge held at the bench. In addition, there shall be no video pickup or broadcast of work documents of such persons.

(g) Impermissible use of media material. None of the film, video, still photographs or audio reproductions developed during, or by virtue of, coverage of a judicial proceeding shall be admissible as evidence in the proceeding out of which it arose, any proceeding subsequent or collateral thereto, or upon any retrial or appeal of such proceedings.

(Amended effective September 1, 2018.)

Advisory Committee Comment--2009 Amendments

This rule was initially derived from the local rules of three districts.

The Supreme Court has adopted rules allowing cameras in the courtrooms in limited circumstances, and it is inappropriate to have a written rule that does not accurately state the standards which lawyers are expected to follow. See In re Modification of Canon 3A(7) of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct, No. C7-81-300 (Minn. Sup. Ct. May 22, 1989). The court has ordered an experimental program for videotaped recording of proceedings for the official record in the Third, Fifth and Seventh Judicial Districts. In re Videotaped Records of Court Proceedings in the Third, Fifth, and Seventh Judicial Districts, No. C4-89-2099 (Minn. Sup. Ct. Nov. 17, 1989) (order). The proposed local rule is intended to allow the local courts to comply with the broader provisions of the Supreme Court Orders, but to prevent unauthorized use of cameras in the courthouse where there is no right to access with cameras.

The rule was amended in 2009 to add [Rule 4.02](#), comprising provisions that theretofore were part of the Minnesota Rules of Judicial Conduct. This change is not intended to be substantive in nature, but the provisions are moved to the court rules so they are more likely to be known to litigants. Canon 3(A)(11) of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct is amended to state the current obligation of judges to adhere to the rules relating to court access for cameras and other electronic reporting equipment.

The extensive amendment of [Rule 4](#) in 2009 reflects decades of experience under a series of court orders dealing with the use of cameras in Minnesota courts. See In re Modification of Canon 3A(7) of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct, Order re: Audio and Video Coverage of Trial Court Proceedings, No. C7-81-300 (Minn. Sup. Ct. April 18, 1983); Order Permitting Audio and Video Coverage of Supreme Court Proceedings, No. C6-78-47193 (Minn. Sup. Ct. April 20, 1983); Amended Order Permitting Audio and Video Coverage of Appellate Court Proceedings, No. C7-81-3000 (Minn. Sup. Ct. Sept. 28, 1983); In re Modification of Canon 3A(7) of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct to Conduct and Extend the Period of Experimental Audio and Video Coverage of Certain

Trial Court Proceedings, Order, C7-81-300 (Minn. Sup. Ct. Aug. 21, 1985); *In re Modification of Canon 3A(7) of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct*, Order re: Audio and Video Coverage of Trial Court Proceedings (Minn. Sup. Ct. May 22, 1989); and *In re Modification of Canon 3A(10) of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct*, Order, No. C7-81-3000 (Minn. Sup. Ct. Jan. 11, 1996)(reinstating April 18, 1983, program and extending until further order of Court). The operative provisions of those orders, to the extent still applicable and appropriate for inclusion in a court rule, are now found in [Rule 4](#).

Amended [Rule 4.01](#) defines how this rule dovetails with other court rules that address issues of recording or display of recorded information. The primary thrust of [Rule 4](#) is to define when media access is allowed for the recording or broadcast of court proceedings. Other rules establish limits on access to or use of court-generated recordings, such as court-reporter tapes and security tapes. See, e.g., Minnesota Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch.

Amended [Rules 4.02\(a\) & \(b\)](#) are drawn from Canon 3A(11)(a) & (b) of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct prior to its amendment in 2008. [Rule 4.02\(c\)](#) and the following sections (i) through (vii) are taken directly from the Standards of Conduct and Technology Governing Still Photography, Electronic and Broadcast Coverage of Judicial Proceedings, Exhibit A to *In re Modification of Canon 3A(7) of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct*, Order re: Audio and Video Coverage of Trial Court Proceedings, No. C7-81-300 (Minn. Sup. Ct. April 18, 1983)

Amended [Rule 4.04](#) establishes rules applicable to the appellate courts, and is drawn directly from Amended Order Permitting Audio and Video Coverage of Appellate Court Proceedings, No. C7-81-3000 (Minn. Sup. Ct. Sept. 28, 1983).

RULE 5. APPEARANCE BY OUT-OF-STATE LAWYERS

Rule 5.01 Eligibility.

(a) Who is Eligible. Lawyers duly admitted to practice in the trial courts of any other jurisdiction who have been retained to appear in a particular case pending in a district court of this state may in the discretion of such court be permitted upon written application to appear as counsel pro hac vice provided:

(1) the out-of-state lawyer certifies to the satisfaction of the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners the lawyer's good standing in the jurisdiction in which the lawyer is admitted and that the lawyer is not suspended or disbarred in any jurisdiction for reasons of discipline or disability in lieu of discipline;

(2) the out-of-state lawyer pays a non-refundable fee of \$450 to the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners;

(3) the pleadings and other documents in the case are also signed by a lawyer who is and remains duly admitted to practice in the State of Minnesota, and

(4) such lawyer admitted in Minnesota

(i) accepts service of all papers, and

(ii) is present before the court, in chambers or in the courtroom or participates by permitted remote means in any hearing conducted by remote means. In a subsequent

appearance in the same action the out-of-state lawyer may, in the discretion of the court, conduct the proceedings without the presence of Minnesota counsel.

(b) When Required; Urgent Matter. *Pro hac vice* admission under this rule is required for any lawyer either arguing before the court in an action or signing pleadings or other documents in an action. The court may allow a non-admitted lawyer to argue or submit an urgent matter upon the lawyer's representation to the court that the lawyer qualifies for admission under this rule and that an application for *pro hac vice* admission will be promptly submitted.

Rule 5.02 Exceptions.

(a) Other Rules. Rule 5 shall not apply if another rule expressly exempts a case or proceeding from requiring *pro hac vice* admission. These rules include, without limitation, Rule 3.06 of the Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure (attorneys representing Indian tribes in juvenile protection cases), Rule 3.09 of the Rules of Adoption Procedure (attorneys representing Indian tribes in adoption cases), and Rule 45.06(b) of the Rules of Civil Procedure (application for a subpoena for use in an action pending outside Minnesota).

(b) Fee Waiver.

(1) Pro Bono Representation. A lawyer who represents a person with limited means and will not charge an attorney fee in the case or seek or receive attorney fee reimbursement in the case in which the lawyer seeks admission *pro hac vice* shall not be required to pay the fee set forth in [Rule 5.01\(a\)\(2\)](#).

(2) Public Attorney. A lawyer who is representing a federal, state, or local government entity shall not be required to pay the fee set forth in [Rule 5.01\(a\)\(2\)](#).

(3) Other Fee Waivers Prohibited. No other requests to waive the *pro hac vice* fee shall be made to or granted by the Board of Law Examiners, including for related cases that involve one or more common questions of fact or law.

Rule 5.03 Application to Minnesota Board of Law Examiners.

The application to the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners shall be submitted electronically, shall be accompanied by the fee in [Rule 5.01\(a\)\(2\)](#) unless waived as provided in [Rule 5.02\(b\)](#), shall include a certificate of good standing from the attorney licensing authority in the jurisdiction in which the applicant is admitted, and shall include any other information requested by the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners.

Rule 5.04 Motion to Court.

(a) Requirements. An active member in good standing of the bar of this state who is attorney of record for the client(s) whom the applicant proposes to represent, must move the applicant's admission in the action. The motion shall be served on all parties to the action and must be accompanied by:

(1) an affidavit or declaration of the applicant stating whether the applicant has applied for *pro hac vice* admission in Minnesota in the preceding two years, and for each such

application, the caption, venue, and file number of the case and whether admission was allowed; and

(2) a copy of the application submitted under [Rule 5.03](#) along with a copy of the notice from the Board of Law Examiners confirming good standing.

(b) Withdrawal of Local Counsel. If the moving attorney is suspended, disbarred, or ceases to be an attorney of record for such client(s) after admission *pro hac vice* has been granted, another Minnesota lawyer must be promptly substituted and file a notice of appearance in the action.

(c) Fee. The motion shall be accompanied by the appropriate motion fee, if any.

(d) Standard. After confirmation of good standing by the Board of Law Examiners, the court shall promptly consider the motion for admission *pro hac vice*. Discretion shall be liberally exercised to grant motions for admission *pro hac vice*.

(e) Revocation. Admission to appear as counsel *pro hac vice* in a suit may be revoked for conduct violating any applicable rules, or conduct justifying sanctions under the court's inherent power.

Rule 5.05 Subject to Minnesota Rules and Jurisdiction.

The out-of-state lawyer is subject to all rules that apply to lawyers admitted in Minnesota, including rules related to e-filing and the registration requirements for e-filing in [Rule 14.02\(a\)](#) of the General Rules of Practice for the District Court. To the extent that electronic service on the out-of-state lawyer under [rule 14](#) is unavailable, service of documents on the lawyer admitted to the bar of this state and who appears as counsel of record with the out-of-state lawyer shall constitute notice to and service on the party.

Any lawyer appearing pursuant to this rule is subject to the disciplinary rules and regulations governing Minnesota lawyers, including the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and by applying to appear or appearing in any action is subject to the jurisdiction of the Minnesota courts.

(Amended effective June 1, 2021.)

Task Force Comment--1991 Adoption

This rule is derived from 3rd Dist. R. 1. This rule is intended to supplement Minnesota Statutes, section 481.02 (1990) and would supersede the statute to the extent the rule may be inconsistent with it. This rule recognizes and preserves the power and responsibility of the court to determine the proper role to be played by lawyers not admitted to practice in Minnesota.

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

*The amendments to [Rule 5](#) are not substantive in nature or intended effect. They make explicit what the courts have recognized as within their inherent power to regulate the practice of law before the courts. The court's jurisdiction over the person of lawyers applying to appear or appearing in the Minnesota courts is not open to serious question, at least as to disciplinary matters relating to that application or appearance. This rule makes clear the court's jurisdiction over a *pro hac vice* applicant, and similarly makes it clear that e-filing of documents with the Minnesota courts would have this consequence. The application for a subpoena in an action pending outside Minnesota does not create an appearance under R. Civ. P. 45 as proposed by the civil rules advisory committee, but nonetheless subjects the applicant to the court's jurisdiction and disciplinary authority. The subpoena and procedures to enforce it are subject to Minnesota procedural rules and rules governing the conduct of lawyers.*

Advisory Committee Comment—2021 Amendment

[Rule 5](#) is substantially revised to provide greater guidance to the trial courts and counsel for the consideration of the admission of *pro hac vice* counsel. The rule is substantially consistent with the earlier version of the rule, but is expanded and the standards for admission as well as the process for obtaining leave to participate as *pro hac vice* counsel is established in greater detail.

This comment is intended to be comprehensive in scope and essentially incorporates the portions of the earlier advisory committee comments to the extent they are still applicable. The earlier comments are retained for any historic value they may have.

[Rule 5.01](#) sets forth the requirements for admission *pro hac vice*. The threshold requirements are that 1) the lawyer to be admitted must be a lawyer in good standing in the jurisdiction where the lawyer primarily practices; 2) the lawyer is not suspended or disbarred in any jurisdiction; and 3) the lawyer pays a \$450 fee to the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners. The application to the board may be made without notice to other parties in any pending or proposed action. The subsequent motion to the court must be made with notice to all parties to the action. See [Rule 5](#).

The determination that these three requirements are satisfied is delegated to the Board of Law Examiners. The application process is established in [Rule 5.03](#).

The amended [Rule 5.01\(b\)](#) establishes precisely when *pro hac vice* admission is required: whenever a non-admitted lawyer either appears in a proceeding to argue before the court or is the lawyer signing any pleading or other document in the case. This standard is consistent with the definition of when *pro hac vice* admission is required by the appellate courts under Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 143.05, subd. 1. [Rule 5.01\(b\)](#) is intended to establish a bright-line standard. Non-admitted lawyers who merely attend hearings, trial, or other proceedings in a non-speaking role are not required to be admitted *pro hac vice*. Similarly, mere appearance in the signature block of pleadings or other documents does not require admission.

The rule contemplates that the application for and approval of *pro hac vice* admission must be completed before the lawyer may argue or sign pleadings in a Minnesota action. [Rule 5.01\(b\)](#) recognizes, however, that judges have the inherent discretion to allow a non-admitted lawyer to appear on shorter notice when exigent circumstances are present. This rule does not allow an extended or routine exception to the “apply first, then appear” rule and is intended to apply only when unusual urgency exists, such as at the inception of an action where time is short or where temporary injunctive relief is sought. The court then relies on the Minnesota attorney's and proposed *pro hac vice* counsel's representations that the criteria for admission are present and that the complete application and motion will be promptly filed.

Pro hac vice admission under [Rule 5](#) is intended to be an isolated or occasional event.

[Rule 5.02](#) contains exceptions to its requirements generally as well as exceptions to the requirement that an application fee be paid. [Rule 5.02](#)(a) recognizes that other rules specifically exempt non-admitted lawyers from being required to be admitted in Minnesota or even to commence an action in the Minnesota courts as provided in Minn. R. Civ. P. 45.06(b). [Rule 5.02](#)(b) identifies the only two circumstances that will allow payment of the fee to be waived: for out-of-state lawyers handling a pro bono case and lawyers representing a governmental entity. The rule provides a specific definition of what pro bono means—the lawyer must represent a client of limited means and must do so without expectation of recovering a fee from any source, including the client or under any fee-shifting statute or rule. The fee waiver for representation of a governmental entity applies to federal, state, or local governments or other political subdivisions or agencies.

[Rule 5](#) is intended to require an attorney appearing in a case to pay the application fee once in the case. *Pro hac vice* admission will typically last for the duration of the case in the district court; separate application to the appellate courts must be made to appear *pro hac vice* on appeal under the Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure.

[Rule 5.03](#) sets forth the requirements for submitting the application to the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners. The application must be verified in the manner required by the Board of Law Examiners. The rule requires certification of good standing from the single jurisdiction where the lawyer primarily practices but requires disclosure of any suspension or disbarment in any jurisdiction. The rule enumerates information required in every application, but also provides for the requirement of additional information if requested by the Board of Law Examiners.

The actual motion for admission *pro hac vice* is made by an active member of the Minnesota Bar. That lawyer must have appeared in the case and be representing the same client or clients. The motion must be served on all parties and be accompanied by an affidavit from the lawyer to be admitted setting forth the particular detailed information for the court. [Rule 5.04](#)(c) defines the standard for deciding the application for admission. It recognizes that admission should be liberally granted.

[Rule 5.04](#)(b) recognizes that a motion filing fee may be required by statute. *See* Minn. Stat. § 357.021, subd. 2(4). Although documents can be rejected for filing under R. Civ. P. 5.04(c) only for limited reasons, failure to tender a required filing fee is one such reason.

[Rule 5.04](#)(d) underscores that appearance *pro hac vice* is inherently allowed in the discretion of the court, and is subject to revocation. This is an important and practical sanction. [Rule 5.05](#) makes it clear that *pro hac vice* lawyers are required to adhere to the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct and any other rules governing the conduct of Minnesota lawyers.

[Rule 5.05](#) also contains an important provision regarding service on *pro hac vice* counsel. Simply put, they are required under [Rule 14](#) of the General Rules of Practice to register for e-filing and must designate an email address for service of documents upon them in each case. If they fail to do so or service cannot be accomplished via that registered address, they are deemed served by service on the Minnesota lawyer who moved their admission. This provision eliminates any need to serve *pro hac vice* counsel by mail or means other than using the court's e-filing and e-service system.

[Rule 5.05](#) requires that a lawyer admitted *pro hac vice* to register for use of the court's e-filing and e-service system. Additionally, the rule makes it unnecessary in that circumstance for other parties to serve

the *pro hac vice* lawyer by other means. Thus, the involvement of *pro hac vice* counsel should not increase the burden on other parties to accomplish service.

RULE 6. FORM OF PLEADINGS THAT ARE NOT FILED ELECTRONICALLY

Rule 6.01 Format

All pleadings or documents that are not filed electronically shall be double spaced and legibly handwritten, typewritten, or printed on one side on plain unglazed paper of good texture. Every page shall have a top margin of not less than one inch, free from all typewritten, printed, or other written matter. Under [Rule 14](#) of these rules, all pleadings or documents filed electronically must comply with the format requirements established by the state court administrator in the *Minnesota District Court Registered User Guide for Electronic Filing*.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Civil Rules Advisory Committee Comment—2006 Amendment

[Rule 6.01](#) is amended to delete a sentence dealing with filing by facsimile. The former provision is, in effect, superseded by Minn. R. Civ. P. 5.05, as amended effective January 1, 2006.

Advisory Committee Comment—2012 Amendment

[Rule 6.01](#) is amended to dovetail the requirements for the form of paper pleadings, as set forth in the prior text of this rule, with the fundamentally different format required for documents electronically filed and served. Those format requirements are generally set forth in new [Rule 14.05](#).

Rule 6.02 Paper Size

All papers served or filed by any party that are not served or filed electronically shall be on standard size 8-1/2 X 11 inch paper.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Rule 6.03 Backings Not Allowed

No pleading, motion, order, or other paper submitted to the court administrator for non-electronic filing shall be backed or otherwise enclosed in a covering. Any papers that cannot be attached by a single staple in the upper lefthand corner shall be clipped or tied by an alternate means at the upper lefthand corner.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

(Former Rule 102 adopted effective January 1, 1992; renumbered effective January 1, 1993.)

Cross Reference: Minn. R. Civ. P. 5.05, 10.

Advisory Committee Comment--1992 Amendments

This rule is based on 4th Dist. R. 1.01 (a) & (b), with changes.

Although the rule permits the filing of handwritten documents, the clearly preferred practice in Minnesota is for typewritten documents. Similarly, commercially printed papers are rarely, if ever, used in Minnesota trial court practice, and the use of printed briefs in appellate practice is discouraged.

All courts in Minnesota converted to use of “letter size” paper in 1982. See Order Mandating 8-1/2 x 11 Inch Size Paper For All Filings in All Courts in the State, Minn. Sup. Ct., Apr. 16, 1982 (no current file number assigned), reprinted in Minn. Rules of Ct. 665 (West pamph. ed. 1992). Papers filed in the appellate courts must also be on letter-sized paper. See Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 132.01, subdivision 1. This rule simply reiterates the requirement for the trial courts.

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

The amendments to [Rule 6](#) recognize that upon the adoption of mandatory e-filing for some courts and some types of cases, other documents will be filed in paper form. The rule does not change the requirements for paper documents.

[Rule 6.01](#) also provides a cross-reference to the Minnesota District Court Registered User Guide for Electronic Filing, which will contain the format requirements for electronic documents that are e-filed or e-served. See [Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 14](#). That guidance document will be regularly updated and maintained on the judicial branch website, www.mncourts.gov, which will allow it to be kept current as technical requirements evolve without repeated amendatory Supreme Court orders.

RULE 7. PROOF OF SERVICE

When a document has been conventionally served before filing, proof of service shall be affixed to the document so that the identity of the document is not obscured. If a document is filed before conventional service has been made, proof of service shall be filed within 7 days after service is made. When a document has been both eFiled and eServed together using the E-Filing System in accordance with [Rule 14](#), the record of service on the E-Filing System shall constitute proof of service.

(Amended effective January 1, 2021.)

Cross Reference: Minn. R. Civ. P. 4.06, 5.04.

Advisory Committee Comments--1995 Amendments

This rule derived from Rule 13 of the Code of Rules for the District Courts. The second sentence is new, drafted to provide for filing of documents where service is to be made after filing. The Committee recommends amendment of the rule to require a specific rather than subjective standard for the filing of proof of service. Although the Committee heard requests to change the rule to require that all documents be filed with proof of service attached, the Committee believes that such a rule is neither helpful nor necessary. Such a rule would make it difficult to serve and file documents at the same time, and would probably result in greater problems relating to untimely service and filing. Nonetheless, there appear to be a number of situations where proof of service is not filed for a substantial period of time, resulting in confusion in the courts. The rule is accordingly amended to change the requirement from filing “promptly” after service to “within ten days” after service. The Committee believes this period is more than sufficient for filing a proof of service. The Committee is also sensitive to a potential problem that would arise with a requirement that proof of service accompany documents at the time of filing. The Committee continues to believe that documents, in whatever form, should not be rejected for filing by the court administrators. Rather, documents should be filed as submitted and the court should deal with any deficiencies or irregularities in the documents in an orderly way, having in mind the mandate of Rule 1 of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure that the rules be interpreted to advance the “just, speedy, and inexpensive” determination of every action.

Advisory Committee Comment—2012 Amendment

[Rule 7](#) is amended to make it clear that a separate proof of service is not required for documents served using the court’s e-service system in cases where that method is authorized by the rules. Proof of service exists in the system’s records and that record of service suffices to prove service for all purposes.

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

[Rule 7](#) is amended to provide for proof of service for all methods of service allowed under the rules. E-service is proved by the record maintained by and available from the court’s e-filing and e-service system, obviating any additional filings to prove service. All other means of service are defined as “conventional service” by [Rule 14.01](#), which is proved by a written affidavit, certificate, or acknowledgement of service filed shortly after service is made.

RULE 8. INTERPRETERS

Definitions

1. “Coordinator” means the Court Interpreter Program Coordinator assigned to the State Court Administrator’s Office.
2. “Roster” means the Minnesota statewide roster of court interpreters.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Rule 8.01 Statewide Roster

The State Court Administrator shall maintain and publish a statewide roster of certified and non-certified interpreters.

(a) Spoken Language Court Interpreters: To be included on the Statewide Roster, spoken language court interpreters must have: (1) reached the age of at least 18 years; (2) completed the interpreter orientation program sponsored by the State Court Administrator; (3) filed with the State Court Administrator an affidavit agreeing to be bound by the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Minnesota State Court System, the State Court Administrator's Office Enforcement Procedures for the Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters, and all applicable Court Interpreter Program policies; (4) met the character and fitness standards in [Rule 8.06](#) and any other eligibility standards published by the State Court Administrator; and (5) received a passing score on the English proficiency, ethics, and court terminology examination administered or approved by the State Court Administrator.

(b) Certified Spoken Language Court Interpreters: To be included on the Statewide Roster as a certified spoken language court interpreter, interpreters must have satisfied all requirements in paragraph (a), and met all requirements for certification pursuant to [Rules 8.04](#) and [8.05](#). Certification is not available for all languages.

(c) Sign Language Court Interpreters: To be included on the Statewide Roster, sign language court interpreters must:

- (1) have satisfied all requirements in paragraph (a);
- (2) be a member in good standing with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID);
and
- (3) possess certificate(s) from RID that demonstrate minimum competency in sign language or another equivalent valid qualification approved by the State Court Administrator.

(d) Certified Sign Language Court Interpreters. To be included on the Statewide Roster as a certified sign language court interpreter, interpreters must have satisfied all requirements of paragraph (c), and possess the special certification "Legal" from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or another equivalent valid certification approved by the State Court Administrator.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Advisory Committee Comment 1997 Amendment

It is the policy of the state to provide interpreters to litigants and witnesses in civil and criminal proceedings who are handicapped in communication. Minnesota Statutes, sections 611.30 - .32 (1996); Minn. R. Crim. P. 5.01, 15.01, 15.03, 15.11, 21.01, 26.03, 27.04, subd. 2; Minnesota Statutes, section 546.44, subdivision 3 (1996); see also 42

U.S.C. section 12101; 28 C.F.R. Part 35, section 130 (prohibiting discrimination in public services on basis of disability).

To effectuate that policy, the Minnesota Supreme Court has initiated a statewide orientation program of training for court interpreters and promulgated the Rules on Certification of Court Interpreters. Pursuant to [Rule 8.01](#) of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts, the State Court Administrator has established a statewide roster of court interpreters who have completed the orientation program on the Minnesota court system and court interpreting and who have filed an affidavit attesting that they understand and agree to comply with the Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters adopted by the Minnesota Supreme Court on September 18, 1995. The creation of the roster is the first step in a process that is being undertaken to ensure the competence of court interpreters. To be listed on the roster, a non-certified court interpreter must attend an orientation course provided or approved by the State Court Administrator. The purpose of the orientation is to provide interpreters with information regarding the Code of Professional Responsibility, the role of interpreters in our courts, skills required of court interpreters, the legal process, and legal terminology. Merely being listed on the roster does not certify or otherwise guarantee an interpreter's competence.

In 1997, two key changes were made to this rule. First, interpreters are now required to receive a passing score on the ethics examination before they are eligible to be listed on the Statewide Roster. This change was implemented to ensure that court interpreters on the Statewide Roster have a demonstrated knowledge of the Code of Professional Responsibility.

Second, to be eligible to be listed on the Statewide Roster, non-certified sign language court interpreters are required to possess certificates from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), which demonstrate that the interpreter has minimum competency skills in sign language. This change was recommended by the Advisory Committee because of reports to the Committee that courts were hiring sign language interpreters who completed the orientation training, but who were not certified by RID. This practice was troubling because prior to the promulgation of [Rule 8](#), courts generally adopted the practice of using only RID certified sign language interpreters to ensure a minimum level of competency. Unlike most spoken language interpreting fields, the field of sign language interpreting is well established with nationally developed standards for evaluation and certification of sign language interpreters. Because of the long history of RID, its certification program, the availability of RID certified sign language interpreters in Minnesota and the recent incidents when courts have deviated from their general practice of appointing RID certified sign language interpreters, the Advisory Committee determined that it is appropriate and necessary to amend [Rule 8](#) to maintain the current levels of professionalism and competency among non-certified sign language court interpreters.

Advisory Committee Comments—2007 Amendment

[Rule 8.01\(b\)](#) is amended to add a new subsection (4). This subsection imposes an additional requirement that court interpreters demonstrate proficiency in English as well as the foreign languages for which they will be listed. This provision is necessary because certification is currently offered only in 12 languages and many of the state's interpreters are not certified. This change is intended to minimize the current problems involving need

to use non-certified interpreters who now often do not possess sufficient English language skills to be effective.

Rule 8.02 Appointment; Applicability of Ethics Rules to All Interpreters.

(a) Use of Certified Court Interpreter. Whenever an interpreter is required to be appointed by the court, the court shall appoint a certified court interpreter who is listed on the statewide roster of interpreters established by the State Court Administrator under [Rule 8.01](#), except as provided in [Rule 8.02](#)(b), (c), (d), and (e). A certified court interpreter shall be presumed competent to interpret in all court proceedings. The court may, at any time, make further inquiry into the appointment of a particular certified court interpreter. By objection made at the commencement of a proceeding, or by motion made appropriately in advance of a proceeding, special circumstances which render the certified court interpreter unqualified to interpret in the proceeding must be presented to the court. The court shall use a certified court interpreter except when no certified court interpreter is reasonably available. A certified court interpreter is not reasonably available if the hearing would have to be unreasonably delayed to secure the presence of the interpreter, if the interpreter would have to travel an unreasonable distance to attend the hearing, or if the interpreter is unwilling to provide interpreting services by remote means at the request of the court.

(b) Use of Non-Certified Court Interpreter on Statewide Roster. If no certified or employee court interpreter is reasonably available, the court shall appoint a non-certified court interpreter who is otherwise competent and is listed on the Statewide Roster established by the State Court Administrator under [Rule 8.01](#). If the Roster includes additional information regarding an interpreter's level of experience, competency, and qualification, the court shall appoint from among the highest-ranked interpreters available. In determining whether a non-certified court interpreter is competent, the court shall apply the screening standards published by the State Court Administrator.

(c) Use of Spoken Language Court Interpreter not on the Statewide Roster. Only after the court has determined that the requirements of [Rule 8.02](#)(a) and (b) cannot be met may the court appoint a spoken language interpreter who is not listed on the Statewide Roster and who is otherwise competent. In determining whether a spoken language interpreter is competent, the court shall apply the screening standards published by the State Court Administrator. The court may appoint an interpreter certified in another state.

(d) Use of Non-certified Sign Language Court Interpreter not on the Statewide Roster. Only after determining that the requirements of [Rule 8.02](#)(a) and (b) cannot be met may the court appoint a non-certified sign language interpreter(s) who is not listed on the Statewide Roster. The court must appoint an interpreter(s) who can establish effective communication and who meets the requirements of [Rule 8.01](#)(c), paragraphs (2) and (3).

(e) Use of Employee Court Interpreter. In recognition that certification is not available for all languages and that non-certified interpreters can nevertheless be competent and qualified to perform interpretation services for the courts, and in recognition that availability of court interpreters on a statewide basis is a critical concern, the Minnesota Judicial Branch may

employ qualified and competent interpreters to perform interpreter services for the courts. Employee interpreters must have (1) satisfied all requirements in [Rule 8.01\(a\)](#); (2) satisfied all requirements for certification in [Rule 8.05](#), or met the competency standards established by the State Court Administrator; and (3) been found to be qualified and competent by the Chief Judge in the judicial district of primary employment and taken the oath required by Minn. Stat. §§ 546.44, subd. 2, and 611.33, subd. 2. An employee interpreter who has taken the required oath is not required to take the oath at any subsequent court proceedings. An employee court interpreter shall be presumed competent to interpret in all court proceedings. The court may, at any time, make further inquiry into the appointment of a particular employee court interpreter. By objection made at the commencement of the proceeding, or by motion made appropriately in advance of a proceeding, special circumstances which render the employee court interpreter unqualified to interpret in the proceeding must be presented to the court.

(f) Applicability of Ethics Rules to All Interpreters. All interpreters providing court interpreting services are subject to the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Minnesota State Court System and Court Interpreter Program policies, without regard to whether they are certified or on the Statewide Roster. Interpreters on the Statewide Roster are also subject to the State Court Administrator's Office Enforcement Procedures for the Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Advisory Committee Comment 2002 Amendment

[Rule 8.02\(a\)](#) requires that courts use certified court interpreters. If certified court interpreters are not available or cannot be located, courts should next use only interpreters listed on the statewide roster maintained by the State Court Administrator. [Rule 8.02](#) recognizes, however, that in rare circumstances it will not be possible to appoint an interpreter from the statewide roster. Non-roster interpreters and telephone interpreting services, such as AT & T's Language Lines Service, should be used only as a last resort because of the limitations of such services including the lack of a minimum orientation to the Minnesota Court System and to the requirements of court interpreting. For a detailed discussion of the issues, see *Court Interpretation: Model Guides for Policy and Practice in the State Courts*, chapter 8 (National Center for State Courts, 1995), a copy of which is available from the State Court Administrator's Office. To avoid unreasonable objections to a certified court interpreter in a proceeding, the rule makes a presumption that the certified court interpreter is competent. However, the rule also recognizes that there are situations when an interpreter may be competent to interpret, but not qualified. Examples of such situations include when an interpreter has a conflict of interest or the user of the interpreter services has unique demands, such as services tailored to a person with minimal language skills, that the interpreter is not as qualified to meet.

[Rule 8.02\(b\)](#) requires that courts make "diligent" efforts to locate a certified court interpreter before appointing a non-certified court interpreter. Because the certification process is still in an early stage and because it is important to ensure that courts use competent interpreters, courts should seek the services of certified court interpreters who are located outside the court's judicial district if none can be found within its own district. In addition, courts should consider modifying the schedule for a matter if there is difficulty locating a certified interpreter for a particular time. Because the certification program

being implemented by the State Court Administrator is still new, interpreters are being certified in only certain languages at this time. The Advisory Committee recognizes that it may be some time before certification is provided for all languages used in our courts. However, the committee feels strongly that for those languages for which certification has been issued, the courts must utilize certified court interpreters to ensure that its interpreters are qualified. If a court uses non-certified court interpreters, court administrators should administer the screening standards prior to hiring an interpreter. However, the presiding judge is still primarily responsible for ensuring the competence and qualifications of the interpreter. A model voir dire to determine the competence and qualifications of an interpreter is set forth in the State Court Administrator's Best Practices Manual on Court Interpreters.

The Supreme Court has received reports that courts do not always comply with [Rule 8.02\(b\)](#)'s requirements that courts make "diligent" efforts to locate a certified court reporter before appointing a non-certified court interpreter. Apparently there is some confusion about the meaning of "diligent" efforts. To clarify, to satisfy the diligent efforts requirement a court must demonstrate that, after receiving a request for an interpreter, the court made prompt attempts to hire a certified court interpreter. If the court could not find a certified court interpreter within its judicial district, it must show that it attempted to locate a certified interpreter in another judicial district. If no certified interpreter is available, the court must consider modifying the schedule for the matter before resorting to hiring a non-certified court interpreter.

Rule 8.03 Disqualification from Appointment or Proceeding

A judge may disqualify a court interpreter from an appointment under [Rule 8.02](#) or a proceeding for good cause. Good cause for disqualification includes, but is not limited to, an interpreter who engages in the following conduct:

- (a) Knowingly and willfully making a false interpretation while serving in a proceeding;
- (b) Knowingly and willfully disclosing confidential or privileged information obtained while serving in an official capacity;
- (c) Failing to follow applicable laws, rules of court, the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Minnesota State Court System, or Court Interpreter Program policies.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Advisory Committee Comment 1995

Interpreters must take an oath or affirmation to make a true interpretation to the best of their ability, to the person handicapped in communication and to officials. Minnesota Statutes, sections 546.44, subdivision 2; 611.33, subdivision 2 (1994). Interpreters cannot disclose privileged information without consent. Minnesota Statutes, sections 546.44, subdivision 4; 611.33, subdivision 4 (1994). These and other requirements are also addressed in the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Minnesota State Court System.

Rule 8.04 General Requirement for Court Interpreter Certification

(a) Eligibility for Certification. An applicant is eligible for certification if the interpreter:

- (1) meets the requirements under [Rule 8.01](#) and is included on the Statewide Roster of court interpreters, and;
- (2) receives a passing score on the court interpreting competency examination under [Rule 8.05](#) administered or approved by the State Court Administrator's Office.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020)

Rule 8.05 Court Interpreter Certification Examination

(a) Eligibility for Examination. An applicant is eligible to take the court interpreting competency examination if the applicant:

- (1) meets the requirements under [Rule 8.01](#) and is included on the Statewide Roster;
- (2) has paid the examination fee; and
- (3) has registered to take the examination and met all other requirements for examination as determined by the State Court Administrator.

(b) Examination. Examinations for court interpreting competency in specific languages shall be administered at such times and places as the Coordinator may designate.

(1) Scope of Examination. Applicants for certification in interpreting in a spoken language may be tested on any combination of the following:

- a. Sight Interpretation;
- b. Consecutive Interpretation; and
- c. Simultaneous Interpretation.

(2) Denial of Opportunity to Test. An applicant may be denied permission to take an examination if an application, together with the application fee, is not complete and filed in a timely manner.

(3) Results of Examination. The results of the examination, which may include scores, shall be delivered to examinees to the address listed in the Coordinator's files. Statistical information relating to the examinations, applicants, and the work of the State Court Administrator's Office may be released at the discretion of the State Court Administrator's Office. Pass/fail examination results may be released to (1) District Administrators by the State Court Administrator's Office for purposes of assuring that interpreters are appointed in accordance with [Rule 8.02](#), and (2) any state court interpreter certification authority, including the National Center for State Courts.

(4) Testing Accommodations. A qualified applicant with a disability who requires reasonable accommodations must submit a written request to the Coordinator at the same time the application is filed. The Coordinator will consider timely requests and advise the applicant of what, if any, reasonable accommodations will be provided. The Coordinator may request additional information, including medical evidence or other written documentation, from the applicant prior to providing accommodations to the applicant.

(5) Confidentiality. Except as otherwise provided in [Rule 8.05\(b\)\(3\)](#), all information relating to the examinations is confidential unless the examinee waives confidentiality. The State Court Administrator's Office shall take steps to ensure the security and confidentiality of all examination information.

(c) Notification of Certification. The Coordinator shall notify applicants in writing, including by electronic means, whether the applicant has passed the examination and has met all other requirements for certification.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Drafting Committee Comment--1996

The Minnesota Supreme Court is one of the founding states of the State Court Interpreter Certification Consortium. It is the function of the Consortium to develop tests for court interpretation in various languages and administration standards, and to provide testing materials to individual states and jurisdictions. The Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office will in most circumstances utilize tests and standards established by or in conjunction with the Consortium.

Advisory Committee Comments—2007 Amendment

[Rule 8.05\(a\)\(3\)](#) is amended to facilitate verification of interpreters' qualification by permitting the release of the interpreter test results to court administrators or interpreter program administrators.

[Rule 8.05\(a\)\(5\)](#) is amended to provide for the waiver of confidentiality by examinees for the purpose of permitting the release of examination information upon their request.

Rule 8.06 Character and Fitness Standards for Inclusion on the Statewide Roster

The State Court Administrator's Office shall perform its duties in a manner that ensures the protection of the public by including on the Statewide Roster only those who qualify and who meet character and fitness standards. A court interpreter should be one whose record of conduct justifies the trust of the courts, witnesses, jurors, attorneys, parties, and others with respect to the official duties owed to them. A record manifesting significant deficiency in the honesty, trustworthiness, diligence or reliability of an applicant may constitute a basis for denial of inclusion on the Statewide Roster.

(a) Relevant Conduct. The revelation or discovery of any of the following should be treated as cause for further inquiry before the State Court Administrator's Office decides whether the interpreter possesses the character and fitness to qualify for inclusion on the Statewide Roster:

- (1). conviction of a crime which resulted in a sentence or a suspended sentence;
- (2). misconduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation;

- (3). revocation or suspension of certification as an interpreter, or for any other position or license for which a character check was performed in this state or in other jurisdictions; and
- (4). acts that indicate abuse of or disrespect for the judicial process.

(b) Evaluation of Character and Fitness. The State Court Administrator's Office shall determine whether the present character and fitness of a court interpreter qualifies the interpreter for inclusion on the roster. In making this determination, the following factors should be considered in assigning weight and significance to prior conduct:

- (1). the interpreter's age at the time of the conduct;
- (2). the recency of the conduct;
- (3). the reliability of the information concerning the conduct;
- (4). the seriousness of the conduct;
- (5). the factors underlying the conduct;
- (6). the cumulative effect of the conduct;
- (7). the evidence of rehabilitation;
- (8). the interpreter's positive social contributions since the conduct;
- (9). the interpreter's candor in the certification process; and
- (10). the materiality of any admissions or misrepresentations.

(c) Notification of Results of Character and Fitness Evaluation. The Coordinator shall notify interpreters in writing of a determination that the interpreter failed to meet the character and fitness requirements for inclusion on the roster or for certification. A decision by the State Court Administrator's Office to not add an applicant to the roster is not governed by [Rule 8.08](#) and is not appealable or reviewable under these rules. Suspension or removal from the Statewide Roster of Interpreters included on the roster is governed by [Rule 8.08](#).

(d) Information Disclosure.

(1). Court Interpreter's File. An interpreter may review the contents of his or her file, except for the work product of the Coordinator and the State Court Administrator's Office, at such times and under such conditions as the State Court Administrator's Office may provide.

(2). Investigation Disclosures for Purposes of Character and Fitness Evaluation. Information may be released to appropriate agencies for the purpose of obtaining information related to the applicant's character and fitness.

(3). Confidentiality.

i. Evaluation Data: Information obtained by the Coordinator and the State Court Administrator's Office during the course of their evaluation is confidential and may not be released to anyone absent a court order. The court shall consider whether the benefit to the person requesting the release of the data outweighs the harm to the public, the agency or any person identified in the data.

ii. File Data: All information contained in the files of court interpreters in the State Court Administrator's Office except as otherwise provided in [Rule 8.06\(d\)3](#) of these rules is confidential and will not be released to anyone except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or the consent of the interpreter.

iii. Examination Information: Examination Information shall be available as provided in [Rule 8.05\(b\)](#).

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Drafting Committee Comment--1996

The primary purpose of character, fitness and competency screening is to ensure equal access to justice for people with limited English proficiency, or speech or hearing impairments. Such screening also ensures the efficient and effective operation of our judicial system. Our judicial system is adequately protected by a system that evaluates the character, fitness and competency of an interpreter as those elements relate to interpreting in the courtroom. The public interest requires that all participants in the courtroom be secure in their expectation that those who are certified interpreters are competent to render such services and are worthy of the trust that the courts, witnesses, jurors, attorneys and parties may reasonably place in the certified interpreter.

Rule 8.07 Denial of Certification

A decision by the State Court Administrator's Office to not list an applicant on the Statewide Roster as a certified spoken language interpreter based on a failed certification exam is not governed by [Rule 8.08](#) and is not appealable or reviewable under these rules. A decision by the State Court Administrator's Office to not list an applicant on the Statewide Roster as a certified spoken language interpreter and to remove the applicant from the Statewide Roster based on the character and fitness standards in [Rule 8.06](#) is governed by that rule and by [Rule 8.08](#).

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Rule 8.08 Complaints and Investigation

(a) Procedure. Any complaint alleging a violation, or information that constitutes a violation, of [Rule 8](#), the Court Interpreter Program policies, or the Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters by any certified or non-certified court interpreter on the Statewide Roster shall be governed by procedures published by the State Court Administrator's Office. These procedures shall include the following:

- (1) a description of the types of actions which may be grounds for discipline;
- (2) a description of the types of sanctions available;
- (3) a procedure by which a person can file a complaint against an interpreter;
- (4) a procedure for the investigation of complaints;
- (5) a procedure for the review of complaints;
- (6) a hearing procedure for cases involving more severe sanctions; and
- (7) an appeal process when applicable.

(b) Revocation or Suspension of Certification or Roster Status. The certification or roster status of a court interpreter on the Statewide Roster is subject to suspension or revocation by the State Court Administrator's Office in accordance with the procedures established by the State Court Administrator's Office.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Drafting committee comment--1996

The complaint procedure is not intended as a means for appealing claims of error by a court interpreter. The complaint procedure is available to address unprofessional or unethical conduct by certified and non-certified court interpreters. Consequently, in the absence of fraud, corrupt motive, bad faith, or pattern of established interpreter error, the Coordinator is not likely to initiate an investigation of a complaint of an error of a court interpreter.

It is contemplated that the power to revoke or suspend interpreter certification or roster status will be exercised sparingly and when exercised, consideration will be given to the appropriate procedure and the giving of notice and an opportunity to be heard if such process is due the interpreter.

Rule 8.09 Expenses and Fees

The expenses for administering the certification requirements, including the complaint procedures, may be paid from examination, training, and orientation fees. The fees shall be set by the State Court Administrator's Office and may be revised as necessary.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Rule 8.10 Continuing Education Requirements

The State Court Administrator's Office may establish continuing education requirements for certified and non-certified interpreters on the Statewide Roster. Failure to complete the required education is grounds for suspension or revocation from the Statewide Roster under [Rule 8.08](#).

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Rule 8.11 Confidentiality of Records

Subject to exceptions in [rules 8.01](#), [8.05\(b\)\(3\)](#), [8.05\(b\)\(5\)](#), and [8.06\(d\)](#) of these rules, and the Enforcement Procedures for the Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters, all information in the files of the Coordinator, the Review Panel, and the State Court Administrator relating to court interpreters shall be confidential and shall not be released to anyone other than the Supreme Court except upon order of the Supreme Court.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Drafting Committee Comment--2000

This rule is being added in 2000 to provide a consistent and necessary level of confidentiality for information maintained in the court interpreter orientation and certification process, including for example testing materials, orientation and registration

information, and non-roster contact information. Both certified and non-certified interpreters included on the statewide roster under rule [8.01](#) must attend orientation training and pass an ethics exam, but the confidentiality provisions in rules [8.05](#) and [8.06](#) are limited to those seeking formal certification. Rule [8.11](#) ensures consistent confidentiality for all testing, orientation, registration and non-roster contact information, and is consistent with the level of accessibility accorded similar information in the attorney licensing process.

Rule 8.12 Interpreters to Assist Jurors

Qualified interpreters appointed by the court for any juror with a sensory disability may be present in the jury room to interpret while the jury is deliberating and voting.

(Added effective January 1, 2006.)

Advisory Committee Comment – 2006 Amendment

[Rule 8.12](#) is intended to provide guidance on the role of interpreters appointed for the benefit of jurors with a sensory disability. The requirement that such interpreters be allowed to join the juror in the jury room is logical and necessary to permit the juror to communicate in deliberations. In this situation the interpreter should be given an oath to follow other constraints placed on jurors (e.g., not to discuss the case, not to read or listen to media accounts of the trial, etc.) and also that the interpreter will participate only in interpreting the statements of others, and will not become an additional juror. An interpreter in this situation should also not be allowed or required to testify as to any aspect of the jury's deliberations in any context a juror would not be allowed or required to testify.

This amendment is drawn from the language of Minn. R. Crim. P. 26.03, subd. 16.

The rule is limited by its terms to interpreters appointed for the benefit of jurors with a sensory disability only because that is the only condition generally resulting in the appointment for jurors. In other, unusual, situations where such an interpreter is appointed, these procedures would presumably apply as well.

Rule 8.13 Requirement for Notice of Anticipated Need for Interpreter

In order to permit the court to make arrangements for the availability of required interpreter services, parties shall, in the Civil Cover Sheet or Joint Statement of the Case, and as may otherwise be required by court rule or order, advise the court of that need in advance of the hearing or trial where services are required.

When it becomes apparent that previously-requested interpreter services will not be required, the parties must advise the court.

(Amended effective July 1, 2020.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2008 Amendment

Making a qualified interpreter available when needed in court often requires difficult prearrangement. [Rule 8.13](#) is a simple rule drawing the attention of litigants to the likelihood they will encounter specific court rules or orders requiring identification of interpreter needs in advance of the need. See amendments to Rules 111.02, 111.03, 112.02, Forms 111.02 & 112.01, and Minnesota Civil Trialbook sections 5 & 11.

The second paragraph of the rule contains an obvious corollary: when it becomes clear that interpreter services will no longer be required, notice must be given to permit the court to avoid the expense that would otherwise be incurred. This notice would be required if a trial or hearing were obviated by settlement, and the requirement of notice is similar to that required by MINN. GEN. R. PRAC. 115.10 for the settlement of a motion, which would obviate a hearing and the court's preparation for the hearing.

RULE 9. FRIVOLOUS LITIGATION

Rule 9.01 Motion for Order Requiring Security or Imposing Sanctions

Relief under this rule is available in any action or proceeding pending in any court of this state, at any time until final judgment is entered. Upon the motion of any party or on its own initiative and after notice and hearing, the court may, subject to the conditions stated in [Rules 9.01 to 9.07](#), enter an order: (a) requiring the furnishing of security by a frivolous litigant who has requested relief in the form of a claim, or (b) imposing preconditions on a frivolous litigant's service or filing of any new claims, motions or requests. All motions under this rule shall be made separately from other motions or requests, and shall be served as provided in the Rules of Civil Procedure, but shall not be filed with or presented to the court unless, within 21 days after service of the motion (or such other period as the court may prescribe), the challenged claim, motion, or request is not withdrawn or appropriately corrected.

(Added effective September 1, 1999.)

Rule 9.02 Hearing

(a) Evidence. At the hearing upon such motion the court shall consider such evidence, written or oral, by witnesses or affidavit, as may be material to the ground of the motion.

(b) Factors. In determining whether to require security or to impose sanctions, the court shall consider the following factors:

(1) the frequency and number of claims pursued by the frivolous litigant with an adverse result;

(2) whether there is a reasonable probability that the frivolous litigant will prevail on the claim, motion, or request;

(3) whether the claim, motion, or request was made for purposes of harassment, delay, or vexatiousness, or otherwise in bad faith;

(4) injury incurred by other litigants prevailing against the frivolous litigant and to the efficient administration of justice as a result of the claim, motion, or request in question;

(5) effectiveness of prior sanctions in deterring the frivolous litigant from pursuing frivolous claims;

(6) the likelihood that requiring security or imposing sanctions will ensure adequate safeguards and provide means to compensate the adverse party;

(7) whether less severe sanctions will sufficiently protect the rights of other litigants, the public, or the courts.

The court may consider any other factors relevant to the determination of whether to require security or impose sanctions.

(c) Findings. If the court determines that a party is a frivolous litigant and that security or sanctions are appropriate, it shall state on the record its reasons supporting that determination. An order requiring security shall only be entered with an express determination that there is no reasonable probability that the litigant will prevail on the claim. An order imposing preconditions on serving or filing new claims, motions, or requests shall only be entered with an express determination that no less severe sanction will sufficiently protect the rights of other litigants, the public, or the courts.

(d) Ruling Not Deemed Determination of Issues. No determination or ruling made by the court upon the motion shall be, or be deemed to be, a determination of any issue in the action or proceeding or of the merits thereof.

(Added effective September 1, 1999.)

Rule 9.03 Failure to Furnish Security

If security is required and not furnished as ordered, the claim(s) subject to the security requirement may be dismissed with or without prejudice as to the offending party.

(Added effective September 1, 1999.)

Rule 9.04 Stay of Proceedings

When a motion pursuant to [Rule 9.01](#) is properly filed before trial, the action or proceeding is stayed and the moving party need not plead or respond to discovery or motions, until 14 days after the motion is denied, or if granted, until 14 days after the required security has been furnished and the moving party given written notice thereof. When a motion pursuant to [Rule 9.01](#) is made at any time after commencement of trial, the action or proceeding may be stayed for such period after the denial of the motion or the furnishing of the required security as the court shall determine.

(Amended effective January 1, 2020.)

Rule 9.05 Appeal

An order requiring security or imposing sanctions under this rule shall be deemed a final, appealable order. Any appeal under this rule may be taken to the court of appeals as in other civil cases within 60 days after filing of the order to be reviewed.

(Added effective September 1, 1999.)

Rule 9.06 Definitions

As used in this rule, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) “Claim” means any relief requested in the form of a claim, counterclaim, cross claim, third party claim, or lien filed, served, commenced, maintained, or pending in any federal or state court, including conciliation court.

(b) “Frivolous litigant” means:

(1) A person who, after a claim has been finally determined against the person, repeatedly relitigates or attempts to relitigate either

(i) the validity of the determination against the same party or parties as to whom the claim was finally determined, or

(ii) the cause of action, claim, controversy, or any of the issues of fact or law determined or concluded by the final determination against the same party or parties as to whom the claim was finally determined;
or

(2) A person who in any action or proceeding repeatedly serves or files frivolous motions, pleadings, letters, or other documents, conducts unnecessary discovery, or engages in oral or written tactics that are frivolous or intended to cause delay; or

(3) A person who institutes and maintains a claim that is not well grounded in fact and not warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law or that is interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigating the claim.

(c) “Security” means either:

(1) an undertaking to assure payment, issued by a surety authorized to issue surety bonds in the State of Minnesota, to the party for whose benefit the undertaking is required to be furnished, of the party’s reasonable expenses, including attorney’s fees and not limited to taxable costs, incurred in or in connection with a claim instituted, caused to be instituted, or maintained or caused to be maintained by a frivolous litigant or;

(2) cash tendered to and accepted by the court administrator for that purpose.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Rule 9.07 Effect on Other Provisions

Sanctions available under this rule are in addition to sanctions expressly authorized by any other statute or rule, or in the inherent power of the court.

(Added effective September 1, 1999.)

Advisory Committee Comment - 1999 Amendment

This rule is intended to curb frivolous litigation that is seriously burdensome on the courts, parties, and litigants. This rule is intended to apply only in the most egregious circumstances of abuse of the litigation process, and the remedies allowed by the rule can be viewed as drastic. Because of the very serious nature of the sanctions under this rule, courts should be certain that all reasonable efforts have been taken to ensure that affected parties are given notice and an opportunity to be heard. [Rule 9.01](#) also requires that the court enter findings of fact to support any relief ordered under the rule, and this requirement should be given careful attention in the rare case where relief under this rule is necessary.

*It is appropriate for the court to tailor the sanction imposed under this rule to the conduct and to limit the sanction to what is necessary to curb the inappropriate conduct of the frivolous litigant. See *Cello-Whitney v. Hoover*, 769 F. Supp. 1155 (W.D. Wash. 1991).*

This rule includes a specific provision relating to the possible appeal of an order for sanctions. The rule provides that an appeal may be taken within 60 days, the same period allowed for appeals from orders and judgment, but specifies that the 60-day period begins to run from entry of the date of filing of the order. This timing mechanism is preferable because the requirement of service of notice of entry may not be workable where only one party may be interested in the appeal or where the order is entered on the court's own initiative. The date of filing can be readily determined, and typically appears on the face of the order or is a matter of record, obviating confusion over the time to appeal.

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

The amendment to [Rule 9](#) is not substantive in nature or intended effect. The replacement of “paper” with “document” is made throughout these rules to advance precision in choice of language. Most documents will not be filed as “paper” documents, so paper is retired as a descriptor of them.

RULE 10. TRIBAL COURT ORDERS AND JUDGMENTS

Rule 10.01 Recognition Governed by Statute or Regulations

The courts of this state shall follow applicable state and federal statutes, regulations, and rules that either mandate or provide procedures for recognition and enforcement of orders, judgments, and other judicial acts of the tribal courts of any federally recognized Indian tribe. Applicable statutes include but are not limited to:

- (1) Violence Against Women Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2265;
- (2) Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1911;

- (3) National Indian Forest Resources Management Act, 25 U.S.C. § 3106;
- (4) American Indian Agricultural Resources Management Act, 25 U.S.C. § 3713;
- (5) Full Faith and Credit for Child Support Orders Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1738B;
- (6) Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, Minn. Stat. § 260.771;
- (7) Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 518C.101–.905;
- (8) Uniform Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, Minn. Stat. § 518D.104;
- (9) Minnesota Uniform Foreign-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 548.54–.63.

(Amended effective September 1, 2018.)

Rule 10.02 Enforcement of Civil Commitment Orders.

The enforcement of orders for civil commitment issued by tribal courts is governed by Minn. Stat. § 253B.212. The district court may enter an order enforcing a tribal court order in accordance with this rule.

(a) Civil commitment orders entered by the tribal courts of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and the White Earth Band of Ojibwe Indians shall be enforced in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 253B.212, subdivisions 1 or 1a.

(b) Civil commitment orders entered by the tribal courts that are subject to a contract for the care and treatment between a tribe (or the Indian Health Service of the United States Department of Health and Human Services for the benefit of members of a tribe) and the commissioner of human services shall be enforced in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 253B.212, subdivision 1b.

(c) For all other civil commitment orders entered by a tribal court, or in any case where directed by the court, the party seeking to enforce the order must proceed by petition to the Minnesota District Court under [Rule 10.03](#), and in addition must serve a copy of that petition on each of the parties to the tribal court proceedings as well as the Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services and the director of the facility where the person is proposed to be committed. The court may determine when a response to that petition is due and whether a hearing is required or permitted if requested, but shall not hear the matter without notice to all other interested parties except as allowed under [Rule 3](#) of these Rules.

(Adopted effective September 1, 2018.)

Rule 10.03 Enforceability of Other Tribal Court Orders and Judgments

(a) **Applicability.** [Rule 10.03](#) applies to tribal court orders and judgments that are not subject to [Rules 10.01](#) or [10.02](#)(a) or (b).

(b) **Procedure.** A party seeking enforcement of an order or judgment of the tribal court of any federally recognized Indian tribe that is not governed by [Rules 10.01](#) or [10.02](#) shall proceed by petition, or in a pending action by motion. That party must serve a copy of the petition or motion

on each of the parties to the tribal court proceeding in which the judgment or order was entered. The court may determine how soon after service of the petition any response is due. The court may determine whether to hold a hearing on the petition. The court shall not determine the matter without notice to all other interested parties except as allowed under [Rule 3](#) of these rules.

(c) Enforceability and Exceptions. Courts of this state shall recognize and enforce an order or judgment of a tribal court of record of a federally recognized Indian tribe, unless a party subject to the order or judgment demonstrates any of the following:

- (1) the order or judgment is invalid on its face or no longer remains in effect;
- (2) the tribal court lacked personal or subject-matter jurisdiction;
- (3) the affected party was not afforded due process rights;
- (4) the order or judgment was obtained by fraud, duress, or coercion; or
- (5) the tribal court does not reciprocally recognize and enforce orders, judgments and decrees of the courts of this state.

(Amended effective September 1, 2018.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment

Introduction. [Rule 10](#) is a new rule intended to provide a starting point for enforcing tribal court orders and judgments where recognition is mandated by state or federal law ([Rule 10.01](#)), and to establish factors for determining the effect of these adjudications where federal or state statutory law does not do so ([Rule 10.02](#)).

The rule applies to all tribal court orders and judgments and does not distinguish between tribal courts located in Minnesota and those sitting in other states. The only limitation on the universe of determinations is that they be from tribal courts of a federally-recognized Indian tribe. These courts are defined in 25 U.S.C. § 450b(e), and a list is published by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. See, e.g., 70 FED. REG. 71194 (Nov. 25, 2005).

*Tribal court adjudications are not entitled to full faith and credit under the United States Constitution, which provides only for full faith and credit for “public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state.” U. S. CONST. Art IV, § 1. But state and federal statutes have conferred the equivalent of full faith and credit status on some tribal adjudications by mandating that they be enforced in state court. Where such full faith and credit is mandatory, a state does not exercise discretion in giving effect to the proper judgments of a sister state. *Baker v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 522 U.S. 222, 233 (1998) (“A final judgment in one State, if rendered by a court with adjudicatory authority over the subject matter and persons governed by the judgment, qualifies for recognition throughout the land.”) Through full faith and credit, a sister state’s judgment is given *res judicata* effect in all other states. See, e.g., *id.*; *Hansberry v. Lee*, 311 U.S. 32, 42 (1940).*

The enforcement in state court of tribal court adjudications that are not entitled to the equivalent of full faith and credit under a specific state or federal statute, is governed by the doctrine of comity. Comity is fundamentally a discretionary doctrine. It is rooted in the court’s inherent powers, as was early recognized in United States jurisprudence in

Hilton v. Guyot, 159 U.S. 113, 163-164 (1895), where the court said: “No law has any effect, of its own force, beyond the limits of the sovereignty from which its authority is derived. The extent to which the law of one nation, as put in force within its territory, whether by executive order, by legislative act, or by judicial decree, shall be allowed to operate within the dominion of another nation, depends upon what our greatest jurists have been content to call ‘the comity of nations.’”

This inherent power was recognized in *Minnesota in Traders’ Trust Co. v. Davidson*, 146 Minn. 224, 227, 178 N.W. 735, 736 (1920) (citing *Hilton*, 159 U.S. at 227) where the court said: “Effect is given to foreign judgments as a matter of comity and reciprocity, and it has become the rule to give no other or greater effect to the judgment of a foreign court than the country or state whose court rendered it gives to a like judgment of our courts.” In *Nicol v. Tanner*, 310 Minn. 68, 75-79, 256 N.W.2d 796, 800-02 (1976) (citing the *Restatement (Second) of Conflicts of Laws* § 98 (1971)), the court further developed the doctrine of comity when it held that the statement in *Traders’ Trust Co.* that enforcement required a showing of reciprocity was dictum; that “reciprocity is not a prerequisite to enforcement of a foreign judgment in Minnesota;” and that the default status of a foreign judgment “should not affect the force of the judgment.”

Statutory Mandates. [Rule 10.01](#) reflects the normal presumption that courts will adhere to statutory mandates for enforcement of specific tribal court orders or judgments where such a statutory mandate applies. Federal statutes that do provide such mandates include:

1. *Violence Against Women Act of 2000*, 18 U.S.C. § 2265 (2003) (full faith and credit for certain protection orders).
2. *Indian Child Welfare Act*, 25 U.S.C. § 1911(d) (2003) (“full faith and credit” for certain custody determinations).
3. *Full Faith and Credit for Child Support Orders Act*, 28 U.S.C. § 1738B(a) (2003) (“shall enforce” certain child support orders and “shall not seek or make modifications . . . except in accordance with [certain limitations]”).

In addition to federal law, the Minnesota Legislature has addressed custody, support, child placement, and orders for protection. The Minnesota Legislature adopted the *Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act*, MINN. STAT. §§ 518D.101-518D.317 (2002) which: (1) requires recognition and enforcement of certain child custody determinations made by a tribe “under factual circumstances in substantial conformity with the jurisdictional standards of” the Act; and (2) establishes a voluntary registration process for custody determinations with a 20-day period for contesting validity. MINN. STAT. §§ 518D.103; 104 (2002) (not applicable to adoption or emergency medical care of child; not applicable to extent ICWA controls). In addition, the Minnesota Legislature has adopted the *Uniform Interstate Family Support Act*, MINN. STAT. §§ 518C.101-518C.902 (2002), which provides the procedures for enforcement of support orders from another state [“state” is defined to include an Indian tribe, MINN. STAT. § 518C.101(s)(1) (2002)] with or without registration, and enforcement and modification after registration. The Minnesota Legislature has also adopted the *Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act*, MINN. STAT. §§ 260.751 – 260.835 (2002), which provides, among other things, that tribal court orders concerning child placement (adoptive and pre-adoptive placement, involuntary foster care placement, termination of parental rights, and status offense placements) shall have the same force and effect as orders of a court of this state. MINN. STAT. § 260.771, subd. 4 (2002). In 2006 the Minnesota Legislature adopted Minn. Stat. §

518B.01, subd. 19a, which requires enforcement of certain foreign or tribal court orders for protection.

The facial validity provision in [Rule 10.01\(b\)\(2\)](#) fills in a gap in state law. MINN. STAT. § 518B.01, subd. 14(e) (2002), authorizes an arrest based on probable cause of violation of tribal court order for protection; although this law includes immunity from civil suit for a peace officer acting in good faith and exercising due care, it does not address facial validity of the order. Similar laws in other jurisdictions address this issue. See, e.g., 720 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/12-30(a)(2) (Supp. 2003); OKLA. STAT. tit. 22 § 60.9B(1) (2003); WISC. STAT. § 813.128(1) (2001-02).

The Minnesota Legislature has also addressed enforcement of foreign money judgments. The Minnesota Uniform Foreign Country Money-Judgments Recognition Act, MINN. STAT. § 548.35 (2002), creates a procedure for filing and enforcing judgments rendered by courts other than those of sister states. Tribal court money judgments fall within the literal scope of this statute and the statutory procedures therefore may guide Minnesota courts considering money judgments. Cf. *Anderson v. Engelke*, 954 P.2d 1106, 1110-11 (Mont. 1998) (dictum) (statute assumed to allow enforcement by state courts outside of tribal lands, but question not decided). In general, money judgments of tribal courts are not entitled to full faith and credit under the Constitution, and the court is allowed a more expansive and discretionary role in deciding what effect they have. [Rule 10.02\(a\)](#) is intended to facilitate that process.

Discretionary Enforcement: Comity. Where no statutory mandate expressly applies, tribal court orders and judgments are subject to the doctrine of comity. [Rule 10.02\(a\)](#) does not create any new or additional powers but only begins to describe in one convenient place the principles that apply to recognition of orders and judgments by comity.

Comity is also an inherently flexible doctrine. A court asked to decide whether to recognize a foreign order can consider whatever aspects of the foreign court proceedings it deems relevant. Thus [Rule 10.02\(a\)](#) does not dictate a single standard for determining the effect of these adjudications in state court. Instead, it identifies some of the factors a Minnesota judge may consider in determining what effect such a determination will be given. [Rule 10.02\(a\)](#) does not attempt to define all of the factors that may be appropriate for consideration by a court charged with determining whether a tribal court determination should be enforced. It does enumerate many of the appropriate factors. It is possible in any given case that one or more of these factors will not apply. For example, reciprocity is not a pre-condition to enforceability generally, *Nicol*, 310 Minn. at 75-79, 256 N.W.2d at 800-02, but may be relevant in some circumstances. Notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard (or the prospect of notice and right to hearing in the case of ex parte matters) are fundamental parts of procedural fairness in state and federal courts and are considered basic elements of due process; it is appropriate at least to consider whether the tribal court proceedings extended these rights to the litigants. The issue of whether the tribal court is “of record” may be important to the determination of what the proceedings were in that court. A useful definition of “of record” is contained in the Wisconsin statutes. WIS. STAT. § 806.245(1)(c) (2001-02); see also WIS. STAT. § 806.245(3) (2001-02) (setting forth requirements for determining whether a court is “of record”). The rule permits the court to inquire into whether the tribal court proceedings offered similar protections to the parties, recognizing that tribal courts may not be required to adhere to the requirements of due process under the federal and state constitutions. Some of the considerations of the

rule are drawn from the requirements of the Minnesota Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act, MINN. STAT. §§ 548.26-.33 (2002). For example, contravention of the state's public policy is a specific factor for non-recognition of a foreign state's judgment under MINN. STAT. § 548.35, subd. 4(b)(3)(2002); it is carried forward into [Rule 10.02\(a\)\(7\)](#). Inconsistency with state public policy is a factor for non-recognition of tribal court orders under other states' rules. See MICH. R. CIV. P. 2.615(C)(2)(c); N.D. R. CT. 7.2(b)(4).

Hearing. [Rule 10.02\(b\)](#) does not require that a hearing be held on the issues relating to consideration of the effect to be given to a tribal court order or judgment. In some instances, a hearing would serve no useful purpose or would be unnecessary; in others, an evidentiary hearing might be required to resolve contested questions of fact where affidavit or documentary evidence is insufficient. The committee believes the discretion to decide when an evidentiary hearing is held should rest with the trial judge.

Advisory Committee Comment—2018 Amendments

[Rule 10.01](#) moves the list of statutes out of the comments and into the rule itself to provide greater visibility. The list is non-exhaustive to allow for future enactments.

Former [Rule 10.01\(b\)](#) is deleted because the Violence Against Women Act is now expressly included in [Rule 10.01](#) and the historic issues that prompted the former rule have been addressed by legislation. See Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, Pub. L. No. 113-4, 127 Stat. 54 (March 7, 2013).

[Rule 10.02](#) is a new rule intended to provide clear procedural guidance for enforcement by state courts of tribal court orders for civil commitment. The rule is structured to implement the requirements created by statute, Minn. Stat. § 253B.212. The primary purpose of the rule is to provide a requirement for notice and an opportunity to be heard for all parties to the tribal court proceeding as well as the Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services and the director of a facility where the person is proposed to be committed. This requirement applies in [Rule 10.02\(c\)](#) to commitment orders that are not otherwise covered by [Rule 10.02\(a\)](#) and [10.02\(b\)](#).

[Rule 10.03\(b\)](#) recognizes two methods for asking a court for an order enforcing a tribal court adjudication. Most often, a petition seeking recognition will be necessary. The rule also allows a motion in a pending action. This would allow use of a tribal court adjudication, for example, in an existing action to establish res judicata or collateral estoppel based on the tribal court adjudication.

[Rule 10.03\(c\)](#) identifies specific factors under which a state court can decline to enforce a tribal court order of judgment. These factors restate those formerly set forth in [Rule 10.02](#). Several of the former factors are combined under the broad category of [Rule 10.03\(c\)\(3\)](#), failure to afford “due process.” This is an inherently flexible standard, guided by the interests of the parties. The rule establishes that process is due, but does not define the specific process due. Courts may fairly look to what process would be due in analogous state or federal court proceedings. Common requirements of due process include notice of the proceedings, the right to be heard, the right to appear and both examine and compel the attendance of witnesses, and the right to a fair hearing before an independent judge. The rule does not include the “catch-all” provision of former rule 10.02(10). This deletion is not intended to limit the ability of courts to consider an opposing party's claim that

enforcement is not in the interest of justice. See [Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 1.02](#) (“A judge may modify the application of these rules to any case to prevent manifest injustice.”)

*[Rule 10.03](#)(c)(5) retains the provision of the current version of [Rule 10](#) allowing the court to consider reciprocity as part of its comity-based standard for enforcement of tribal court orders and judgments. The Minnesota Supreme Court has declined to make reciprocity a part of the showing needed to enforce a foreign judgment for child support payments, but has not rejected it as a proper consideration in all cases, or in the context of tribal court adjudications. See *Nicol v. Tanner*, 310 Minn. 68, 75–79, 256 N.W.2d 796, 800–02 (1976).*

RULE 11. SUBMISSION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Rule 11.01 Definitions

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this rule:

(a) “Restricted identifiers” means any of the following numbers of any person or legal entity: a complete or partial social security number, employer identification number, or other taxpayer identification numbers; and any financial account numbers other than the last four numbers of a financial account number that is not also a social security number.

(b) “Financial account number” means a string of numeric or alphanumeric characters assigned to a credit, deposit, trust, insurance, or other account that can be used by someone other than those authorized to access the account to obtain access to the account for unauthorized transactions, provided that a billing number issued by a government entity which number is publicly accessible from such government entity is not a financial account number under this rule. For the convenience of filers, the state court administrator may establish a non-exclusive list of examples of financial account numbers, and the list shall be posted on the judicial branch website (www.mncourts.gov).

(c) “Financial source documents” means income tax returns, W-2 forms and schedules, wage stubs, credit card statements, financial institution statements, check registers, and other financial information deemed financial source documents by court order.

(Amended effective January 1, 2021.)

Rule 11.02 Restricted Identifiers; Submission; Certification

(a) **Records Generated by External Filers.** Restricted identifiers are prohibited in all documents or other records filed with the court except when the restricted identifiers are germane and necessary for the court’s consideration of the issues then before the court. If it is necessary to provide restricted identifiers to the court, they must be submitted in one of the following two ways:

- (1) on a separate Confidential Information Form (11.1 as published by the state court administrator); or
- (2) on a non-public document submitted in accordance with [Rule 11.03](#).

The Confidential Information Form 11.1 shall not be accessible to the public.

Every person who files any other document or other record with the court is solely responsible for ensuring that it contains no restricted identifiers, except as permitted in section (a) of this rule. The court administrator will not review each record for compliance with this rule. Notwithstanding this provision, the court administrator may take any action consistent with [Rule 11.05](#).

(b) Records Generated by the Court. Restricted identifiers maintained by the court in its register of actions (i.e., activity summary or similar information that lists the title, origination, activities, proceedings and filings in each case), calendars, indexes, and judgment docket shall not be accessible to the public. Courts shall not include restricted identifiers on judgments, orders, decisions, and notices except on a Confidential Information Form 11.1, which shall not be accessible to the public.

(c) Certification. Every filing shall constitute a certification by the filer that the documents filed contain no restricted identifiers, except as permitted in section (a) of this rule. For documents filed using the E-Filing System, this certification may additionally be provided by electronically acknowledging the certification statement in the manner designated by the E-Filing System.

(Amended effective January 1, 2021.)

Rule 11.03 Filer's Duty to Identify Non-Public Document Using Cover Sheet Plus E-Filing Designation, or Using E-Filing Code Plus E-Filing Designation

(a) Cover Sheet or E-Filing Code Required. Every person filing non-public documents with the court in public case types is solely responsible for identifying and designating them as non-public. When e-filing, non-public documents shall also be designated as Confidential or Sealed in the E-Filing System as required by [Rule 14.06](#) of these rules. In all case types, restricted identifiers shall only be filed as authorized in [Rule 11.02](#) of these rules. In juvenile protection cases, other confidential information and confidential documents must be filed as provided in Rule 8.04 of the Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure. All other individual non-public documents filed in public cases, including but not limited to financial source documents shall be:

- (i) filed with the court with a separate, publicly accessible Form 11.2 Cover Sheet for Non-Public Documents as published by the state court administrator; or
- (ii) e-filed with a specific filing code in the E-Filing system or via Court Integration Services, which defaults the document to Confidential or Sealed, as published in the E-Filing Code Guides by the state court administrator for that specific type of non-public document and case type.

Financial source documents and other non-public documents submitted as required in parts (i) or (ii) above are not accessible to the public except to the extent that they are admitted into evidence in a testimonial hearing or trial or as provided in [Rule 11.06](#) of these rules. The filer must file the Form 11.2 Cover Sheet for Non-Public Documents as a separate document from the non-

public documents. The Form 11.2 Cover Sheet for Non-Public Documents shall be accessible to the public.

(b) Closed Account Statements. Statements from a permanently closed (also known as “charged off”) credit card or financial institution account that has been identified as a closed account in a related document need not be submitted with a Form 11.2 Cover Sheet for Non-Public Documents unless desired by the filing party or as directed by the court.

(c) Absence of Cover Sheet or E-Filing Code. Non-public documents that are not submitted as required in part (a)(i) or (a)(ii) above are accessible to the public, but the court may, upon motion or on its own initiative, order that any such document be non-public.

(d) Not Applicable to Non-Public Case Types. This [Rule 11.03](#) is not applicable to non-public case types. The state court administrator shall maintain and publish on the judicial branch website a list of non-public case types.

(Amended effective January 1, 2021.)

Rule 11.04 When Documents May Be Filed as Non-Public

Non-public documents may be filed as “confidential documents” or as “sealed documents.” A person may submit a document for filing as a “confidential document” or “sealed document” only if one of these circumstances exists:

(a) The court has issued an order permitting the filing of the particular document or class of documents under seal or as confidential.

(b) This rule or any applicable court rule, court order, or statute expressly authorizes or requires filing under seal or as confidential.

(c) The filer files a motion for leave to file as confidential or under seal not later than at the time of submission of the document.

The court may require a filing party to specify the authority for asserting that a filing is a “confidential document” or “sealed document.” For purposes of this rule, the terms “confidential document” and “sealed document” shall have the meanings set forth in [Rule 14.01](#). Additional requirements for electronically submitting a document as confidential or sealed in the E-Filing System are set forth in [Rule 14.06](#).

Upon review, the court may modify the designation of any document incorrectly designated as confidential or sealed and shall provide prompt notice of any such change to the person who filed the document.

(Adopted effective January 1, 2021.)

Rule 11.05 Failure to Comply

If a filer fails to comply with the requirements of this rule in regard to any restricted identifiers or other non-public information, the court may upon motion or its own initiative impose appropriate sanctions, including costs necessary to prepare an appropriate document for filing.

Any person may notify the court administrator at any time that a restricted identifier or other non-public information appears in a publicly accessible court record. Upon discovery that a document containing a restricted identifier or other non-public information has not been submitted in a confidential manner as required by this rule, the court administrator shall restrict public access to the document pending redaction or court order and direct the filer to, within 3 days, either:

(1) serve and file a properly redacted filing, including any necessary cover sheet, and pay any prescribed monetary fee to the court, and, if the party desires that the filing date of the resubmitted document(s) relates back to the filing date of the original document(s), serve and file a motion requesting the relation-back to the original filing date; or

(2) file a motion for relief from the court.

Any other party may oppose the motion seeking relation-back to the original filing date within the same time limits as are provided by law for the type of document(s) being filed. If a filer timely pays the monetary fee, and timely requests relation-back of the filing date, the court may, in the interests of justice, order that the filing date of the properly submitted document(s) relate back to the filing date of the original document(s). The court may additionally impose any sanctions it finds appropriate for the filer's non-compliance.

Except in criminal, civil commitment, and juvenile delinquency cases, or for medical records filed in any case type, if no action is taken within 3 days after direction from the court administrator, the court administrator shall strike the document so it is not accessible to the public, the parties, or the court. The parties and the court shall not consider the stricken document to be part of the court record unless the court, in the interests of justice under the circumstances of the individual case, orders the court administrator to restore the document to the official court record.

(Amended effective January 1, 2021.)

Rule 11.06 Procedure for Requesting Access to Confidential Financial Source Documents

(a) Motion. Any person may file a motion, supported by affidavit showing good cause, for access to Confidential Financial Source Documents or portions of the documents. Written notice of the motion to all parties is required.

(b) Waiver of Notice. If the person seeking access cannot locate a party to provide the notice required under this rule, after making a good faith reasonable effort to provide such notice as required by applicable court rules, an affidavit may be filed with the court setting forth the efforts to locate the party and requesting waiver of the notice provisions of this rule. The court may waive the notice requirement of this rule if the court finds that further good faith efforts to locate the party are unlikely to be successful.

(c) **Balancing Test.** The court shall allow access to Confidential Financial Source Documents, or relevant portions of the documents, if the court finds that the public interest in granting access or the personal interest of the person seeking access outweighs the privacy interests of the parties or dependent children. In granting access the court may impose conditions necessary to balance the interests consistent with this rule.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Rule 11.07 Procedure for Requesting Access to Other Non-Public Records.

Any person may request access to records not governed by [Rule 11.06](#) of these rules by following the procedures set forth in Rule 7 of the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch and any other applicable court rules.

(Adopted effective January 1, 2021.)

Rule 11.08 Exceptions.

[Rule 11](#) does not apply to search warrants or related documents filed administratively by law enforcement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 626.17 and Rule 33.04(a)-(b) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure, except that if such a document contains a restricted identifier it shall be filed with a Form 11.2 Cover Sheet for Non-Public Documents in the manner described in [Rule 11.03](#)(a)(1) of these rules. [Rule 11](#) does apply to search warrants and related documents filed by parties in a case.

If any person filing a medical record in a civil commitment case fails to designate the medical record as non-public upon filing, the court administrator shall not reject the filing due to the failure to do so.

(Adopted effective January 1, 2021.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2005 Adoption

[Rule 11](#) is a new rule, but is derived in part from former Rule 313. It is also based on Wash. GR 22 (2003). Under this rule, applicable in all court proceedings, parties are now responsible for protecting the privacy of restricted identifiers (social security numbers or employer identification numbers and financial account numbers) and financial source documents by submitting them with the proper forms. Failure to comply would result in the public having access to the restricted identifiers and financial source documents from the case file unless the party files a motion to seal them or the court acts on its own initiative under [Rule 11.03](#). The Confidential Information Form from Rule 313 is retained, modified, and renumbered, and a new Sealed Financial Source Documents cover sheet has been added. The court retains authority to impose sanctions against parties who violate the rule in regard to another individual's restricted identifiers or financial source documents.

New in 2005 is the procedure for obtaining access to restricted identifiers and sealed financial source documents. This process requires the court to balance the competing interest involved. See, e.g., Minneapolis Star & Tribune Co. v. Schumacher, 392 N.W.2d

197 (Minn. 1986) (when party seeks to restrict access to settlement documents and transcripts of settlement hearings made part of civil court file by statute, court must balance interests favoring access, along with presumption in favor of access, against those asserted for restricting access).

Advisory Committee Comment—2007 Amendment

The 2007 amendment to [Rule 11.01](#)(a) expands the rule to protect the restricted identifiers of all persons, not just a party and a party's child. Records submitted to the court may include restricted identifiers of persons other than a party or the party's child, such as clients or other fiduciaries.

The 2007 amendment to [Rule 11.03](#) recognizes that if a sealed financial source document is formally offered and admitted into evidence in a testimonial hearing or trial the document will be accessible to the public to the extent that it has been admitted. This is the result under Wash. GR 22 (2006) upon which this rule is based. In such situations, it is strongly recommended that restricted identifiers be redacted from the document before its admission into evidence.

Advisory Committee Comment—2009 Amendment

[Rule 11](#) is amended to remove Forms 11.1 and 11.2 from the rules and to correct the reference to the forms in the rule. This amendment will allow for the maintenance and publication of the form by the state court administrator. The form, together with other court forms, can be found at <http://www.mncourts.gov/>.

Forms 11.1 and 11.2 should be deleted from the rules and maintained in the future on the court's website.

Advisory Committee Comment—2012 Amendment

[Rule 11.06](#) is a new rule intended to define the procedural prerequisites for filing of documents under seal. This rule is not intended to expand or limit the confidentiality concerns that might justify special treatment of any document. The rule is intended to make it clear that filing parties do not have a unilateral right to designate any filing as confidential, and that permission from the court is required. This permission may flow from a statute or rule explicitly requiring that a particular document or portion of a document be filed confidentially or from a court order that documents be filed under seal. Rule 112 of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure contains useful guidance on how confidential information can be handled. Where documents contain both confidential and non-confidential information, it may be appropriate to file redacted "public" versions of documents filed under seal.

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

The amendments to [Rule 11](#) are intended to advance the important interests in preventing the filing of confidential and sensitive information in publicly accessible court files. The amendment to [Rule 11.02](#)(a) reminds filers that the best way to prevent public access to sensitive personal information is not to file it with the court unless needed. If a social security number, financial institution record, home address, and any other

information defined to be a restricted identifier under the rule is not required for the adjudication of a matter before the court, simply omitting it from the filing prevents any further risk of disclosure. If the information is necessary, then using the other procedures of [Rule 11.02](#) is necessary. The consequences of failing to comply with the rule include sanctions against the filer, and if failure to follow the rule causes injury to any person, an action for damages may lie.

There are very few statutes that require the filing of restricted identifiers. They may be required in certain family child support cases, see Minn. Stat. §§ 256.87, subd. 1a; 257.66, subd. 3; 518.10; 518A.56; and 42 U.S.C. § 666(a)(13), which currently require the court to identify the parties by social security number. Minn. Stat. § 548.101 requires the disclosure of the last four digits of a debtor's social security number, if known, in cases involving assigned consumer debt. Social security numbers were required for filings to commence informal probate or appointment proceedings until 2006. See 2006 Minn. Laws, ch. 221, § 20, amending Minn. Stat. § 524.3-301.

[Rule 11.02\(c\)](#) is new and provides that filing constitutes certification that the document does not contain unauthorized restricted identifiers. For documents filed electronically, this certification may additionally be made explicitly by checking the appropriate box on a screen that will be incorporated into the e-filing process. See also [Rule 14.06](#). As is true for other rules, failure to follow the rule, or the making of a false certification, may warrant the imposition of sanctions as may be authorized by other rules or under the court's inherent power.

[Rule 11.06](#) is intended to provide important guidance on when documents may be filed as confidential or under seal. The rule permits these filings in only three circumstances. As part of the implementation of this rule, filers should expect that the E-Filing System of the court will ask the filer to specify which basis for filing as confidential or under seal is being relied upon for that filing. If an order in the case, statute, or court rule does not expressly permit or require filing of the document under seal or as confidential, a motion must be brought to request approval of filing that document under seal or as confidential not later than the time of filing.

[Rule 11.06](#) specifies the procedure used by a filer for filing under seal or as confidential. Additionally, the court can at any time treat a document containing restricted identifiers as confidential until the parties or court can ensure the document properly conforms to the requirements of [Rule 11](#).

Advisory Committee Comment—2020 Amendments

[Rule 11.01](#) is modified in 2020 to clarify the definition of financial account number, which has caused much confusion. Several important limitations are added. One is that only numbers that can be used by someone other than those authorized to access the account to obtain access to the account for unauthorized transactions are considered financial account numbers. The other limitation excludes any billing number issued by a government entity that is publicly accessible and these numbers are not a financial account number under this rule. For the convenience of filers, the state court administrator maintains a non-exclusive list of examples of financial account numbers on the judicial branch website (www.mncourts.gov). These changes will avoid an overbroad reading of the rule that some courts have adopted in regard to similar rules. See, e.g., *In re Chubb*, 426 B.R. 695, 699–700 (Bankr. E.D. Mich. 2010) (finding the twelve digit account number on statement of account that clearly and obviously relates

to debtor's finances by identifying a debt is enough to bring it within the rule, without any showing that the information in question could be used to steal one's identity or be misused for some other purpose).

[Rule 11.03](#) is amended in 2020 to expand the use of a required cover sheet that previously applied only to Financial Source Documents and now applies to all non-public documents being filed. The requirement applies to those filing electronically or on paper. The cover sheet itself serves as a guide to trigger filers' attention to certain non-public documents and information and sources of the same including the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch. By requiring a cover sheet for each individual document that is non-public, the cover sheet also serves to avoid the electronic filing of so-called "monster" documents. A monster document might contain, for example, a motion, notice of motion, affidavit, and any of a number of attachments all submitted as a single PDF document. The problem with monster documents is that if just one of the attachments is non-public, such as a medical record, then court staff must either keep the entire monster document non-public, which means the public is denied access to documents that it should be able to access, or court staff must separate out the attachments, which places an impossible burden on court staff. Filers are directed in the Registered User Guide, applicable to e-filers under [Gen. R. Prac. 14.03](#)(g), to separate documents, in particular the nonpublic documents, when e-filing them. The separate documents can be submitted in the same electronic envelope, just like a handful of separate paper documents can be placed in the same paper envelope, for filing.

Use of the new Cover Sheet for Non-Public Documents can be avoided only if the document is being e-filed and a filing code already exists in the E-Filing System that is specifically assigned by state court administration as the filing code for a particular type of non-public document. The filing code appears in the E-Filing system with the words "Select Filing Code" followed by a drop down box when a filer selects the most appropriate code for each individual document being filed. The filing code for a non-public document, such as a pre-sentence investigation report in a criminal case, serves the same purpose as, and becomes the electronic equivalent of, the Non-Public Document Cover Sheet. Just like a cover sheet, the filing code transfers from the E-Filing System to the case management system (known as MNCIS). The state court administrator's office publishes commonly used filing codes on the main branch website (go to www.mncourts.gov and look for "Civil Case type Index (also includes Civil Case Filing Codes)," "Expedited Process Child Support Filing Codes Index," and "Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Filing Codes Index").

In addition to filing the separate Form 11.2 Cover Sheet for Non-Public Documents or selecting a non-public document filing code, under [Rule 14.06](#) a filer must also designate in the E-filing system whether the document is Confidential or Sealed. This designation is made in the E-Filing System in a field marked "Filing Comments" with a box beneath it asking "Is Document Public, Confidential, or Sealed?" Although this designation may seem redundant, filers need to remember that the cover sheet is intended to work in both the paper and electronic filing context. When an electronic filer selects a filing code for a non-public document as an alternative to the cover sheet, the filer will not see anything in the filing process marking the document as confidential or sealed. Accordingly, there must be a separate step to make this clear for each document being electronically filed. For a walk-through of the e-filing process illustrating the Select Filing Code location and the Filing Comments entry box, go to the main branch website at www.mncourts.gov/efile and search for the Quick Reference Guide (QRG) titled "eFiling and eService into an Existing Case."

[Rule 11](#) is also amended in 2020 to carve out certain exceptions in scope and enforcement impacting child protection, criminal, and juvenile delinquency case records. [Rule 11.03](#)(a) provides that juvenile protection filings that contain confidential information and confidential documents must be filed as provided in Rule 8.04 of the Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure. This language is intended to preserve the current practice for juvenile protection cases: restricted identifiers are subject to the same rules as in other cases, while other types of confidential information and documents are governed by

Juvenile Protection Rule 8.04. Juvenile Protection Rule 8.04, subd. 5(d), provides that if it is brought to the attention of court administration staff that confidential information or confidential documents have not been filed with the proper form, court administration staff shall designate the document as confidential, and direct the filer to file in compliance with Rule 8.04.

Rule 11.08 makes Rule 11 inapplicable to search warrants and related documents filed by law enforcement, but requires the same records filed by parties to comply with Rule 11. Regarding enforcement, criminal, civil commitment, and juvenile delinquency matters are exempted from striking of documents under Rule 11.05, and exempted from rejection of documents in rule 14.03(b), for violations of Rule 11.

RULE 12. REQUIREMENT FOR COMPARABLE MEANS OF SERVICE

Except where e-filing and e-service is required by court order or rule, the parties may file and serve by any available method, but must select comparable means of service and filing so that the documents are delivered substantially contemporaneously. This rule does not apply to service of a summons or a subpoena. Pleadings and other documents need not be filed until required by Minn. R. Civ. P. 5.05 and motions for sanctions may not be filed before the time allowed by Minn. R. Civ. P. 11.03(a).

In emergency situations, where compliance with this rule is not possible, the facts of attempted compliance must be provided by affidavit.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2008 Amendment

Rule 12 is a new rule, recommended to codify a longstanding practice of professional courtesy: that papers served both to the court and to the other party be served and filed by comparable means. The rule does not require that the same means be used; but if hand delivery to the court is chosen for filing, then either hand delivery, overnight courier sent the day before, or facsimile transmission to other party must be used. The measure of compliance is approximate simultaneity; the purpose of the rule is to discourage gameplaying over service. Fairness requires that service and filing occur at about the same time; delivering papers immediately to the court and then serving them leisurely upon counsel is not justified and in some cases is not fair.

Advisory Committee Comment—2009 Amendment

Rule 12 is amended to add the last sentence of the first paragraph. The amendment is intended to clarify that the rule does not modify two facets of practice established before its adoption. It does not require that pleadings be filed before the time allowed under Rule 5.05, which generally makes it unnecessary to file pleadings until after a party files a pleading, thereby opening a court file. This rule is a part of Minnesota's "hip-pocket" service regime as established by Minn. R. Civ. P. 3. Rule 11 of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure contains a 21-day "safe harbor" provision, requiring service of a motion for sanctions but prohibiting filing of the motion for 21 days. The amendment to Rule 12 of the general rules was not intended to modify that important provision.

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

The amendment to [Rule 12](#) is intended to retain the existing rule requiring that parties serve and file documents by comparable means, but adapts it to specify that if e-filing or e-service are required, then those methods must be used. This rule is intended to eliminate strategic maneuvering with service, and attorneys and self-represented litigants should expect that this rule will be interpreted to penalize attempts to gain some perceived advantage over other parties by serving and filing by different means.

A self-represented litigant who elects not to use the E-Filing System may expect that an opposing attorney may e-file a document with the court and serve it by U.S. mail on the self-represented litigant on the same day. In this circumstance, the filing will precede the service, which is permitted under the rule as the attorney is required to use the E-Filing System to file the document.

RULE 13. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF CURRENT ADDRESS

Rule 13.01 Duty to Provide Notice

In all actions, it is the responsibility of the parties, or their counsel of record, to provide notice to all other parties and to the court administrator of their current address for delivery of notices, orders, and other document in the case. Where a party or a party's attorney has provided an e-mail address for the purpose of allowing service or filing, this rule also requires that the party advise the court and all parties of any change in that e-mail address. Failure to provide this notice constitutes waiver of the right to notice until a current address is provided.

Rule 13.02 Elimination of Requirement to Provide Notice to Lapsed Address

In the event notices, pleadings or other documents are returned by the postal service or noted as undelivered or unopened by the e-mail system after the court administrator's transmission by mailing (or e-mailing where authorized by rule) to a party or attorney's address of record on two separate occasions, the administrator should make reasonable efforts to obtain a valid, current address. If those efforts are not successful, the administrator may omit making further United States Mail transmissions to that party or attorney in that action, and shall place appropriate notice in the court file or docket indicating that notices are not being mailed to all parties.

Advisory Committee Comment—2009 Amendment

[Rule 13](#) is a new rule intended to make explicit what has heretofore been expected of parties and their counsel: to keep the court apprised of a current address for mailing notices, orders, and other papers routinely mailed by the administrator to all parties. Where the court does not have a valid address, evidenced by two returned mailings, and cannot readily determine the correct address, the rule makes it unnecessary for the administrator to continue the futile mailing of additional papers until the party or attorney provides a current address.

The purpose of this rule is to require meaningful notice. If a party is a participant in the Secretary of State's address confidentiality program, there is no reason not to permit

the use of that address to satisfy the requirement of this rule. See Minn. Stat. §§ 5B.01-.09 (2008).

Advisory Committee Comment—2012 Amendment

[Rule 13.01](#) is amended to add the requirement that a party or attorney provide an updated e-mail address any time an attorney or party has submitted an e-mail address to the court. This change is intended to ensure that e-noticing under Minn. R. Civ. P. 77.04 and electronic filing and service under the rules will function and provide meaningful notice. [Rule 13.02](#) is amended to make it clear that the giving of e-mail notice will not be ended upon two unsuccessful attempts to serve or notify by e-mail. The committee believes that there is no compelling reason to stop e-mailed notices given the minimal additional cost of continuing them.

RULE 14. E-FILING AND E-SERVICE

Rule 14.01 Mandatory and Voluntary E-File and E-Service

(a) Definitions. For purposes of the General Rules of Practice, unless otherwise indicated, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Confidential document” (which may include “Confidential 1” and “Confidential 2,” etc., as available and defined by the E-Filing System document security classifications) means a document that will not be accessible to the public, but will be accessible to court staff and, where applicable, to certain governmental entities as authorized by law, court rule, or court order.

(2) “Conventionally” means, with respect to the filing or serving of documents or other materials, the filing or serving of documents or other materials through any means other than through the E-Filing System in accordance with [Rule 14](#).

(3) “Court Integration Services” means computer systems that allow direct computer-system-to-computer-system integrations to facilitate the electronic exchange of documents and data between the court’s electronic case management system and a government agency’s electronic information system. Government agencies may register for Court Integration Services under the process established by the state court administrator.

(4) “Designated Provider” means the electronic filing service provider designated by the state court administrator.

(5) “Designated e-mail address” shall have the meaning set forth in [rule 14.02\(a\)](#).

(6) “E-Filing System” means the Designated Provider’s Internet-accessible electronic filing and service system.

(7) “Electronic means” means transmission using computers or similar means of transmitting documents electronically, including facsimile transmission.

(8) “Registered User” means a person registered with the Designated Provider and authorized to file and serve documents electronically through the E-Filing System under these rules.

(9) “Sealed document” means a document that will not be accessible to the public but will be accessible to court staff with only the highest security level clearance.

(10) “Select Users” means the following appearing or submitting documents in a case:

- (i) Attorney;
- (ii) Government agency (including a sheriff); and
- (iii) Guardian ad litem.

(11) “Self-represented litigant” means an individual, other than a licensed attorney, who represents himself or herself in any case or proceeding before the court.

(b) Scope and Effective Date of Mandatory and Voluntary E-File and E-Service.

(1) Cases Subject to Mandatory E-Filing and E-Service. Effective July 1, 2015, unless otherwise required or authorized by these rules, other rules of court, or an order of the court, Select Users in any case in the Second Judicial District, Fourth Judicial District, and in the districts or portions thereof designated by the state court administrator, shall file all documents electronically with the court through the E-Filing System and shall serve documents electronically through the E-Filing System as required under [Rule 14.03](#)(d) of these rules.

Effective July 1, 2016, unless otherwise required or authorized by these rules, other rules of court, or an order of the court, Select Users in any case throughout the State of Minnesota shall file all documents electronically with the court through the E-Filing System and shall serve documents electronically through the E-Filing System as required under [Rule 14.03](#)(d) of these rules.

(2) Prohibited E-Filing. The following documents may not be filed electronically:

- (i) Wills deposited for safekeeping under Minn. Stat. § 524.2-515 or original wills filed in probate cases under Rule 403(e) (provided that this shall not prohibit e-filing of a copy of an original will in probate cases); and
- (ii) All documents in parental notification bypass proceedings under Minn. Stat. § 144.343.

(3) Request for Exception to Mandatory E-File and E-Service Requirement. A Select User required to file and serve electronically under this rule, may request to be excused from mandatory e-filing and e-service in a particular case by motion to the Chief Judge of the judicial district or his or her designee. An opt-out request may be granted for good cause shown. If an opt-out request is granted, court personnel shall scan all documents filed conventionally into the court’s computer system and charge the filing party a \$25 scanning fee for each 50 pages, or part thereof, of the filing.

(4) Voluntary E-File and E-Serve. Effective July 1, 2015 and ending July 1, 2016, Select Users designated by the state court administrator may, upon registering with the Designated Provider, electronically file documents with the court in the locations and cases designated by the State Court Administrator. In any designated case in which the designated and registered Select User has electronically filed a document with the district court, any other Select User designated by the state court administrator, may also electronically file documents in the case after registering with the Designated Provider.

Registered Select Users shall also electronically serve documents on other Select Users in such cases as required under [Rule 14.03](#)(d) of these rules.

(5) Self-Represented Litigants Voluntary and Mandatory E-File and E-Serve.

(i) Election to Use E-Filing System. Unless otherwise required or authorized by these rules, other rules of court, or an order of the court, in any county where electronic filing and service is authorized, a self-represented litigant may elect to use the E-Filing System to electronically file and serve. But unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge or judicial officer, a self-represented litigant is not required to do so. Once a self-represented litigant has elected or has been ordered to use the E-Filing System for filing and service and has become a Registered User, that individual must thereafter electronically file and serve all documents in that case unless otherwise required or authorized by these rules or the court, and shall be subject to all applicable requirements and obligations imposed upon Registered Users as set forth in these rules.

(ii) Excuse and Prohibition. A self-represented litigant who has elected to use the E-Filing System may be excused from the requirement to electronically file and serve only upon motion to the court and for good cause shown. If the court becomes aware of any misuse of the E-Filing System by a self-represented litigant or deems it appropriate in the exercise of discretion, considering the need for the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action, the court may, without prior notice, revoke the self-represented litigant's right to use the E-Filing System in the case and require the individual to file and serve all documents conventionally. Self-represented litigants are excused from using the E-Filing System while under any court-imposed restriction of access to use of the internet.

(iii) Case Initiating Documents. Statutes or court rules may require that certain case-initiating documents be served by conventional means. *See, e.g.*, Rule 5.02(b) of the rules of civil procedure (original complaint in civil cases).

(iv) Other Electronic Filing and Service Options. When authorized by order of the Supreme Court, self-represented litigants may use an alternative electronic filing system designated in such order. *See, e.g.*, Order Authorizing E-Filing/E-Service Pilot Project for Self-Represented Petitioners, No. ADM10-8011, (Minn. filed June 24, 2013) (applicable to orders for protection and harassment restraining order proceedings in counties designated by the state court administrator; commonly referred to as the MyCourtMN portal).

(6) Non-Party Participants.

(i) Election to Use E-Filing System. In any county where electronic filing and service is authorized, individuals who are not Select Users or self-represented litigants (e.g., special masters, bondspersons, examiners, potential intervenors, etc.) but who need to submit documents to the court for filing may elect to use the E-Filing System and become a Registered User but unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge or judicial officer shall not be required to do so. Any individual or entity authorized to use the E-Filing System pursuant to this paragraph, who becomes a Registered User and transmits documents for filing or service through the E-Filing System shall be subject to all applicable requirements and obligations imposed upon Registered Users as set forth in these rules, and that individual must

thereafter electronically file and serve all documents in that case unless otherwise required or authorized by these rules or the court.

(ii) **Misuse.** If the court becomes aware of any misuse of the E-Filing System by a non-party participant or deems it appropriate in the exercise of discretion, considering the need for the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action, the court may, without prior notice, revoke the non-party participant's right to use the E-Filing System in the case and require the individual to file and serve all documents conventionally.

(7) **Court Integration Services.** Government agencies, as authorized by the state court administrator, shall be allowed to electronically file documents, electronically transmit data to the court, and electronically receive documents and data from the court, via Court Integration Services.

(8) **Guardians and Conservators.** This rule applies to guardians and conservators appointed by the court. Conservator annual accounts and inventories, guardian annual personal well-being reports, corresponding affidavits of service, and any other account or report designated by the state court administrator, must be electronically filed with the court using a computer application designated by the state court administrator; provided that non-attorney guardians may continue to file guardian annual well-being reports and corresponding affidavits of service conventionally with leave of the court for good cause shown. Directions for reporting and designations shall be posted on the judicial branch website (www.mncourts.gov).

(c) Relief from Operation of this Rule.

(1) **Technical Errors; Relief for Sending Party.** Upon motion and a showing that electronic filing or electronic service of a document was not completed because of: (1) an error in the transmission of the document to the E-File System; (2) a failure of the E-Filing System to process the document when received; or (3) other technical problems experienced by the sending party or E-Filing System, the court may enter an order permitting the document to be deemed filed or served on the date and time it was first attempted to be transmitted electronically. If appropriate, the court may adjust the schedule for responding to these documents or the court's hearing.

(2) **Technical Errors; Relief for Other Parties.** Upon motion and a showing that an electronically served document was unavailable to or not received by a party served, the court may enter an order extending the time for responding to that document.

(Amended effective April 15, 2024.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2023 Amendment

[Rule 14.01\(b\)\(2\)](#) is modified in 2023 to avoid rejection of filings when a copy of an original will is e-filed.

Advisory Committee Comment—2023 Amendments

[Rule 14.01\(b\)\(8\)](#) is modified in 2023 to recognize implementation of the MyMNGuardian System to collect guardian annual personal well-being reports and corresponding affidavits of service. Detailed

information on the system is posted by the state court administrator on the main state court website (www.mncourts.gov).

Rule 14.02 Registration Process and Duty to Designate E-Mail Address for Service

(a) Becoming a Registered User. Only a Registered User may electronically file or serve documents through the E-Filing System. To become a Registered User, a Select User, self-represented litigant, or non-party participant must complete the registration process, as established by the state court administrator, and designate an e-mail address (“designated e-mail address”) for receipt of electronic service and court notices. By registering with the Designated Provider and either electronically transmitting a document for filing in a case or designating an email address for receiving electronic service in the E-Filing system for the case, a Registered User consents to receive electronic service and court notices from the court and other Registered Users in the case through the E-Filing System at a designated e-mail address. This designated e-mail address may also be used by the court (but not other parties) to deliver notices by means other than the E-Filing System.

(b) Obligations and Responsibilities of Registered Users.

(1) A Registered User is responsible for all documents filed or served under the Registered User’s username and password.

(2) If a Registered User knows that his or her login information has been misappropriated, misused or compromised in any way, he or she must promptly notify the court and change his or her login password.

(3) Any electronic transmission, downloading, or viewing of an electronic document under a Registered User’s login username and password shall be deemed to have been made with the authorization of that Registered User unless and until proven otherwise by a preponderance of the evidence.

(4) A Registered User shall maintain a designated e-mail address for receiving electronic service and court notices for the duration of any case in which he or she has electronically transmitted a document for filing as a party or participant and until all applicable appeal periods have expired. A Registered User shall ensure that his or her designated e-mail address and account is current, monitored regularly, has not exceeded its size limitation, and that all notices and document links transmitted to the designated e-mail account are timely opened and reviewed.

(5) A Registered User may not designate e-mail addresses for any other person or party who is not the Registered User’s client, law firm staff, or co-counsel. The court may impose a sanction against any Registered User who violates this rule. It shall not be a violation for a Registered User when filing or serving documents using the E-Filing System to select service recipients who have been added to the service list for a case by another Registered User.

(Amended effective September 1, 2018.)

Rule 14.03 Filing and Service of Documents and Court Notices

(a) Availability of E-Filing System. Registered Users may electronically transmit documents for filing or service through the E-Filing System 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except when the system is unavailable due to breakdown or scheduled maintenance.

(b) Filed Upon Transmittal. A document that is electronically filed is deemed to have been filed by the court administrator on the date and time of its transmittal to the court through the E-Filing System, and except for proposed orders, the filing shall be stamped with this date and time if it is subsequently accepted by the court administrator. Acceptance of electronic filings is governed by Rule 5.04(c) of the Rules of Civil Procedure, except that Rule 5.04(c)(4) shall not apply to criminal, civil commitment, juvenile protection, or juvenile delinquency cases, or to medical records in any type of case. If the filing is not subsequently accepted by the court administrator, no date stamp shall be applied, and the E-Filing System shall notify the filer that the filing was not accepted. Upon receipt of a document electronically transmitted for filing by a Registered User, the E-Filing System shall confirm to the Registered User, through an automatically generated notification to the Registered User's designated e-mail address, that the transmission of the document was completed and the date and time of the document's receipt. Absent confirmation of receipt, there is no presumption that the document was successfully transmitted to the court. The Registered User is solely responsible for verifying that the court received all electronically transmitted documents.

(c) Effective Time of Filing. Any document electronically transmitted to the court through the E-Filing System for filing by 11:59 p.m. local Minnesota time shall be deemed filed on that date, so long as the document is not subsequently rejected for filing by the court administrator for a reason authorized by Rule 5.04 of the Rules of Civil Procedure. Filing by facsimile transmission, where authorized, is effective at the time the transmission is received by the court.

(d) Service by Registered Users. Unless personal service is otherwise required by statute, these rules, other rules of court, or an order of the court, a Registered User shall serve all documents required or permitted to be served upon another party or person in the following manner:

(1) Service on Registered Users. Except as otherwise permitted in subpart (3) below, where the party or person to be served is a Registered User, who has either electronically filed a document in the case or designated an email address for receiving electronic service in the E-Filing system for the case and the Court has accepted the initial filing in the case, service shall be accomplished through the E-Filing System by utilizing the electronic service function of the E-Filing System.

(2) Service on Other Parties or Participants. Where the party or participant to be served is not a Registered User or has not either designated an email address for receiving electronic service in the E-Filing system for the case or electronically filed a document in the case but has agreed to service by electronic means outside the E-Filing System (such as by e-mail or other electronic means), service may be made in the agreed upon manner. The presiding judge or judicial officer may also order that service on the non-Registered User be made by electronic means outside of the E-Filing System. Where service by electronic means is not required or permitted, another method of service authorized under applicable rules or law must be used.

(3) **Service of Discovery Material.** Unless required by court order, electronic service of discovery material through the E-Filing System shall be voluntary, and discovery material may be served in any manner authorized by the court rules, as agreed by the parties, or as ordered by the court. For purposes of this rule, discovery material includes but is not limited to:

- (i) disclosures under Minn. R. Civ. P. 26, expert disclosures and reports, depositions and interrogatories, requests for documents, requests for admission, answers and responses thereto, and any other material as designated by the presiding judge or judicial officer; and
- (ii) discovery requests and responses as defined in any applicable court rules, and
- (iii) any other material as designated by the presiding judge or judicial officer.

(e) **Effective Date of Service.** Service is complete upon completion of the electronic transmission of the document to the E-Filing System notwithstanding whether the document is subsequently rejected for filing by the court administrator. Service by facsimile transmission, where authorized, is complete upon the completion of the facsimile transmission. Service using other agreed upon electronic means pursuant to [Rule 14.03](#)(d)(2) is complete upon transmission of the document using that electronic means.

(f) **Court Notices.** Unless otherwise required by statute, these rules, other rules of court, or an order of the court, the court may transmit any document or notice in the following manner:

(1) to a Registered User through the E-Filing System. Notice is effective upon transmission of the document or notice to the E-Filing System by the court. The court may also transmit notices outside the E-Filing System as provided in [Rule 14.02](#)(a) or other applicable rules.

(2) to any Party or Participant who is not a Registered User through any electronic means agreed to by the Party or Participant, or as ordered by the court, or as permitted by any other rule. Notice is effective upon transmission of the document or notice using that electronic means.

(g) **Document Requirements and Format.** Unless otherwise authorized by these rules or court order, all documents filed electronically shall conform to the document technical and size requirements as established by the state court administrator in the *Minnesota District Court Registered User Guide for Electronic Filing*. The *Guide* shall be posted on the judicial branch website (www.mncourts.gov).

(h) **Non-conforming Documents.** Where it is not feasible for a Registered User to convert a document to an authorized electronic form by scanning, imaging, or other means, or where a document cannot reasonably be transmitted through the E-Filing System in conformance with the document's technical and size requirements as established by the state court administrator, the court may allow the Registered User to file the document conventionally. A motion to file a non-conforming document must be filed electronically. If the court grants the Registered User's motion to file a non-conforming document, the Registered User shall file and serve the non-conforming document conventionally.

(Amended effective November 22, 2023.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2018 Amendment

[Rule 14.03](#)(d) is amended in 2018 to address issues relating to service using the e-filing system of the courts.

Advisory Committee Comment – 2023 Amendments

[Rule 14.03](#) is modified in 2023 to reflect broader use of remote court proceedings and participation by self-represented litigants who may not be Registered Users of the E-Filing System. The rule permits, for example, court notices and orders to be served via email or other electronic means if the receiving party agrees, and that such service is effective upon transmission.

Rule 14.04 Signatures

(a) Judge and Administrator Signatures. All electronically filed and served documents that require a judge’s, judicial officer’s, or court administrator’s signature shall either capture the signature electronically under a process approved by the state court administrator pursuant to judicial branch policy or begin with a handwritten signature on paper that is then converted to electronic form by scanning, imaging, or other means such that the final electronic document has the judge’s, judicial officer’s, or court administrator’s signature depicted thereon. The final electronic document shall constitute an original.

(b) Registered User and Non-Registered User Signatures.

(1) Registered Users. Every document electronically filed or served through the E-Filing System that requires the signature of the Registered User filing or serving the document shall be deemed to have been signed by the Registered User and shall bear the facsimile or typographical signature of such person, along with the typed name, address, telephone number, designated e-mail address, and, if applicable, attorney registration number of a signing attorney. The typographical or facsimile signatures of a Registered User shall be considered the functional equivalent of an original, handwritten signature produced on paper. A typographical signature shall be in the form: /s/ Pat L. Smith.

(2) Non-Registered Users. Any document electronically filed or served through the E-Filing System that requires the signature of a person who is not the Registered User filing or serving the document shall bear the typed name, along with the facsimile or typographical signature, of such person. The person’s typographical or facsimile signature shall be considered the functional equivalent of an original, handwritten signature produced on paper. A typographical signature shall be in the form: /s/ Pat L. Smith.

(c) Notary Signature, Stamp. Unless specifically required by court rule, documents, including affidavits, electronically filed or served through the E-Filing System are not required to be notarized. Where a signature under penalty of perjury is otherwise required, the provisions of part (d) of this rule apply. A document electronically filed or served through the E-Filing System that by court rule, specifically requires a signature of a notary public shall be deemed signed by the notary public if, before filing or service, the notary public has signed a printed or electronic

form of the document and the electronically filed or served document bears a facsimile or typographical notary signature and stamp.

(d) Perjury Penalty Acknowledgment. A document electronically filed or served through the E-Filing System that requires a signature under penalty of perjury may, with the same force and effect and in lieu of an oath, be supported by an unsworn declaration, provided that the typographical or facsimile signature of the declarant is affixed immediately below a declaration using substantially the following language: “I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.” In addition to the signature, the date of signing and the county and state where the document was signed shall be noted on the document.

(e) Certification; Retention. By electronically filing or serving a document Registered User is certifying compliance with the signature requirements of these rules for all signatures on the document, and the signatures on the document shall be considered the functional equivalent of original, handwritten signatures produced on paper.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Rule 14.05 Proof of Service

When a document is both eFiled and eServed together using the E-Filing System, the records of the E-Filing System indicating transmittal to a Registered User recipient shall be sufficient proof of service on the recipient for all purposes.

(Amended effective January 1, 2021.)

Rule 14.06 Submission of Non-Public Information—E-Filing System

(a) Filer’s Duty to Designate as Confidential or Sealed. In addition to filing a separate non-public cover sheet as required in [Rule 11.03\(a\)](#) or selecting a non-public document filing code from a drop-down box in the E-Filing system as required in [Rule 11.03\(a\)\(ii\)](#), a Registered User electronically filing a document that is not accessible to the public in whole or in part under the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch or other applicable law, court rules or court order, is responsible for designating that document as confidential or sealed in the E-Filing System before transmitting it to the court. This designation is made in the E-Filing system in a field marked “Filing Comments” containing the text, “Is Document Public, Confidential or Sealed?” The Registered User must file any Form 11.2 Cover Sheet for Non-Public Documents required by [Rule 11.03\(a\)\(i\)](#) as separate documents, and must designate them as public. The Registered User must separate all non-public documents from public documents when filing.

(b) Correction of Designation by the Court. Upon review, the court may modify the designation of any document incorrectly designated as confidential or sealed and shall provide prompt notice of any such change to the Registered User who filed the document. A Registered User must seek advance approval from the court to transmit a document for filing designated as confidential or sealed if that document is not already inaccessible to the public under the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch or other applicable law, court rules, or court order.

(c) **Filing Confidential or Sealed Document in Paper Form When Not Seeking In Camera Review.** A document to be filed as confidential or under seal may be filed in paper form if required or permitted by the court. A motion to file a document in paper form as confidential or under seal must be filed and served electronically.

(Amended effective January 1, 2021.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2019 Amendment

Rule 14.06 is amended in 2019 to improve readability and clarify the process for submitting motions under the rule. An “in camera” review is defined as “[i]n the judge’s private chambers” or “[i]n the courtroom with all spectators excluded.” Black’s Law Dictionary 763 (7th ed. 1999).

Rule 14.07 Procedures for In-Camera Review

(a) **Request To Submit Document for In Camera Review.** Any interested person must seek and obtain advance approval from the court by motion, with notice thereof to all parties, to submit a document to the court for in camera review. The motion must be filed and served electronically.

(b) **Process When Submission for In-Camera Review Granted.** A document submitted for in camera review as permitted by the court under part (a) of this rule shall be submitted to the court outside the E-Filing System by either:

- (1) causing the document to be conventionally mailed or hand-delivered to the presiding judge or judicial officer; or
- (2) upon approval of the presiding judge or judicial officer, transmitting the document to the presiding judge or judicial officer, via e-mail, as an attachment to an e-mail address as directed by the presiding judge or judicial officer. Any document submitted for in camera review must be clearly labeled “For In Camera Review” and, unless otherwise ordered by the court, shall be sealed and preserved as a court exhibit.

(Adopted effective January 1, 2021.)

Rule 14.08 Records: Official; Appeal; Certified Copies

Documents electronically filed and paper documents conventionally filed but converted into electronic form by the court are official court records for all purposes. Certified copies may be issued in the conventional manner or in any manner authorized by law, provided that no certified copies shall be made of any proposed orders. Unless otherwise provided in these rules or by court order, a conventionally filed paper document need not be maintained or retained by the court after the court digitizes, records, scans or otherwise reproduces the document into an electronic record, document or image.

(Amended effective July 1, 2015.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2012 Amendment

[Rule 14](#) is a new rule, drafted to provide a uniform structure for implementation of e-filing and e-service in the district courts. The rule is derived in substantial part, with modification, from the Judicial District E-Filing Pilot Project Provisions, adopted by the Minnesota Supreme Court on October 21, 2010, and amended on March 10, 2011.

[Rule 14.01](#) defines the cases that are subject to mandatory e-filing and e-service. This rule is intended to evolve by amendment by order of the supreme court as additional case categories or additional judicial districts are added to the pilot project. The other requirements for e-filing and e-service are not intended to see frequent amendment, and the committee believes the rules for e-filing and e-service, when authorized, should be maintained as uniform rules statewide.

[Rule 14.01](#)(d) provides for requests to be excused from required use of e-filing and e-service, and creates a “good cause” standard for granting that relief. There are few circumstances where the court should grant exemption from the requirements.

Because cases in Minnesota may be commenced by service rather than by filing with the court, the use of e-service under the court’s system is possible only after the action has been commenced and is filed, and service may then be effected electronically only on an attorney or party who registers with the system and provides an e-mail address at which service from other parties and notices from the court can be delivered. [Rule 14.02](#) sets forth this procedure. [Rule 13.01](#) imposes an affirmative duty on parties and their attorneys to advise the court of any changes in their address, including their e-mail address.

The format requirements for documents are superficially the same as for other documents—they should be based on an 8½ by 11 inch format, with a caption at the top and signature block at the end. But they are in fact filed as electronic records on a computer service and served on other parties by e-mail. [Rule 14.03](#) defines the available electronic format for these documents and other requirements applicable to e-filed and e-served documents.

[Rule 14.04](#) establishes the means by which electronic documents are “signed.” The rule explicitly states the standard that e-filed and e-served documents as they reside on the computer system used by the court constitute originals, and are not mere copies of documents. The rule does not require the signing or retention of a paper copy of any filed document. It may be prudent for a litigant to maintain copies of these documents as duplicate originals in some limited circumstances, such as where an affidavit is signed by a non-party who may not be available if a dispute were to arise over authenticity.

[Rule 14.06](#) establishes a specific procedure for filing electronic documents that either contain confidential information or are filed under seal. This rule establishes the requirements for electronic documents that are consistent with the requirements in [Rule 11.06](#). Neither rule is intended to expand or limit the confidentiality concerns that might justify special treatment of any document. Under [Rule 11.06](#), filing parties do not have a unilateral right to designate any filing as confidential, and prior permission in some form is required. This permission may flow from a statute or rule explicitly requiring that a particular document or portion of a document be filed confidentially or from a court order that documents be filed under seal. Rule 112 of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure contains useful guidance on how confidential information can be handled.

Where documents contain both confidential and non-confidential information, it may be appropriate to file redacted “public” versions of confidential or sealed documents.

[Rule 14.06](#) also permits a party to seek either permission or a requirement that certain sealed or confidential documents be filed in paper format. This provision recognizes that certain information may be so sensitive or valuable that placing it in a sealed envelope with a clear warning that it is not to be opened except by court order may be the appropriate means to assure confidentiality.

The security designations “confidential” and “sealed” reflect the security classifications available in the courts case management system. In addition to court staff access, some confidential documents (e.g., in Domestic Violence, Juvenile Delinquency, and Parent/Child relationship cases) may be accessible to certain government entities who have demonstrated a need for access and have signed appropriate nondisclosure agreements. See, e.g., Rule 8, subd. 4(b), of the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch (authorizing access by county attorneys and public defenders, among others).

Pursuant to Minn. R. Civ. P. 5.06, a document that is electronically filed is deemed to have been filed by the court administrator on the date and time of its transmittal to the District Court through the E-Filing System, and the filing shall be stamped with this date and time subject to acceptance by the court administrator. If the filing is not subsequently accepted by the court administrator for reasons authorized by Minn. R. Civ. P. 5.04, the date stamp shall be removed and the document electronically returned to the person who filed it.

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

The amendments to [Rule 14](#) address several important aspects of the use of the court’s e-filing and e-service system. This rule is the workhorse rule for implementation of e-filing and e-service, and governs in all courts and types of cases where e-filing is either required or permitted.

It is worthwhile to understand the reason for “required or permitted” language in the rules. As a means to accomplish orderly and efficient transition to judicial branch-wide requirement for e-filing and e-service, the courts have generally begun with permissive use of e-filing and e-service for a subset of the court’s business. The courts have then gradually moved to mandatory use in these matters, by all attorney filers.

Several of the changes are not substantive in nature or intended effect. The replacement of “paper” with “document” is made throughout these rules, and simply advances precision in choice of language. Most documents will not be filed as “paper” documents, so paper is retired as a descriptor of them. “Self-represented litigant” is being used uniformly throughout the judicial branch, and is preferable to “non-represented party” and “pro se party,” both to avoid a Latin phrase not used outside legal jargon and to facilitate the drafting of clearer rules.

[Rule 14.01\(a\)](#) is amended to update the definitions, and includes terms previously defined in Rule 14.06. The term “Self-Represented Litigant” is defined and is used in preference to “pro se party” to use a term more readily understood. The rule also makes it clear that only non-lawyers are treated as “Self-Represented Litigants.” A lawyer who

is licensed to practice, is a party to a case, and is not otherwise represented is treated as a represented party.

[Rule 14.01\(b\)](#) is updated to establish the current status of electronic filing and electronic service, and to provide for the expanding requirements for use of the electronic means for these functions. The rule implements a clear mandate that represented parties and government agencies must serve and file using the court's system unless otherwise provided by rule or order. Government agencies here would include governmental parties to litigation and other agencies, such as a county sheriff's office, that are regularly involved in the litigation process.

[Rule 14.03\(d\)\(2\)](#) recognizes that any means of service may suffice under the rules if the party to be served has consented to its use. Thus, service by e-mail outside the court's system is acceptable and effective if the parties have consented to it. In the event a stipulation is made on this subject, however, the parties should specify when that service is effective, as the rules may not establish that date or time. Although there is virtually no limit on how service could be effected with consent of the party being served, in the absence of consent only the methods explicitly authorized by the rules are effective. [Rule 14.03\(d\)\(2\)](#) deals particularly with special categories of cases where there typically are non-party participants, such as non-party guardians ad litem, probation officers or other court services personnel, victim advocates, or similar interested persons.

The effective date for service is important for most documents. [Rule 14.03\(e\)](#) provides the default rule for most service events. In the event the E-Filing System is not available, [Rule 14.01\(c\)](#) may provide some relief to a party who might otherwise miss a deadline. [Rule 14.03\(f\)](#) recognizes that courts may wish to provide notices to the parties by e-mail without using the court's E-Filing System. This desire is driven by a lack of integration between the court's MNCIS case management system and the e-serve function in the court's E-Filing System. Where the notice is substantively important, such as in child support magistrate cases where the date and time of notice begins the appeal period, the courts should avoid giving formal notices outside the e-service system. Efforts should be made by the courts to remove any barriers to use of the E-Filing System by court personnel since that process will be understood by the parties and generates a record that may be of interest to the parties.

[Rule 14.06](#) is amended to delete the definitions of how various confidential and sealed records will be accessible within the judiciary. These definitions are now set forth in [Rule 14.01\(a\)](#), along with other definitions.

[Rule 14.07](#) as amended to make it clear that even when documents are filed in paper form, the court may scan and digitize their content, and retain only the electronic record of the filing. Ultimately, the duration of retention of that electronic record will be governed by the court's record retention schedule. See District Court Record Retention Schedule 2014, published on the main Minnesota Courts website, www.mncourts.gov under "Justice Partner Resources."

Advisory Committee Comment—2020 Amendments

[Rule 14](#) is modified in 2020 to separate its related in-camera review portions and move them to a new rule, [14.07](#), and renumber current [14.07](#) as [14.08](#). Changes are also made to clarify the process for designating non-public documents being e-filed as Confidential or Sealed and distinguish that process from selection of a filing code under [Rule 11.03\(a\)\(ii\)](#). See the comments under [Rule 11](#) for a full

description. Changes are also made to Rule 14.03(b) to recognize an exemption to rejection of filings in criminal, commitment, juvenile protection, and juvenile delinquency matters for violations of [Rule 11](#); [Rule 11](#) also exempts most of these cases from striking of filings in [rule 11.05](#). See [Rule 11](#) and its comments for a full description.

RULE 15. AFFIDAVITS

Unless otherwise specified in any court rule, the term “affidavit” means:

- (a) a document that has been signed, sworn, and notarized; and
- (b) a document that has been signed under penalty of perjury pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 358.116, provided that the signature is affixed immediately below a declaration using substantially the following language: “I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.” In addition to the signature, the date of signing and the county and state where the document was signed shall be noted on the document.

(Adopted effective July 1, 2015.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

[Rule 15](#) is a new rule, included to the address issues relating to the adoption of Minn. Stat. § 358.116 (2014)(codifying 2014 Minn. Laws ch. 204, § 3). The statute allows the courts to require specifically, by rule, that notarization is necessary for particular situations. This rule is intended to improve public access to the courts by removing what may be an unnecessarily difficult obstacle—obtaining a notarization of a signature.

Subdivision (a) of the rule applies to any document that is “signed, sworn, and notarized.” This category includes documents signed and sworn to before ex officio notaries, such as deputy court administrators. See Minn. Stat. § 358.15. It would also apply to affidavits signed outside Minnesota to the extent authorized by statute. See Minn. Stat. §§ 358.46–.48.

RULE 16. PAGINATION OF COURT FILINGS AND EXHIBITS

Each document filed with the court must, to the extent feasible, be consecutively paginated from beginning to end, including any attachments. Trial or other exhibits must be similarly numbered.

(Adopted effective July 1, 2015.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2015 Amendments

[Rule 16](#) is a new rule intended to create a uniform practice in the submission of documents to the court in all types of cases. The goal is that any part of the record will be able to be identified by either its title or a unique docket number and a single, serial, page number. Documents should begin on the first page as it is filed or served as page 1 and should continue in sequence to the last page of the document’s attachments, if any.

(Attachments should be numbered in sequence, and without beginning a new sequence for any attachments.)

The rule does not dictate the location for page numbers, but they should normally be placed at the bottom of the page in a consistent place, either centered or in the lower right hand corner. The best location may vary to obviate obscuring any important information on the document. Placing numbers unduly close to the edge of the document may result in removal or truncation of the number in imaging or duplication, so a reasonable margin should be used. The rule does not require any format or process for applying the required page numbers.

This rule is intended to allow counsel, trial courts, and the appellate courts to locate portions of the record easily and with accuracy. The rule applies to all documents, but will be particularly valuable for affidavits with numerous attachments or trial exhibits that are not already paginated. Compliance with the rule will make it possible to avoid lengthy dialogue to get the court and counsel all on the correct page of a lengthy exhibit.

RULE 17. TRANSCRIPT FILING REQUIREMENTS

Subdivision 1. Transcripts of any part of a district court proceeding prepared at the request of any person other than the presiding judge, and In Forma Pauperis transcripts ordered by a judge, must be delivered to the requestor or the party who applied for the In Forma Pauperis transcript in electronic format, unless the requestor or In Forma Pauperis party does not have an email address to which the transcript can be delivered or does not have access to email due to circumstances such as incarceration. If the court reporter cannot deliver a transcript to the requestor or the In Forma Pauperis party in an electronic format, the court reporter shall file the transcript with the court administrator after satisfactory financial arrangements have been made with the requestor, and for an In Forma Pauperis transcript ordered by a judge, upon completion. The court reporter shall file with the transcript an affidavit or statement with the court administrator confirming that the requestor or In Forma Pauperis party has represented that they do not have an email address to which the transcript can be delivered electronically or access to an email address due to circumstances such as incarceration. The requestor may then obtain one paper copy of the transcript from the court administrator without paying the district court copy fee. The In Forma Pauperis party may obtain a paper copy of the In Forma Pauperis transcript without charge.

Subdivision 2. Any court reporter who prepares a transcript of any part of a district court proceeding for purposes other than an appeal, at the request of any person other than the presiding judge, shall file the transcript with the district court administrator no more than 7 days after the date of delivery, unless a different time period to file the transcript is required by another applicable court rule. Any court reporter who prepares an In Forma Pauperis transcript ordered by a judge, for purposes other than an appeal, shall file the transcript with the district court administrator no more than 7 days after the date of delivery, unless a different time period is required by another applicable court rule. If the court reporter prepares a transcript at the request of the presiding judge, the court reporter shall not file the transcript with the district court administrator unless directed in writing by the presiding judge to do so. Transcripts ordered for an appeal are governed by either Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 110.02 or Minn. R. Crim. P. 28.02, subd. 9.

(Adopted effective January 1, 2022.)

RULE 18. PERSONAL LEAVE CONTINUANCE

(a) Applicability. This rule applies to all case types except:

- (1) Orders for protection under Minn. Stat. § 518B.01;
- (2) Harassment restraining orders under Minn. Stat. § 609.748;
- (3) Summary eviction cases under Minn. Stat. §§ 504B.281 – 504B.371, and summary tenant cases under Minn. Stat. §§ 504B.375 – 504B.471;
- (4) Criminal cases governed by Minn. R. Crim. P.;
- (5) Commitment cases governed by the Minn. Spec. R. Commitment & Treatment Act;
- (6) Juvenile delinquency and extended jurisdiction juvenile cases governed by Minn. R. Juv. Delinq. P.;
- (7) Juvenile protection cases governed by the Minn. R. Juv. Prot. P.; and
- (8) Adoption cases governed by the Minn. R. Adoption P.

Nothing in this part (a) precludes a court from determining in an exempt case that an attorney is otherwise entitled to a continuance based on the factors below.

(b) Generally. A timely application by a party's attorney ("Applicant") for a continuance of a trial, evidentiary hearing, pretrial hearing, or motion hearing is immediately and automatically granted without a hearing in connection with any of the following by an Applicant substantially involved in the party's representation:

- (1) A health condition that makes the Applicant temporarily unable to represent the party;
- (2) The birth or adoption of a child regardless of the gender of the Applicant;
- (3) The Applicant's need to care for or attend to a spouse, household member, dependent, or family member who has a serious health condition; or
- (4) The death of an Applicant's family member or household member.

An objection to a personal leave continuance may be brought by motion under part (f) of this rule.

(c) Time for Making Request. An application for a personal leave continuance shall be made within a reasonable time after the Applicant learns of the need for a continuance.

(d) Length. A personal leave continuance may be sought for a period of up to 90 days, as specified in the Continuance Application. An Applicant may seek a continuance of longer than 90 days by motion to the court for good cause shown, under Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 115.

(e) **Form of Continuance Application.** An applicant applying for a personal leave continuance shall file a declaration with the court setting forth the following:

- (1) Affirming the Applicant is an attorney substantially involved in the party's representation;
- (2) That personal leave is required for one of the reasons set forth in paragraph (b)(1) – (4) above;
- (3) That the application is timely under paragraph (c);
- (4) The length of the continuance requested;
- (5) That the Applicant will remain substantially involved in the party's representation following any personal leave continuance;
- (6) That the client has given informed consent (as defined in Minn. R. Prof. Conduct 1.0(f)) to the continuance; and
- (7) That the continuance is sought in good faith and not merely for delay.

(f) **Objection to Continuance.**

(1) **Motion and Response; Deadlines.** A party objecting to a personal leave continuance shall bring a motion objecting to the leave within 14 days of the filing of the Continuance Application, and the motion is subject to the meet and confer requirement pursuant to Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 115.10, regardless of case type. The Applicant shall be permitted a response within 7 days of service of the motion objecting to the leave. The presiding judge may reduce the time periods in this rule in the event of an emergency.

(2) **Burden of Proof; Determination.** A party objecting to a personal leave continuance shall bear the burden of demonstrating substantial prejudice or extraordinary circumstances that should preclude or limit the personal leave continuance. Upon proof of substantial prejudice or extraordinary circumstances, the court may modify or deny the personal leave continuance. The court shall modify or deny a personal leave continuance if it would impact a substantial right in the proceeding and alternative arrangements cannot be made to ensure the party is adequately represented in the Applicant's absence.

(3) **Decision Deadline; No Hearing.** The court shall rule on the motion objecting to leave within 21 days of filing of the motion without hearing.

(4) **Leave Pending Decision; No Retroactive Application of Denial.** Leave shall continue during the pendency of the motion proceedings but no longer than the leave period sought in the Application. A denial of the leave shall not be made retroactive.

(g) **Effect on Discovery.** Unless otherwise ordered by the court for good cause shown, all discovery shall be suspended for the duration of any personal leave continuance, and deadlines for discovery served during any period of personal leave shall be tolled until the conclusion of the personal leave period.

(h) Scheduling Order. If the personal leave continuance substantially affects the scheduling order, the parties shall meet and confer regarding a proposed amended scheduling order prior to the filing of the Application, if possible, or immediately upon the expiration of the personal leave continuance. A personal leave continuance pursuant to this rule resulting in the expiration of any deadline or other scheduled event within a scheduling order is presumptively good cause shown to amend the scheduling order.

(i) Settlement Efforts. This rule is not meant to preclude or discourage the parties from agreeing to a continuance or alternative arrangement. If a continuance agreement is reached, the parties must file the agreement as a stipulation with reference to this rule.

(Adopted effective September 1, 2024.)

Advisory Committee Comment—2024 Amendments

[Rule 18](#) is a new rule that provides the option of an automatic continuance when an attorney is faced with one of the circumstances listed in [Rule 18\(b\)\(1\)-\(4\)](#). The rule was enacted in response to a submission by the MSBA raising serious concerns about lawyer well-being and the need to destigmatize seeking leave for personal, health, or family reasons. This personal leave continuance rule applies to all case types except those listed in [Rule 18\(a\)](#). The rule is intended to accommodate certain personal leave continuances without requiring an attorney to disclose private health or other personal information to opposing counsel or the court. The grounds to object to a personal leave continuance under this rule are intentionally narrow and require more than mere inconvenience or expense. Impacts of a personal leave continuance on discovery and the court's scheduling order are discussed in [Rules 18\(g\)](#) and [\(h\)](#), respectively. Nothing in this new rule is meant to preclude or discourage the practice of stipulating to continuances.