

**VERMONT SUPREME COURT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR FAMILY PROCEEDINGS**

**AGENDA FOR MEETING OF  
April 10, 2026**

The Family Rules Committee will meet virtually on TEAMS on April 10, 2026, from 1:30 – 3:00 pm to consider the following agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Approval of draft minutes for the meeting of January 23, 2026.
3. Status of proposed amendments:
  - a. Amendment to Rule 2 related to the testimony of children. The proposed amendment to Rule 2 (d) requires parties in CHINS and TPR proceedings to provide notice of intent to call a minor child as a fact witness under oath and permits the court to order special arrangements in appropriate circumstances. The amendment is out for comment. Comments are due by April 13. Judge McDonald-Kerry to report.
  - b. Amendment to V.R.F.P. 4.3(b)(2)(C) to resolve inconsistency between the rule and 15 V.S.A. §§ 782 and 783 with respect to the scheduling of wage withholding petitions. The proposed amendment to Rule 4.3(b) strikes paragraph (b)(2) related to procedures for establishing wage withholding of child support and spousal support and replaces it with new paragraphs (2) and (3) describing the procedures under 15 V.S.A. § 782 and § 783, respectively. Comments are due by April 13. Judge McDonald-Kerry to report.
4. Proposal for further amendment to Rule 9(c) related to requests for temporary orders in RFA proceedings. A further revision to Rule 9(c) to clarify that a request for additional information related to a request for an emergency order may be made whenever the information provided is insufficient “to rule on the request” rather than insufficient to “support the issuance of an order” as currently stated. Committee to continue discussion of the amendment commenced at the meeting in January. A draft of the amendment incorporating changes suggested in January has been sent to Committee.
5. Proposal to amend Rule 4.1(a)(2) related to service by OCS: Based on the provisions of Administrative Order No. 50, the Office of Child Support (OCS) is currently permitted to serve a defendant if OCS is providing Title IVD services on the case and is permitted to effectuate service by email in cases where it has obtained a notice of appearance from the defendant where defendant has opted for email service. Trial Court Operations and OCS have requested that the A.O. 50 provisions of be adopted as a permanent rule amendment to Rule 4.1(a)(2). Committee to discuss a draft amendment.
6. Applicability of V.R.Cr.P. 41.1 (Non-Testimonial Orders) to Juvenile Proceedings. In January, the Committee voted to approve recommendations to the Criminal Rules Committee related to children who are the subject of an NTA. Judge McDonald-Cady to report on any further developments.

7. Proposal to review Family Rules for respectful language: Judge McDonald-Cady to report on progress.
8. New Business:
  - a. Proposal to amend Rule 7(d) related to child witnesses in domestic proceedings:  
This proposal is on hold until the Committee approves a proposal to amend Rule 2(d) related to child witnesses in CHINS proceedings.
  - b. Proposal to amend Rule 4.2(a) related to consolidation of Relief from Abuse actions and actions subject to Rule 4.0. The Judiciary's Trial Court Operations Division proposes amending the rule to require automatic consolidation by the court regardless of which proceeding was filed first as long as the parties are the same and there the action is pending or there are orders in effect.
9. 2026 Meeting Schedule: The remaining dates for meetings in 2026 are: July 17 and October 23.
10. Adjourn