

# Amendments to the Rules of Juvenile Procedure

The Florida Supreme Court recently adopted amendments to the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure, as proposed by the Juvenile Court Rules Committee. The amendments are in response to chapter 2020-65 and chapter 2020-138, Laws of Florida, which amend sections 39.0137, 39.522, 39.6011, and 39.701, Florida Statutes (2019). *See In re Amends. to Fla. R. Juv. P.*, No. SC20-1153 (Fla. Sept. 10, 2020).

The Court invites all interested persons to comment on the amendments, which are summarized by the Committee below and reproduced in full online at <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Opinions/Amendments-to-Approved-Rules>. All comments must be filed with the Court on or before November 24, 2020, with a certificate of service verifying that a copy has been served on the Committee Chair, Matthew Charles Wilson, Children's Legal Services, 160 West Government Street, Suite 701, Pensacola, Florida 32502-5735, [matthew.wilson@myflfamilies.com](mailto:matthew.wilson@myflfamilies.com), and on the Bar Staff Liaison to the Committee, Mikalla Andies Davis, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, [mdavis@floridabar.org](mailto:mdavis@floridabar.org), as well as a separate request for oral argument if the person filing the comment wishes to participate in oral argument, which may be scheduled in this case. The Committee Chair has until December 15, 2020, to file a response to any comments filed with the Court. If filed by an attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar, the comment must be electronically filed via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal (Portal) in accordance with *In re Electronic Filing in the Supreme Court of Florida via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal*, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC13-7 (Feb. 18, 2013). If filed by a nonlawyer or a lawyer not licensed to practice in Florida, the comment may be, but is not required to be, filed via the Portal. Comments filed via the Portal must be submitted in Microsoft Word 97 or higher. *See In re Electronic Filing in the Florida Supreme Court*, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC17-27 (May 9, 2017). Any person unable to submit a comment electronically must mail or hand-deliver the originally signed comment to the Florida Supreme Court, Office of the Clerk, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927; no additional copies are required or will be accepted.

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA**

**IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA RULES OF JUVENILE PROCEDURE—2020 FAST-TRACK REPORT, Case No. SC20-1153**

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Reason for Amendments</b>
Rule 8.225 (Process, Diligent Searches, and Service of Pleadings and Papers)	Adds a new subdivision (a)(5) regarding service of persons on active military duty in dependency cases consistent with the statute changes.
Rule 8.345 (Post-Disposition Relief)	Adds a new subdivision (b) regarding changing of custody consistent with the statute changes. Adds subdivision title for (b)(2) and adds new subdivisions (b)(2)(A) and (b)(2)(B) for greater clarity. Adds a new subdivision (c) regarding changing of permanency goal consistent with the statute amendments.
Rule 8.400 (Case Plan Development)	Adds a new subdivision (b)(6) regarding the notice that must be given to parent to work together with caregivers consistent with the statute. Renumbers the remaining subdivision as (b)(7) to accommodate the new subdivision (b)(6).
Rule 8.415 (Judicial Review of Dependency Cases)	In subdivision (b)(2) and (c), replaces “legal custodian” with “caregiver” for consistency with the changes to the statutes. In subdivision (e), deletes the comma after “parent” and “, or legal custodian” and adds or after parent for consistency with the change to the statute. In subdivision (g)(1), adds a sentence regarding retaining the court’s jurisdiction consistent with change to the statutes.