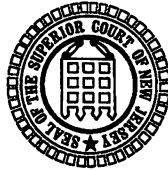


#008

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CHAMBERS OF
CHARLES W. DORTCH, JR., P.J.F.P.
PRESIDING JUDGE FAMILY PART



CAMDEN COUNTY HALL OF JUSTICE
101 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
SUITE 270
CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY 08103-4001
(856) 379-2348

CAMDEN COUNTY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D., Acting Administrative Director

FROM: Hon. Charles W. Dortch, P.J.F.P., Chair, Conference of Family Presiding Judges

DATE: April 16, 2019

RE: Report of the Minority Concerns Committee 2017 – 2019 Rules Cycle

The Conference of Family Presiding Judges (Conference) has reviewed the six 2017-2019 Supreme Court Committee reports. The Conference submits the within concerns regarding proposed amendments in the Supreme Court Minority Concerns Committee Report. Of concern are subparts 1 and 2 of Recommendation 2019:13.

Recommendation 2019:13 proposes “that in minor name changes matters in the Family Part, not related to another Family Part matter such as a divorce or adoption within the preceding three years, the Court adopt the following as standard statewide practices.” Subparts 1 and 2 of the recommendation are:

- 1) Use of initials and sealing of all unredacted records;
- 2) Waiving of the publication requirements;

The Conference is opposed to the use of initials portion of Recommendation 2019:13 as it is not feasible in terms of case tracking, data integrity, and quality assurance.

With regard to that portion of the Recommendation concerning waiving of the publication requirements, the Conference is in support of this if both parents/guardians consent to the name change and the requirements of Rule 4:71(b) are met. If, however, there is not consent of both parents/guardians, the Conference does not support that section of the Recommendation concerning publication waiver. Both parents/guardians must be provided with notice and an opportunity to be heard regarding the name change application.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Perez, Director, Trial Court Services
Joanne M. Dietrich, Assistant Director, Family
Amelia Wachter-Smith, Chief, Family

Yolande P. Marlow, Minority Concerns Committee Staff
Melaney Payne, Special Assistant
Jessica Lewis Kelly, Special Assistant
Ann Marie Fleury, Special Assistant
Gina G. Bellucci, Family Staff Attorney