

**STATE OF VERMONT
VERMONT SUPREME COURT
NOVEMBER TERM, 2024**

Order Abrogating Administrative Order No. 54

PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES FOLLOWING FLOOD EMERGENCY

Pursuant to the Vermont Constitution, Chapter II, § 30, and 4 V.S.A. § 901, it is hereby ordered:

1. That Administrative Order No. 54, promulgated August 7, 2023, and effective August 9, 2023, be abrogated.

Reporter’s Notes—2025 Amendment

Administrative Order No. 54 is abrogated in its entirety. On August 7, 2023, in response to the floods that devastated Vermont in July 2023, the Court promulgated Administrative Order 54. The order created a “Limited Emergency Pro Bono Law License” that authorized Vermont lawyers on inactive status and out-of-state lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to those impacted by the floods without activating their law licenses or obtaining formal admission under Administrative Order 41. Under § 6, the basis for the emergency license was set to end when the Court “declares that the Flood Emergency has either ended or abated to such an extent that relaxation of the Rules of Admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court and Supreme Court Administrative Order 41 is no longer required.”

Although many Vermonters continue to cope with the impact of the 2023 floods, the emergency has ended, at least to the extent that it warranted relaxation of the Rules of Admission and Administrative Order 41. Therefore, the Administrative Order is abrogated.

2. That this Order be effective on January 1, 2025. The Reporter’s Notes are advisory.
3. That this Order be promulgated without resort to the notice and comment procedures set forth in Administrative Order No. 11 since the flood emergency has now abated.
4. That the Chief Justice is authorized to report these amendments to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of 12 V.S.A. § 1, as amended.

Dated in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont, this 4th day of November, 2024.



Signed by the Vermont Supreme Court

Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice

Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice

Karen R. Carroll, Associate Justice

William D. Cohen, Associate Justice

Nancy J. Waples, Associate Justice