

In the Iowa Supreme Court

**Request for Public Comment on
Proposed Amendments to the Iowa
Rules of Evidence in Chapter 5 of
the Iowa Court Rules****Order**

On August 31, 2021, the Iowa Supreme Court established the Iowa Rules of Evidence Substantive Review Task Force (Task Force) to evaluate and recommend substantive updates to the Iowa Rules of Evidence. The Iowa rules adopted in 1984 were patterned after the Federal Rules of Evidence, but many of those Iowa rules have not thereafter been amended to track various carefully vetted amendments that have since been made to the corresponding federal rules.

The Task Force includes experienced judges, attorneys, and law professors. Iowa Supreme Court Justice Thomas Waterman serves as Chair of the Task Force. Iowa Court of Appeals Judge Sharon Greer serves as Vice-Chair of the Task Force. Drake Law School Professor Laurie Doré serves as Reporter of the Task Force.

The Task Force divided itself into three committees focusing on civil, criminal, and hearsay issues affected by the current differences between the Iowa rules and federal rules. At its third full meeting in January 2022, the Task Force addressed proposed amendments that are explained in detail in the February 3, 2022 Interim Task Force Report provided with this order.

The supreme court has reviewed the Interim Task Force Report and proposed amendments to conform the Iowa rules to the amended federal rules. Prior to taking further action, the supreme court seeks public comment on the proposed amendments. The supreme court's request for public comment does not imply that the court will adopt any proposed amendment without further consideration.

The proposed amendments to the Iowa Rules of Evidence are provided with this order and are available on the judicial branch website at

<https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/supreme-court/orders/>. In addition, copies of the proposed amendments are available at the office of the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court.

Any interested organization, agency, or person may submit written comments. Comments about a proposed rule amendment must refer to the specific line rule number and line of text (for example, “Rule 5.404, line 14”). **Email comments must be sent to rules.comments@iowacourts.gov, with “Rules of Evidence” stated in the subject line of the email, and be sent as an attachment to the email in Microsoft Word format.** Instead of submission by email, comments may be delivered in person or mailed to the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.

Any comments received may be posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.

The deadline for submitting comments is **April 16, 2022**.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2022.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By: 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice