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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

IN RE AMENDMENTS TO THE
FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE -
FORM 12.901(a) **CASE NO.: SC17-1226**
_____/

COMMENT BY THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE

RECEIVED, 09/07/2017 10:18:26 AM, Clerk, Supreme Court

This Comment is offered by the Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice (Commission) in support of the proposed Amendments.

The purpose of the Commission is to study the remaining unmet civil legal needs of disadvantaged, low-income, and moderate-income Floridians. To this end, the Commission's Service Options Committee has been directed to collaborate with other entities, as appropriate, to review Florida's Rules of Court Procedure for the purpose of identifying barriers to access.

The Judicial Management Council identified an issue for self-represented litigants attempting to e-file family law forms through the e-portal, where self-represented litigants were required to e-file notarized forms. This process requires the self-represented litigant to complete the form electronically, print the form, have the form notarized, scan the notarized form, and then e-file. This process creates a barrier to access.

The Family Law Rules Committee studied this issue and filed an Out-of-Cycle Report (Report) on July 29, 2017, in which it recommended amendments to

Family Law Form 12.901(a), as set forth in Appendix A to the Report. The Commission respectfully recommends adoption of the proposed amendments.

Respectfully submitted this _7th_ day of September 2017.

/s/ *Gregory W. Coleman*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the _7th day of September 2017, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Comment by the Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice was furnished by e-mail through the Florida Court's E-Filing Portal to Robert Joseph Merlin, Chair of the Family Law Rules Committee, 95 Merrick Way, Ste. 420, Coral Gables, FL 33134-5310, rmerlin@merlinlaw.com, and Mikalla Andies Davis, Staff Liaison to the Family Laws Rules Committee, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, mdavis@floridabar.org.

CERTIFICATE OF TYPEFACE COMPLIANCE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this document has been prepared in MS Word 97 or higher using Times New Roman 14-point font, which complies with the font requirements set forth in Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.100(l).

/s/ *Gregory W. Coleman*

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