

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

In re: Amendments to Rules Regulating the Florida Bar—Chapter 3

No. SC2025-1180 · No. SC2025-1180 · Decided February 12, 2026

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Florida adopts, with modifications, amendments to Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. The amendments revise provisions concerning the Board of Governors, disciplinary measures, waivers of time limits, and grievance committee voting, and become effective February 16, 2026, at 12:01 a.m.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | Supreme Court of Florida                                                                                                                |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Per Curiam; Chief Justice Muñoz; Justice Canady; Justice Labarga; Justice Couriel; Justice Grosshans; Justice Francis; Justice Sasso    |
| JURISDICTION          | Supreme Court of Florida                                                                                                                |
| DECIDED               | February 12, 2026                                                                                                                       |
| DOCKET                | SC2025-1180                                                                                                                             |
| DISPOSITION           | approved                                                                                                                                |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Original rulemaking proceeding on The Florida Bar's petition to amend Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.                |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Published Florida Supreme Court rulemaking opinion; authoritative as to the adopted amendments to the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. |
| PARTIES               | The Florida Bar                                                                                                                         |

TOPICS

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics attorney discipline professional regulation rulemaking

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Florida should adopt the Florida Bar's proposed amendments to Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

2. What modifications should be made to the proposed amendments concerning interim probation terminology, disciplinary revocation and permanent disbarment, waiver of disciplinary time limits, and grievance committee voting.

## HOLDINGS

1. The court adopted the proposed amendments to rules 3-3.2, 3-5.1, 3-7.2, and 3-7.4, with modifications set forth in the appendix.
2. Rule 3-3.2(b)(2) was amended to use the term "interim probation" for consistency with rule 3-5.2.
3. Rules 3-5.1(a)(5) and (a)(6) were amended to make clear that permanent disbarment and disciplinary revocation without leave to apply for readmission bar a former member from applying for readmission.
4. Rule 3-7.2(l) was amended to permit a respondent to waive the rule's time requirements orally on the record at a hearing before a referee, subject to approval by the referee or the Supreme Court of Florida.
5. Rule 3-7.4(g)(3) was amended to require all grievance committee action to be taken by a majority vote, not merely findings of probable cause and recommendations of guilt.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*"Having fully considered the proposals, we adopt the amendments to Chapter 3 proposed by the Bar with modifications."* (-2-)

*"The amendments become effective February 16, 2026, at 12:01 a.m."* (-2- to -3-)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Florida Bar proposed amendments to Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, governing attorney discipline, disciplinary measures, waiver of time limits, and grievance committee procedures. The Board of Governors approved the proposals, and the Bar published notice inviting comments. No comments were received.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Florida Bar petitioned the Supreme Court of Florida to amend rules 3-3.2, 3-5.1, 3-7.2, and 3-7.4. The proposed amendments were approved by the Bar's Board of Governors and published for public comment; no comments were received. The court adopted the proposed amendments with modifications, effective February 16, 2026, at 12:01 a.m.

## DISPOSITION

approved