

**VERMONT SUPREME COURT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RULES OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT  
RECORDS**

**2025 Annual Report**

**I. Summary**

The Advisory Committee on the Rules of Public Access to Court Records submits this report to the Vermont Supreme Court pursuant to Administrative Order No. 40, § 4. This report covers the committee's activities during the following period: January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

During this period, the committee met on January 31, May 2, and September 12.

**II. Amendments Promulgated by the Court**

There were no amendments to the Rules of Public Access to Court Records during this period.

**III. Pending Proposed Rules**

Currently pending is a proposed amendment to add subsections (b)(18) and (b)(19) to V.R.P.A.C.R. 6. As described in Chair Tomasi's January 9, 2026 letter to Chief Justice Reiber, these amendments would clarify that all documents filed in connection with inquest proceedings and requests for nontestimonial identification orders are exempt from public access, consistent with current superior court practice and the exemption for search warrants. The public comment period closed on December 6, 2025. The Committee did not receive any public comments. The Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules reviewed the proposed amendment at its December 12, 2025 meeting and did not have any substantive questions or concerns.

**IV. Matters Remaining on Committee's Agenda**

The Committee is working with the Advisory Committee on the Rules of Probate Procedure to address the public-access status of records in minor emancipation proceedings. The Committee is also monitoring the progress of H.572, which proposes to amend 12 V.S.A. § 5, the statute governing public access to records in criminal, family, and probate proceedings.