

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

In re: Amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215

No. SC2023-1114 · No. SC2023-1114 · Decided September 28, 2023

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Florida adopts amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215 concerning trial court administration. The amendments require circuits to publish local rules, administrative orders, and individual judge and divisional practices and procedures on circuit websites, prohibit requiring communication solely by written letter, and require procedures to ensure compliance with law and court rules. The amendments take effect January 1, 2024, at 12:01 a.m.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | Supreme Court of Florida                                                                                                                                                               |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Per Curiam; Carlos G. Muñoz, C.J.; Charles T. Canady, J.; Jorge Labarga, J.; Renatha Francis, J.; John D. Couriel, J.; Jamie R. Grosshans, J.; Renatha S. Sasso, J.                    |
| JURISDICTION          | Florida                                                                                                                                                                                |
| DECIDED               | September 28, 2023                                                                                                                                                                     |
| DOCKET                | SC2023-1114                                                                                                                                                                            |
| DISPOSITION           | approved                                                                                                                                                                               |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Original rulemaking proceeding in which the Supreme Court of Florida considered and adopted proposed amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | precedential                                                                                                                                                                           |

TOPICS

- rulemaking
- civil procedure
- administrative law
- administrative procedure act

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- administrative law
- judicial administration

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Florida should adopt the proposed amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215.
2. What requirements should govern the publication, accessibility, and consistency of individual judge and divisional practices and procedures, local rules, and administrative orders.

## HOLDINGS

1. The Supreme Court of Florida adopted the proposed amendments to rule 2.215, effective January 1, 2024, at 12:01 a.m.
2. Individual judge and divisional practices and procedures must be published on the applicable circuit's website; administrative orders of a general and continuing nature must also be published there; and circuits must maintain procedures for continuing review to ensure accessibility and consistency with established law and rules of procedure.
3. No judge or division may establish a practice or procedure that requires attorneys or parties to communicate with the court solely by written letter.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“We amend rule 2.215 to require that individual judge and divisional practices and procedures, as well as local rules and administrative orders, be located on each circuit’s website.” (2)*

*“We further amend the rule to prohibit the practice of requiring attorneys or parties to communicate with the court solely by written letter.” (2)*

*“Neither a division nor a judge may establish practices or procedures that contradict established law or rule of procedure.” (6)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In November 2021, the Supreme Court of Florida established the Workgroup on Judicial Practices in the Trial Courts to review procedures and instructions used by individual judges and determine whether they were accessible, understandable, and consistent with court rules and law. The Workgroup recommended amendments to rule 2.215 to provide litigants with transparent and ready access to courtroom practices and procedures.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Judicial Management Council's Workgroup on Judicial Practices in the Trial Courts recommended amendments to rule 2.215 concerning the accessibility and consistency of courtroom practices, local rules, and administrative orders. The Supreme Court of Florida adopted the amendments as proposed, made them effective January 1, 2024, and invited comments because the amendments had not previously been published for comment.

## DISPOSITION

approved

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