

STATE OF VERMONT
VERMONT SUPREME COURT
AUGUST TERM, 2025

Order Promulgating Amendments to Rule 17(f) of the Vermont Rules for Family Proceedings

Pursuant to the Vermont Constitution, Chapter II, § 37, and 12 V.S.A. § 1, it is hereby ordered:

1. That Rule 17(f) of the Vermont Rules for Family Proceedings be amended as follows (new matter underlined):

RULE 17. REMOTE AND HYBRID PROCEEDINGS WITH TESTIMONY OR PARTICIPATION BY VIDEO OR AUDIO CONFERENCE

(f) **Abuse Prevention and Abuse Maltreatment Prevention for Vulnerable Adults.** All proceedings under 15 V.S.A. §§ 1101-1115 and 33 V.S.A. §§ 6931-6941 will be hybrid unless upon a party’s request or on the court’s own initiative, the court orders participation by a particular method: in person or by video or audio conference. Requests by a party need not comply with V.R.C.P. 7 but must be served pursuant to V.R.C.P. 5.

Reporter’s Notes—2026 Amendment

Vermont Rule for Family Proceedings 17(f) is amended to add Abuse Maltreatment Prevention for Vulnerable Adults as a proceeding where participation can be either in person or remote unless a court orders participation by a particular method. These proceedings are very similar in nature to abuse-prevention proceedings already covered by V.R.F.P. 17(f) and stalking proceedings under V.R.C.P. 43.1(k).

2. That this amendment be prescribed and promulgated, effective on January 1, 2026. The Reporter’s Notes are advisory.

3. That the Chief Justice is authorized to report this amendment 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 August, 2025.



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