

TO: THE BAR AND THE BENCH OF VIRGINIA
FROM: The Supreme Court of Virginia

September 3, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

The attached revised Rules are the result of a four year study by members of the Virginia bar and the Advisory Committee on the Virginia Rules of Court. The purpose of these amendments is to clarify the meaning of the word “shall” formerly appearing in these Rules and not to change existing law; as revised, the Rules implement and comply with all statutory mandates addressing these topics. The amended Rules will be promulgated in accord with the provisions of Virginia Code § 8.01-3.

The full text of these revisions was previously circulated to all Virginia bar organizations and published April 12, 2019 for a several-month public comment period.

These Rules revisions generated no controversy among the bar and, after the comment period, they were endorsed for adoption by the Rules Committee in September of 2019 and then subsequently approved by the Judicial Council of Virginia on October 17, 2019. They have now been reviewed by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

After study and discussion by the Justices, on September 1, 2020 the Court has resolved to provide another 60-day period for public comment, prior to ordering their promulgation.

Email Comments: Send any comments on the planned amendments to portions of the Virginia Rules as published herewith on or before November 6, 2020 to:

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