

**In the Iowa Supreme Court**

**Request for Public Comment on  
Proposed Iowa Rules of Remote  
Proceedings**

**Order**

On March 10, 2023, the Iowa Supreme Court established the Remote Proceedings Task Force (Task Force) to recommend court rules or policies for standard use of remote proceedings in criminal, civil, family law, and juvenile cases. The court charged the Task Force to provide recommendations allowing for equal access, due process, transparency, fairness, and safety for all court users. Chief Justice Susan Larson Christensen served as Chair of the Task Force.

The Task Force comprised four work groups:

- *Criminal Work Group*, with Judge Celene Gogerty as work group chair and attorneys Nicholas Sarcone and Brian Williams as co-chairs.
- *Civil Work Group*, with Judge Amy Moore as work group chair and attorneys Greg Lederer and Jessica Ruba-Dunning as co-chairs.
- *Family Law Work Group*, with Judge Chad Kepros as work group chair and attorneys Danielle Ellingson and Stacy Warren as co-chairs.
- *Juvenile Work Group*, with Judge Linnea Nicol as work group chair and Judge Richelle Mahaffey and attorney Emily Grothe as co-chairs.

The Task Force included 110 members representing judges and magistrates, attorneys, service providers, attorney general's office, state public defender's office, county attorneys, Iowa Legal Aid, court administrators, judicial specialists, court reporters, and juvenile court services.

The entire Task Force met remotely on April 4, 2023, and from then through June the Task Force work groups and subgroups met regularly before submitting each work group's report and proposed rules. Based on this information and continuing work group feedback, Iowa Supreme Court staff attorneys prepared the Task Force's proposed Iowa Rules of Remote Proceedings provided with this request for public comment. The proposed rules, developed and combined from consultation with each work group, take into consideration the major concepts and ideas of each group.

The supreme court has received the proposed rules and the work group reports. Prior to taking further action, the supreme court seeks public comment on the proposed Iowa Rules of Remote Proceedings. The supreme court's request for public comment does not imply that the court will adopt any proposed rule without further consideration.

The proposed Iowa Rules of Remote Proceedings are provided with this order and are available on the judicial branch website at <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/supreme-court/orders/>. Also provided with this order are the reports of the Task Force work groups. In addition, copies of the proposed rules and the work group reports are available at the office of the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court. Please limit comments to the proposed Iowa Rules of Remote Proceedings.


Any interested organization, agency, or person may submit written comments on the proposed Iowa Rules of Remote Proceedings. Comments about a proposed rule must refer to the specific line rule number and line of text (for example, "Rule 15.301(1), line 7"). Comments sent by email must be sent to **rules.comments@iowacourts.gov**, with **"Iowa Rules of Remote Proceedings"** stated in the subject line of the email, and be sent as an attachment to the email in Microsoft Word format. 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 4:30 p.m. on **August 3, 2023**.

Dated this 10th day of July, 2023.

**The Iowa Supreme Court**

By:   
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Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice