

NOTICE TO THE BAR

RE: AMENDMENTS TO RULES 4:21A-6 AND 4:24-2

Pursuant to its Order of June 7, 2005, the Supreme Court has adopted amendments to Rules 4:21A-6 and 4:24-2. These amendments take effect upon the date of the Order. A copy of the amended rules and the Order adopting them appear in conjunction with this Notice.

The amendments to R. 4:21A-6(c) make it clear that any trial de novo following arbitration must be scheduled to occur within 90 days after the date of the request. Previously, the rule required the trial to be held within the 90-day period, which mandate did not accommodate appropriate adjournments.

The amendments to R. 4:24-2 require that motions to compel discovery, and to impose or enforce sanctions for failure to provide discovery, must be made returnable prior to the discovery end date. This amendment is in keeping with the intent of the changes to the civil justice system that occurred in September 2000, known as "civil best practices," which is to ensure, insofar as possible, that when the discovery period expires, the case is ready to be scheduled for arbitration or trial.

Philip S. Carchman
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Dated: June 28, 2005

SUPREME COURT ORDER

It is ORDERED that the attached amendments to Rules 4:21A-6 and 4:24-2 of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey are adopted effective immediately.

For the Court
Deborah T. Poritz
Chief Justice
Dated: June 7, 2005

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