

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

Minutes for March 13, 2026 Meeting

Committee Attendance:

Committee Members	Attendance
Honorable John A. Dooley	Present
Honorable Rory Thibault	Present
Honorable David Fenster	Present
Honorable Megan Shafritz	Absent
Honorable Jennifer Barrett	Present
Marcia Schels	Present
Chasity Stoots-Fonberg	Present
Laura LaRosa	Present
Michelle McDonald	Present
Elizabeth Kruska, Esq.	Present
Steven Brown, Esq.	Present
Jordana Levine, Esq.	Absent
Jonathan Rose	Present
Laura Gans	Present

Also present (nonvoting): Emily Wetherell, Reporter; Teri Corsones, Esq., Court Administrator; Hon. Michael Drescher, Supreme Court Liaison

1. Approval of Minutes (draft minutes attached to email) from December 12, 2025

Ms. Schels moved to approve the minutes with three minor edits made by Ms. Corsones; Attorney Kruska seconded the motion; all present voted in favor.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

2. Efiling for PRB Hearing Panel Cases (Reporter Wetherell)

Proposed amendments to the efiling rules and AO 9 promulgated on February 10, 2026, and effective July 1, 2026.

[PROMULGATED-VREF1\(g\),2\(h\),3,5\(d\),6\(c\)--STAMPED.pdf](#)

Ms. Corsones reported that it is expected efiling will begin July 1, 2026. There are some configuration changes that are needed to get efiling implemented for PRB hearing panel cases and the hope is to have that completed so that efiling can begin when the rules become effective.

3. Court Notices to Self-Represented Litigants.

Amendment to 2020 V.R.E.F. 11(f) promulgated on January 6, 2026; effective July 1, 2026.

[PROMULGATED-VREF11\(f\)--STAMPED.pdf](#)

4. Proposal to Amend Rules to Allow Internal Links

Court users group requested a change to the efilings and appellate rules to allow internal links in documents. A subcommittee was formed and has proposed an amendment to V.R.E.F. 7(a)(7) and V.R.A.P. 32(a)(1)(E).

Attorney Rose explained that the subcommittee met with a member of the bar that requested the rule change. Because the efilings system now allows internal links in documents, the subcommittee recommends amending the rule to allow attorneys to use this feature. This would allow for example clicking on an item in the table of contents to jump to a particular part of the document. Ms. Wetherell explained that embedded external links are not permitted as they can still cause a document to error out in the system. Filers can however include html addresses to refer to external links. Attorney Rose explained that the civil rules committee met last week and voted to send the appellate rule to the Court to send out for comment.

Attorney Rose moved to ask Court to send out the efilings rule for comment; Ms. Schels seconded the motion; all present voted in favor.

5. Financial Guardians

J. Dooley provided the committee with a memo on the topic of financial guardians, who are appointed by the probate division pursuant to 14 V.S.A. § 2659. The statute allows appointment of a financial guardian for a minor who owns real or personal property. Under the statute, the financial guardian has “the care and management of the estate of the minor,” but not custody over the minor. The appointment is not case-specific and could require the financial guardian to be aware of or involved in multiple cases if the minors have a financial interest in the outcome of a court case. He noted that there are issues unaddressed by the rules, including whether financial guardians are required to efile and what level of access a financial guardian may obtain to a case under V.R.E.F. 4(c) and V.R.P.A.C.R. 5(d). He requested formation of a subcommittee with members from efilings, public access, and probate to look at the rules related to financial guardians and make recommendations to the various committees.

Attorney Gans volunteered to be on a subcommittee. Ms. Wetherell will follow up with the two other committees and organize a meeting for this work.

6. Other Business

Bulk filing

Ms. Wetherell explained that a new version of the efilings system allows an efiler to submit one document into multiple cases at once. The judiciary is interested in implementing this feature and would like feedback from the efilings rules committee on whether it recommends any amendments or additions to the efilings rules to accommodate this feature. The feature is available for testing in the stage efilings environment.

Attorney Kruska offered to do some testing and come back to the committee with recommendations. She noted that the feature would be very helpful in criminal and juvenile dockets where cases are consolidated. She noted that it would be important to maintain confidentiality of cases. Ms. McDonald also stressed that bulk filing would need to be separate for confidential and public cases, and it would be important to have this clarified for efilers. Attorney Brown was also interested in testing the bulk efilings and reporting back to committee.

J. Dooley mentioned that V.R.E.F. 1(g) authorizes a different kind of bulk filing. Attorney Brown reported that the state’s attorneys are implementing a new case management system with a go live date expected in

May. It is unclear how this will interact with Court's e-filing system. It will hopefully allow direct filing, but he is not sure on how that will work yet. He will report back to the committee at the next meeting with any further information.

Ms. Wetherell will follow up with Attorneys Kruska and Brown to make sure they have information to do the testing.

Ms. Schels moved to adjourn; Ms. Kruska seconded the motion; All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am