

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

In re: Amendments to Florida Rule of Traffic Court 6.450

No. SC2024-1763 (Fla. Sept. 11, 2025) · No. SC2024-1763 · Decided September 11, 2025

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Florida adopts amendments to Florida Rule of Traffic Court 6.450, governing the order of hearing. The amendments permit hearing officials to examine witnesses at any time before closing statements begin and clarify that no testimony or evidence may be entered into the record after closing statements commence. The amendments are effective immediately.

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	September 11, 2025
DOCKET	SC2024-1763
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding concerning proposed amendments to Florida Rule of Traffic Court 6.450.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published rulemaking opinion of the Supreme Court of Florida

TOPICS

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Traffic court procedure

Court rules

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the Supreme Court of Florida should adopt the proposed amendments to Florida Rule of Traffic Court 6.450.
- Whether the rule should permit further examination of witnesses at any time before closing statements begin and prohibit additional testimony or evidence after closing statements commence.

HOLDINGS

1. The Supreme Court of Florida adopted the proposed amendments to rule 6.450 as reflected in the appendix.
2. Under amended rule 6.450(e), a hearing official may further examine or allow further examination at any time before closing statements commence; under amended rule 6.450(f), once a closing statement has begun, no further testimony or evidence may be entered into the record.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Having considered the Committee’s report, we hereby adopt the amendments as proposed.” (at 1)

“The more significant amendments are as follows.” (at 1)

“The amendments are effective immediately.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Florida Bar's Traffic Court Rules Committee proposed amendments to Florida Rule of Traffic Court 6.450, and the Committee unanimously approved the proposal. The Board of Governors unanimously recommended acceptance. The proposal was published online and in The Florida Bar News, later republished by the Supreme Court, and no comments were received.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Florida Bar's Traffic Court Rules Committee filed a report proposing amendments to rule 6.450. The Committee and the Board of Governors unanimously recommended adoption, and the proposal was published twice for comment without receiving any comments. The Supreme Court of Florida adopted the amendments as proposed and made them effective immediately.

DISPOSITION

approved

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Supreme Court of Florida _____ No. SC2024-1763 _____ IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA RULE OF TRAFFIC COURT 6.450. September 11, 2025 PER CURIAM. The Florida Bar’s Traffic Court Rules Committee has filed a report proposing amendments to Florida Rule of Traffic Court 6.450 (Order of Hearing).

The Committee unanimously approved the proposed amendments, and the Board of Governors unanimously recommends their acceptance. The Committee published the proposed amendments online and in the August 2024 edition of The Florida Bar News, and it received no comments.

After the proposed amendments were filed with the Court, we republished the proposal and also received no comments. Having considered the Committee's report, we hereby adopt the amendments as proposed. The more significant amendments are as follows.

First, we amend subdivision (e) (Further Examination) of rule 6.450 to allow hearing officials to examine witnesses any time before commencement of closing statements. Next, we amend subdivision (f) (Closing Statement) to clarify that no testimony or evidence may be entered into the record once closing statements have commenced.

Accordingly, the Florida Rules of Traffic Court are hereby amended as reflected in the appendix to this opinion. New language is indicated by underscoring; deletions are indicated by struck-through type. The amendments are effective immediately. It is so ordered. MUÑIZ, C.J., and CANADY, LABARGA, COURIEL, GROSSHANS, FRANCIS, and SASSO, JJ., concur. THE FILING OF A MOTION FOR REHEARING SHALL NOT ALTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE AMENDMENTS.

Original Proceeding – Florida Rules of Traffic Court Rand Scott Lieber, Chair, Traffic Court Rules Committee, Hollywood, Florida, Mary Ann Etzler, Past Chair, Traffic Court Rules Committee, Orlando, Florida, Joshua E. Doyle, Executive Director, The Florida Bar, Tallahassee, Florida, and Kelly Noel Smith, Bar Liaison, The Florida Bar, Tallahassee, Florida, for Petitioner -2- APPENDIX RULE 6.450.

ORDER OF HEARING (a) When Traffic Infraction Admitted. If a defendant admits that the traffic infraction was committed, the official shall must permit the defendant to offer a statement concerning the commission of the infraction.

The official may examine the defendant and issuing officer concerning the infraction prior to making a determination as to the civil penalty to be imposed. (b) Description of Procedure. Before the commencement of a hearing the official shall must briefly describe and explain the purposes and procedure of the hearing and the rights of the defendant. (c) Defense.

The defendant may offer sworn testimony and evidence and, after such testimony is offered, shall must answer any questions asked by the official. (d) Additional Witnesses. If the testimony of additional witnesses is to be offered, the order in which the witnesses shall must testify shall must be determined by the official conducting the hearing. Any such witness shall must be sworn and shall must testify, and may then be questioned by the official, and thereafter may be questioned by the defendant or counsel. (e) Further Examination.

Upon the conclusion of such testimony and examination At any time prior to closing statements commencing, the official may further examine or allow such examination as the official deems appropriate. (f) Closing Statement. At the conclusion of all testimony and examination, the

defendant or counsel shall must be permitted to make a statement in the nature of a closing argument.

Once any closing statement has begun, no further testimony or evidence may be entered into the record. (g) [No Change] -3-