

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

In re: Amendments to Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.530 and 2.540

No. SC2025-0725 (Fla. May 14, 2026) · No. SC2025-0725 · Decided May 14, 2026

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Florida declined to adopt a proposed amendment concerning audiovisual communication technology during depositions and referred that issue to the Civil Procedure Rules Committee. The Court adopted amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.540 concerning ADA notice language, font requirements, identification of the ADA Coordinator, and related accommodation procedures. The amendments become effective July 1, 2026, at 12:01 a.m.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Carlos G. Muñoz, Chief Justice; Jorge Labarga, Justice; Renatha Francis, Justice; Jamie R. Grosshans, Justice; Rene Couriel, Justice; Meredith Sasso, Justice; M. Kevin Tanenbaum, Justice
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Florida
DECIDED	May 14, 2026
DOCKET	SC2025-0725
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding concerning proposed amendments to Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.530 and 2.540.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published rulemaking opinion of the Supreme Court of Florida; binding as to the adopted amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.540.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- reasonable accommodation
- ada / disability
- service animals

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Florida should adopt the proposed amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.530 concerning communication technology during depositions.
2. Whether the Supreme Court of Florida should adopt the proposed amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.540 concerning notices, procedures, grievances, and service animals relating to accommodations for persons with disabilities.

HOLDINGS

1. The court declined to adopt the proposed amendment to rule 2.530 at that time and referred the matter to the Civil Procedure Rules Committee for consideration of an amendment to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.310 concerning the use of audiovisual communication technology during depositions.
2. The court adopted the proposed amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.540, effective July 1, 2026, at 12:01 a.m.
3. All notices of court proceedings, including orders issued by judges, notices filed by attorneys or parties, and process compelling appearance such as a summons, must include the specified ADA accommodation statement in boldface, 14-point Bookman Old Style or Arial font.
4. The amended rule requires courts to maintain procedures for requesting accommodations and grievance procedures, permits courts to request additional impairment information when a proposed accommodation may fundamentally alter a proceeding, and requires courts to allow service animals as provided by the ADA and Florida law.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Specifically, we amend subdivision (c)(1) to clarify that all notices of court proceedings, “whether an order issued by a judge or a notice filed by an attorney or party,” which includes but is “not limited to a summons,” must contain the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) notice language.” (-2-)

“The court shall must allow the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability in facilities of the courts and when participating in all programs or activities provided by the courts, as provided in and subject to the requirements of the ADA and Florida law.” (-6-)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Florida Bar’s Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Committee proposed amendments addressing communication technology and requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities. The proposed rule 2.540 amendments revised required ADA notice language, permitted Bookman Old Style or Arial fonts, replaced a named individual with an ADA Coordinator, and made related textual changes concerning accommodations, grievance procedures, and service animals.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Florida Bar’s Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Committee submitted a report proposing amendments to rules 2.530 and 2.540. The Board of Governors of The Florida Bar unanimously recommended approval, and the Supreme Court published the proposals for comment; no comments were received. The court declined to adopt the proposed amendment to rule 2.530, referred that matter to the Civil Procedure Rules Committee, and adopted the proposed amendments to rule 2.540.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

No remand was ordered. The proposed rule 2.530 amendment was referred to the Civil Procedure Rules Committee for consideration of an amendment to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.310.

OPINION

In Re: Amendments to Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.530 and 2.540

PER CURIAM.

Supreme Court of Florida _____ No. SC2025-0725 _____

IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA RULES OF GENERAL

PRACTICE AND JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION 2.530 AND 2.540. May 14, 2026

PER CURIAM. The Florida Bar’s Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Committee filed a report proposing amendments to Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.530 (Communication Technology) and 2.540 (Requests for Accommodations by Persons with Disabilities).¹ The Board of Governors of The Florida Bar unanimously recommends acceptance of the proposed amendments. The Court published the proposed amendments for comment, and no comments were received.

1. We have jurisdiction. See art. V, § 2(a), Fla. Const.; see also Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.140(b)(1). Having considered the proposal, we decline to adopt the proposed rule amendment to rule 2.530 at this time. We instead refer the matter to the Civil Procedure Rules Committee and ask it to consider proposing an amendment regarding the use of audio- visual communication technology during a deposition in existing Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.310 (Depositions on Oral Examination). However, we do adopt the amendments to rule 2.540 as proposed. Specifically, we amend subdivision (c)(1) to clarify that all notices of court proceedings, “whether an order issued by a judge or a notice filed by an attorney or party,” which includes but is “not limited to a summons,” must contain the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) notice language. We also change the requirement that the notice language appear in either Times New Roman or Courier font to now be either Bookman Old Style or Arial font. Additionally, we update the notice language to refer to an “ADA Coordinator” instead of a specific

individual's name. Accordingly, the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration are amended as set forth in the appendix to this opinion. New language is indicated by underscoring; deletions are -2- indicated by struck-through type. The amendments become effective July 1, 2026, at 12:01 a.m. It is so ordered.

MUÑIZ, C.J., and LABARGA, COURIEL, GROSSHANS, FRANCIS, SASSO, and TANENBAUM, JJ., concur.

THE FILING OF A MOTION FOR REHEARING SHALL NOT ALTER

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE AMENDMENTS. Original Proceeding – Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Michael Robert Ufferman, Chair, Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Committee, Tallahassee, Florida, Hon. Santo DiGangi, Past Chair, Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Committee, West Palm Beach, Florida, Joshua E. Doyle, Executive Director, The Florida Bar, Tallahassee, Florida, and Kelly Noel Smith, Staff Liaison, The Florida Bar, Tallahassee, Florida, for Petitioner -3-

APPENDIX

RULE 2.540. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

(a)-(b) [No Change] (c) Notice Requirement.

(1) All notices of court proceedings, whether an order

issued by a judge or a notice filed by an attorney or party to be held in a public facility, and all process compelling appearance, including but not limited to a summons, at such court proceedings, shall must include the following statement in bold face, 14-point Times New Roman or Courier Bookman Old Style or Arial font: “If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact [identify applicable court personnel by name ADA Coordinator, applicable address, and applicable telephone number] at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.”

(2) Each trial and appellate court shall must post on its

respective website and in each court facility the procedures for obtaining an accommodation as well as and the grievance procedure adopted by that court. (d) Process for Requesting Accommodations. The process for requesting accommodations is as follows:.

(1) [No Change]

(2) Requests for accommodations must include a

description of the accommodation sought, along with a statement of the impairment that necessitates the accommodation and the duration that the accommodation is to be provided. Requests for -4- accommodation shall must not include any information regarding the merits of the case.

(3) If applicable to a court proceeding, the ADA

coordinator, or designee, shall must advise the judge or the judge's staff of the request and proposed accommodation. The court, in its discretion, may require the individual with a disability to provide additional information about the impairment if the proposed accommodation may present a fundamental alteration in the court proceeding.

(4) Requests for accommodations must be made at

least 7 days before the scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving notification if the time before the scheduled court appearance is less than 7 days. The court may, in its discretion, waive this requirement. (e) Response to Accommodation Request. The court must respond to a request for accommodation as follows:.

(1) [No Change]

(2) The court must inform the individual with a

disability of the following: (A) That that the request for accommodation is granted or denied, in whole or in part, and if the request for accommodation is denied, the reason therefor for the denial; or that an alternative accommodation is granted; (B) The the nature of the accommodation to be provided, if any; and (C) The the duration of the accommodation to be provided. If the request for accommodation is granted in its entirety, the court shall must respond to the individual with a disability by any appropriate method. If the request is denied or granted only in part, or if an alternative accommodation is granted, the court must -5- respond to the individual with a disability in writing, as may be appropriate, and if applicable, in an alternative format.

(3) [No Change]

(f) Grievance Procedure.

(1) Each judicial circuit and appellate court shall must

establish and publish grievance procedures that allow for the resolution of complaints. Those procedures may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Florida State Courts System.

(2) If such the grievance involves a matter that may

affect the orderly administration of justice, it is within the discretion of the presiding judge to may stay the proceeding and seek expedited resolution of the grievance. (g) Use of Service Animals.

(1) [No Change]

(2) The court shall must allow the use of a service

animal by an individual with a disability in facilities of the courts and when participating in all programs or activities provided by the courts, as provided in and subject to the requirements of the ADA and Florida law.

(3) Subject to the requirements of the ADA, an

individual seeking to use a service animal in a scheduled court appearance should must notify the court in advance pursuant to under the procedures in subdivision (d). The failure to give advance notification shall does not preclude the use of a service animal where otherwise permissible under

this rule. (h) Use of Emotional Support Animals.

(1) [No Change]

(2) The court may permit an individual the use of and accompaniment of an emotional support animal when participating -6- in programs, services, or activities provided by the courts of this state.

(3) An individual seeking to use an emotional support animal in a scheduled court appearance must notify the court in advance pursuant tounder the procedures in subdivision (d). -7-