

In the Iowa Supreme Court

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**In the Matter of Adopting)
 Felony Conviction Challenge for)
 Cause Amendments to Chapter) **Order**
 1 Rules of Civil Procedure and)
 Chapter 2 Rules of Criminal)
 Procedure)**

On August 5, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds signed Executive Order 7, which restored the citizenship rights of thousands of Iowans who have completed their felony sentences.¹ Jury service is an important aspect of citizenship. The current Iowa Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure permit the removal for cause of prospective jurors based on the existence of a prior felony conviction, regardless of when the conviction occurred and regardless of whether the sentence has been completed. It is the supreme court's view that the restoration of citizenship rights includes the restoration of the ability to serve on a jury.

Therefore, in order to give full effect to Executive Order 7, the supreme court amends Iowa Rule of Civil Procedure 1.915(6)(a) and Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.18(5)(a) to clarify that these rules do not allow a challenge for cause of a prospective juror whose citizenship rights have been restored by the executive order.


A review of the Iowa Rules of Criminal Procedure—chapter 2 of the Iowa Court Rules—is currently ongoing and nearing completion. It is anticipated that amendments to rule 2.18 will address the subject of challenges for cause. However, as an immediate measure, the court adopts this supervisory order for application to both civil and criminal cases.

¹Found at https://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/EO7%20-%20Voting%20Restoration.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

The rule amendments to chapter 1 and chapter 2 of the Iowa Court Rules provided with this order are temporarily adopted effective immediately. The amendments will permanently take effect subject to Legislative Council review consistent with the provisions of Iowa Code section 602.4202.

Dated this 19th day of February, 2021.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By: 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

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