

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

In re: Amendments to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure— 2020 Regular-Cycle Report

No. SC20-162 (Fla. Nov. 12, 2020) · No. SC20-162 · Decided November 12, 2020

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Florida adopts amendments to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure and numerous Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Forms based on the Family Law Rules Committee's 2020 regular-cycle report. The amendments address transfers of actions, process, mandatory financial disclosure, discovery, subpoenas, child support enforcement, electronic filing and service, and grandparent visitation forms, with an effective date of January 1, 2021.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Charles T. Canady, Chief Justice; R. Fred Lewis; Jorge Labarga; Lawson; Carlos G. Muñoz; John D. Curiel; Renatha Francis Grosshans
JURISDICTION	Florida
DECIDED	November 12, 2020
DOCKET	SC20-162
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding concerning the Florida Bar Family Law Rules Committee's regular-cycle report proposing amendments to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure and related approved forms.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Florida Supreme Court rulemaking opinion; binding to the extent it adopts and sets the effective date of the amended rules and forms.

TOPICS

[family law procedure](#)[family law](#)[appellate procedure](#)[child support](#)[grandparent rights](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[family law](#)[civil procedure](#)[appellate procedure](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court should adopt the proposed amendments to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure and related forms.
2. What modifications, if any, should be made to the proposed amendments before adoption.
3. When the amended rules and forms should become effective.

HOLDINGS

1. The Supreme Court adopted the proposed amendments to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure and related forms, with minor modifications.
2. The amended rules and amended and new forms became effective January 1, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.
3. By adopting the new and amended forms, the Court expressed no opinion as to their correctness or applicability.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“By adoption of the new and amended forms, we express no opinion as to their correctness or applicability.”
(at 7)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Florida Bar Family Law Rules Committee proposed amendments to several family-law procedural rules and forms, including provisions concerning transfers, service, mandatory financial disclosure, subpoenas, child-support enforcement, limited appearances, financial affidavits, and grandparent visitation. The proposals were published for comment, and the Court received comments both before and after the Committee filed its report. The Court adopted the proposals with minor modifications and established an effective date of January 1, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Florida Bar's Family Law Rules Committee submitted proposed amendments to the Florida Supreme Court. The Board of Governors unanimously approved the proposals, and the Committee and Court published them for public comment. After considering the report and comments, the Supreme Court adopted the amendments with minor modifications.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

- In re Amendments to Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.140, 289 So. 3d 1264 (Fla. 2020)
- In re Amendments to Fla. Supreme Court Approved Family Law Forms, 173 So. 3d 19 (Fla. 2015)
- Turner v. Rogers, 564 U.S. 431 (2011)

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