

Proposed amendments Rules of Civil Procedure 1.280 (General Provisions Governing Discovery) and 1.340 (Interrogatories to Parties)

The Florida Bar's Civil Procedure Rules Committee (Committee) has submitted to the Florida Supreme Court a report proposing amendments to Florida Rules of Civil Procedure 1.280 (General Provisions Governing Discovery) and 1.340 (Interrogatories to Parties). The proposed amendments would require litigants to state each question, interrogatory, or discovery request when responding to requests for production, written deposition questions, interrogatories, and requests for admissions, and also would delete the requirement that a blank space be provided after each interrogatory.

The Court invites all interested persons to comment on the proposed amendments, which are summarized by the Committee below and reproduced in full online at www.floridasupremecourt.org/Case-Information/Rules-Cases-Proposed-Amendments. All comments must be filed with the Court on or before June 30, 2021, with a certificate of service verifying that a copy has been served on the Committee Chair, Ceci Culpepper Berman, Brannock Humphries & Berman, 1111 West Cass Street, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33606-1308, cberman@bhappeals.com, and on the Bar Staff Liaison to the Committee, Mikalla Andies Davis, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, midavis@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 July 21, 2021, 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 FLORIDA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 1.280 AND 1.340, CASE NO. SC21-120

Rule	Explanation
Rule 1.280 (General Provisions Governing Discovery)	Adds subdivision (h) that requires litigants, when responding to requests for production, written deposition questions, interrogatories, and requests for admissions, to state the deposition question, interrogatory, or discovery request followed by the answer, objection, or other response.
Rule 1.340 (Interrogatories to Parties)	In subdivision (e), deletes the first three sentences requiring a blank space be left following the interrogatory as it is outdated and unnecessary considering the amendment to Rule 1.280. Also, deletes “The i” and replaces it with “I” in the fourth sentence for clarity considering the prior sentences were deleted.

