

**VERMONT SUPREME COURT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RULES
FOR ELECTRONIC FILING**

2025 Annual Report

I. Summary

The Advisory Committee on the Rules for Electronic Filing submits this report to the Vermont Supreme Court pursuant to Administrative Order No. 53, § 4. This report covers the committee's activities from January 2025 to January 2026. During this period, the committee met on March 14, July 29, September 12, and December 12, 2025.

There were no changes to committee membership during the year.

Justice Nancy Waples served as the Committee's Supreme Court Liaison.

II. Amendments Promulgated by the Court

During this period, the Court promulgated the following amendments to the Electronic Filing Rules:

- 2020 V.R.E.F. 9(d). Promulgated October 6, 2026, effective January 1, 2026. These amendments align the rule regarding use of electronic signatures to current practice and allow signatures to be affixed to documents filed by the parties, for example proposed orders.
- 2020 V.R.E.F. 5(d)(1). Emergency Promulgated October 6, 2025. Emergency Made Permanent January 6, 2026, effective immediately. Rule 5(d)(1) relates to the processing of new civil filings. Due to litigation in federal court, the rule was previously amended to eliminate any review of filings prior to entry into the case management system. The federal injunction was changed, and the rule was amended to provide for pre-access review of new civil complaints for confidential information.
- 2020 V.R.E.F. 11(f). Promulgated January 6, 2026, effective July 1, 2026. The amendment to Rule 11(f) conforms the rule to current practice regarding the sending of court notices to self-represented litigants. The rule previously indicated that all electronic filers would receive court notices and orders through electronic means, but the automated electronic notice system is available only for attorneys. The rule is amended to indicate that the court will transmit notice to all parties and that the method may vary.

III. Pending Proposed Rules

The following rule proposals are currently out for comment.

- 2020 V.R.E.F. 1, 2(h), 3, 5(d), and 6(c). This package of rule amendments is intended to implement efilings for hearing panels of the Professional Responsibility Board. Although most of the amendments are technical, one substantive change to Rule 3(b)(9) provides that a licensed attorney who is self-represented in a proceeding before a hearing panel, is not required to electronically file.

IV. Matters Remaining on Committee's Agenda

The committee is continuing to work on the following items:

- Electronic filing by self-represented litigants. The committee continues to be interested in gaining more information regarding the number of self-represented litigants using the efilings system and increasing ways to make the system accessible.
- Hyperlinks in documents. There is a subcommittee made up of members of efilings and civil rules considering possible changes to V.R.E.F. 7(a)(7) and V.R.A.P. 32(a)(1)(E) to allow internal bookmarks and hyperlinks in efilings.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. John A. Dooley, Chair

Emily Wetherell, Reporter