

FEDERAL RULES
OF
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

DECEMBER 1, 2025



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THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

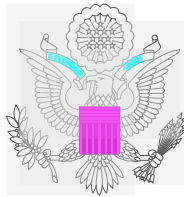
119TH CONGRESS }
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COMMITTEE PRINT

No. 5

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FOREWORD

This document contains the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as amended to December 1, 2025. The rules have been promulgated and amended by the United States Supreme Court pursuant to law, and further amended by Acts of Congress. This document has been prepared by the Committee in response to the need for an official up-to-date document containing the latest amendments to the rules.

For the convenience of the user, where a rule has been amended a reference to the date the amendment was promulgated and the date the amendment became effective follows the text of the rule.

The Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure and the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Judicial Conference of the United States, prepared notes explaining the purpose and intent of the amendments to the rules. The Committee Notes may be found in the Appendix to Title 18, United States Code, following the particular rule to which they relate.

A red rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Jordan".

Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary.

DECEMBER 1, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR PROMULGATION OF RULES

TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE

§ 2072. Rules of procedure and evidence; power to prescribe

(a) The Supreme Court shall have the power to prescribe general rules of practice and procedure and rules of evidence for cases in the United States district courts (including proceedings before magistrate judges thereof) and courts of appeals.

(b) Such rules shall not abridge, enlarge or modify any substantive right. All laws in conflict with such rules shall be of no further force or effect after such rules have taken effect.

(c) Such rules may define when a ruling of a district court is final for the purposes of appeal under section 1291 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 100-702, title IV, § 401(a), Nov. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4648, eff. Dec. 1, 1988; amended Pub. L. 101-650, title III, §§ 315, 321, Dec. 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 5115, 5117.)

§ 2073. Rules of procedure and evidence; method of prescribing

(a)(1) The Judicial Conference shall prescribe and publish the procedures for the consideration of proposed rules under this section.

(2) The Judicial Conference may authorize the appointment of committees to assist the Conference by recommending rules to be prescribed under sections 2072 and 2075 of this title. Each such committee shall consist of members of the bench and the professional bar, and trial and appellate judges.

(b) The Judicial Conference shall authorize the appointment of a standing committee on rules of practice, procedure, and evidence under subsection (a) of this section. Such standing committee shall review each recommendation of any other committees so appointed and recommend to the Judicial Conference rules of practice, procedure, and evidence and such changes in rules proposed by a committee appointed under subsection (a)(2) of this section as may be necessary to maintain consistency and otherwise promote the interest of justice.

(c)(1) Each meeting for the transaction of business under this chapter by any committee appointed under this section shall be open to the public, except when the committee so meeting, in open session and with a majority present, determines that it is in the public interest that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public, and states the reason for so closing the meeting. Minutes of each meeting for the transaction of business under this chapter shall be maintained by the committee and made available to the public, except that any portion of such minutes, relating to a closed meeting and made available to the public, may contain such deletions as may be necessary to avoid frustrating the purposes of closing the meeting.

(2) Any meeting for the transaction of business under this chapter, by a committee appointed under this section, shall be preceded by sufficient notice to enable all interested persons to attend.

(d) In making a recommendation under this section or under section 2072 or 2075, the body making that recommendation shall provide a proposed rule, an explanatory note on the rule, and a written report explaining the body's action, including any minority or other separate views.

(e) Failure to comply with this section does not invalidate a rule prescribed under section 2072 or 2075 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 100-702, title IV, § 401(a), Nov. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4649, eff. Dec. 1, 1988; amended Pub. L. 103-394, title I, § 104(e), Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4110.)

§ 2074. Rules of procedure and evidence; submission to Congress; effective date

(a) The Supreme Court shall transmit to the Congress not later than May 1 of the year in which a rule prescribed under section 2072 is to become effective a copy of the proposed rule. Such rule shall take effect no earlier than December 1 of the year in which such rule is so transmitted unless otherwise provided by law. The Supreme Court may fix the extent such rule shall apply to proceedings then pending, except that the Supreme Court shall not require the application of such rule to further proceedings then pending to the extent that, in the opinion of the court in which such proceedings are pending, the application of such rule in such proceedings would not be feasible or would work injustice, in which event the former rule applies.

(b) Any such rule creating, abolishing, or modifying an evidentiary privilege shall have no force or effect unless approved by Act of Congress.

(Added Pub. L. 100-702, title IV, § 401(a), Nov. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4649, eff. Dec. 1, 1988.)

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Supreme Court prescribes rules of criminal procedure for the district courts pursuant to section 2072 of Title 28, United States Code, as enacted by Title IV “Rules Enabling Act” of Pub. L. 100-702 (approved November 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4648), effective December 1, 1988. Pursuant to section 2074 of Title 28, the Supreme Court transmits to Congress (not later than May 1 of the year in which a rule prescribed under section 2072 is to become effective) a copy of the proposed rule. The rule takes effect no earlier than December 1 of the year in which the rule is transmitted unless otherwise provided by law.

Prior to enactment of Pub. L. 100-702, the Supreme Court promulgated rules of criminal procedure for the district courts pursuant to two sections of Title 18, United States Code. Section 3771 authorized the Court to prescribe rules for all criminal proceedings prior to and including verdict, or finding of guilty or not guilty by the court, or plea of guilty. Section 3772 empowered the Court to prescribe rules with respect to all proceedings after verdict or finding of guilty by the court, or plea of guilty.

Proceedings Prior to and Including Verdict

By act of June 29, 1940, ch. 445, 54 Stat. 688 (subsequently 18 United States Code, §3771), the Supreme Court was authorized to prescribe general rules of criminal procedure prior to and including verdict, finding of guilty or not guilty by the court, or plea of guilty, in criminal proceedings. The rules, and subsequent amendments, were not to take effect until (1) they had been first reported to Congress by the Attorney General at the beginning of a regular session and (2) after the close of that session.

Under a 1949 amendment to 18 U.S.C., §3771, the Chief Justice of the United States, instead of the Attorney General, reported the rules to Congress. In 1950, section 3771 was further amended so that amendments to the rules could be reported to Congress not later than May 1 each year and become effective 90 days after being reported. Effective December 1, 1988, section 3771 was repealed and supplanted by new sections 2072 and 2074 of Title 28, United States Code, see first paragraph of Historical Note above.

The original rules pursuant to act of June 30, 1940, were adopted by order of the Court on December 26, 1944, transmitted to Congress by the Attorney General on January 3, 1945, and became effective March 21, 1946 (327 U.S. 821; Cong. Rec., vol. 91, pt. 1, p. 17, Exec. Comm. 4; H. Doc. 12, 79th Cong.).

Amendments were adopted by order of the Court dated December 27, 1948, transmitted to Congress by the Attorney General on January 3, 1949, and became effective October 20, 1949 (335 U.S. 917, 1949; Cong. Rec., vol. 95, pt. 1, p. 13, Exec. Comm. 16; H. Doc. 30, 81st

Cong.). The amendments affected Rules 17(e)(2), 41(b)(3), 41(g), 54(a)(1), 54(b), 54(c), 55, 56, and 57(a) and Forms 1–27, inclusive.

Further amendments were adopted by order of the Court dated April 9, 1956, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day, and became effective July 8, 1956 (350 U.S. 1017; Cong. Rec., vol. 102, pt. 5, p. 6166, Exec. Comm. 1735; H. Doc. 377, 84th Cong.). The amendments affected Rules 41(a), 46(a)(2), 54(a)(1), and 54(c).

Further amendments were adopted by order of the Court dated February 28, 1966, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day, and became effective July 1, 1966 (383 U.S. 1087; Cong. Rec., vol. 112, pt. 4, p. 4229, Exec. Comm. 2093; H. Doc. 390, 89th Cong.). The amendments affected Rules 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 44, 45, 46, 49, 54, 55, and 56, and Form 26, added new Rules 17.1 and 26.1, and rescinded Rules 19 and 45(c).

Further amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated December 4, 1967, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on January 15, 1968, and became effective July 1, 1968, together with the new Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure (389 U.S. 1125; Cong. Rec., vol. 114, pt. 1, p. 113, Exec. Comm. 1361; H. Doc. 204, 90th Cong.). The amendments affected Rules 45(b), 49(c), 56, and 57, and abrogated the chapter heading “VIII. Appeal”, Rules 37, 38(b), (c), and 39, and Forms 26 and 27.

On March 1, 1971, the Court adopted additional amendments which were transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on March 1, 1971. These amendments became effective July 1, 1971 (401 U.S. 1025; Cong. Rec., vol. 117, pt. 4, p. 4629, Exec. Comm. 341; H. Doc. 92–57). The amendments affected Rules 45(a) and 56.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 24, 1972, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice, accompanied by his letter of transmittal dated April 24, 1972. These amendments became effective October 1, 1972 (406 U.S. 979; Cong. Rec., vol. 118, pt. 11, p. 14262, Exec. Comm. 1903; H. Doc. 92–285). The amendments affected Rules 1, 3, 4(b), (c), 5, 5.1, 6(b), 7(c), 9(b), (c), (d), 17(a), (g), 31(e), 32(b), 38(a), 40, 41, 44, 46, 50, 54, and 55.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated March 18, 1974, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same date. These amendments became effective July 1, 1974 (415 U.S. 1056; Cong. Rec., vol. 120, pt. 5, p. 7012, Exec. Comm. 2062; H. Doc. 93–241). The amendments affected Rules 41(a) and 50.

Further amendments were proposed by the Court in its order dated November 20, 1972, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on February 5, 1973 (409 U.S. 1132 and 419 U.S. 1133, 1136; Cong. Rec., vol. 119, pt. 3, p. 3247, Exec. Comm. 359; H. Doc. 93–46). Although these amendments were to have become effective July 1, 1973, Public Law 93–12 (approved March 30, 1973, 87 Stat. 9) provided that the proposed amendments “shall have no force or effect except to the extent, and with such amendments, as they may be expressly approved by Act of Congress.” Section 3 of Public Law 93–595 (approved January 2, 1975, 88 Stat. 1949) approved the amendments proposed by the Court, to be effective July 1, 1975. The amendments affected Rules 26, 26.1, and 28.

In its order dated April 22, 1974, the Court proposed additional amendments which were transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day. The amendments were to have become effective August 1, 1974 (416 U.S. 1001; Cong. Rec., vol. 120, pt. 9, p. 11472, Exec. Comm. 2223; H. Doc. 93-292). The effective date of the proposed amendments was postponed until August 1, 1975, by Public Law 93-361 (approved July 30, 1974, 88 Stat. 397). Public Law 94-64 (approved July 31, 1975, 89 Stat. 370) approved the amendments proposed by the Court and further amended the rules, to be effective December 1, 1975, except Rule 11(e)(6), to be effective August 1, 1975. The amendments affected Rules 4, 9(a), 11, 12, 15, 16, 17(f), 20, 32(a), (c), (e), and 43, and added Rules 12.1, 12.2, and 29.1.

Technical amendments to Rules 9(b), 9(c), 16(a), and 16(b) were made by section 5 of Public Law 94-149 (approved December 12, 1975, 89 Stat. 806).

Additional amendments were proposed by the Court by order dated April 26, 1976, were transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (425 U.S. 1157; Cong. Rec., vol. 122, pt. 9, p. 11117, Exec. Comm. 3084; H. Doc. 94-464), and were to be effective August 1, 1976. Public Law 94-349 (approved July 8, 1976, 90 Stat. 822) delayed the effective date of the amendments to Rules 6(e), 23, 24, and 41(c)(2), and the addition of Rule 40.1 until August 1, 1977, or until and to the extent approved by Act of Congress, whichever is earlier. Also, it approved the amendments to Rules 6(f), 41(a), and 50(b), to be effective August 1, 1976. Public Law 95-78 (approved July 30, 1977, 91 Stat. 319) disapproved the amendment to Rule 24 and the addition of Rule 40.1, approved amendments to Rule 23, and modified and approved amendments to Rules 6(e) and 41(c), to be effective October 1, 1977.

Additional amendments were proposed by the Court by order dated April 30, 1979, were transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (441 U.S. 970, 985; Cong. Rec., vol. 125, pt. 8, p. 9366, Exec. Comm. 1456; H. Doc. 96-112), and were to be effective August 1, 1979. Amendments to Rules 6(e), 7(c)(2), 9(a), 11(e)(2), 18, 32(c)(3)(E), 35, and 41(a), (b), and (c) became effective August 1, 1979. Public Law 96-42 (approved July 31, 1979, 93 Stat. 326) delayed the effective date of the amendments to Rules 11(e)(6), 17(h), 32(f), and 44(c), and the addition of new Rules 26.2 and 32.1, until December 1, 1980, or until and to the extent approved by Act of Congress, whichever is earlier, and modified and approved the amendment to Rule 40 to be effective August 1, 1979. In the absence of further action by Congress, the amendments that were the subject of a delayed effective date pursuant to Public Law 96-42 became effective December 1, 1980.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 28, 1982, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (456 U.S. 1021; Cong. Rec., vol. 128, pt. 6, p. 8191, Exec. Comm. 3822; H. Doc. 97-173), and became effective August 1, 1982. The amendments affected Rules 1, 5(b), 9(a), (b)(1), (2), (c)(1), (2), 11(c)(1), (4), (5), 20(b), 40(d)(1), (2), 45(a), and 54(a), (b)(4), (c), and abrogated Rule 9(d).

An amendment to Rule 32(c)(2) was made by section 3 of Public Law 97-291 (approved October 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1249.)

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 28, 1983, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice

on the same day (461 U.S. 1117; Cong. Rec., vol. 129, pt. 8, p. 10479, Exec. Comm. 1028; H. Doc. 98-55), and became effective August 1, 1983. The amendments affected Rules 6(e), (g), 11(a), (h), 12(i), 12.2(b), (c), (d), (e), 16(a), 23(b), 32(a), (c), (d), 35(b), and 55, and abrogated Rule 58 and the Appendix of Forms.

Section 209 of Public Law 98-473 (approved October 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 1986) amended Rules 5(c), 15(a), 40(f), 46(a), (c), (e)(2), and 54(b)(3), and added Rule 46(h).

Section 215 of Public Law 98-473 (98 Stat. 2014, as amended) amended Rules 6(e)(3)(C), 32(a)(1), (2), (c)(1) to (3), (d), 35, 38, 40(d)(1), and 54(c), effective on the first day of the first calendar month beginning 36 months after October 12, 1984 (November 1, 1987).

Section 404(a) of Public Law 98-473 (98 Stat. 2067) amended Rule 12.2(a). Section 404(b) to (d) of Public Law 98-473 would have amended Rule 12.2(b) to (d), but the amendments by section 404(b) and (d) were repealed by section 11(b) of Public Law 98-596 (approved October 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 3138) and the amendment by section 404(c) of Public Law 98-473 could not be executed because it directed the deletion of language not found in the text of the Rule [that defect being cured by section 11(a) of Public Law 98-596, which amended Rule 12.2(c) and (d)]. The amendments and repeals by section 11 of Public Law 98-596 are effective on and after the date of enactment of Public Law 98-473 (October 12, 1984).

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 29, 1985, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (471 U.S. 1167; Cong. Rec., vol. 131, pt. 7, p. 9826, Exec. Comm. 1154; H. Doc. 99-64), and became effective August 1, 1985. The amendments affected Rules 6(e)(3), 11(c)(1), 12.1(f), 12.2(e), 35(b), 45(a), 49(e), and 57. The amendment to Rule 35(b) was effective until November 1, 1986, when section 215(b) of Public Law 98-473 (approved October 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2015) was to go into effect. Section 235(a)(1) of Public Law 98-473, which originally provided for an effective date of November 1, 1986, for the amendments made by section 215(b) of Public Law 98-473, was later amended by section 4 of Public Law 99-217 (approved December 26, 1985, 99 Stat. 1728) to provide for an effective date of November 1, 1987.

Section 1009 of Public Law 99-570 (approved October 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3207-8) amended Rule 35(b), effective on the date (November 1, 1987) of the taking effect of Rule 35(b) as amended by section 215(b) of Public Law 98-473.

Sections 12(b), 24, 25(a), and 54(a) of Public Law 99-646 (approved November 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3594, 3597, 3607) affected Rules 12.2(c), 29(d), 32(c)(2)(B), and 32.1(b). The amendments to Rules 29(d) and 32.1(b) became effective 30 days after the date of enactment of Public Law 99-646. The amendment to Rule 32(c)(2)(B) became effective November 1, 1987, when the amendment made by section 215(a)(5) of Public Law 98-473 went into effect.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated March 9, 1987, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (480 U.S. 1041; Cong. Rec., vol. 133, pt. 4, p. 5256, Exec. Comm. 825; H. Doc. 100-47), and became effective August 1, 1987. The amendments affected Rules 4(c)(1), (d)(3), (4), 5(c), 5.1(a), (c), 6(a), (c), (f), 7(b), (c)(1), (3), 10, 11(a)(2), (c)(2) to (5), (d), (e)(2),

(4), 12(h), 12.1(a), (b) to (d), 12.2(a), (b), (d), 15(a) to (e), 16(a)(1)(A) to (C), (b)(1)(B), (2), (c), 17(a), (d), (g), 17.1, 20, 21(a), (b), 24(a), 25, 26.2(a), (c), (f)(1), 30, 32(a), (c)(3)(A) to (E), 32.1, 33, 38(a)(2), (3), 40(a), (d)(3), (e), (f), 41(c)(1), (e), 42, 43(b), 44(a), (c), 45(e), 46(b), (d), (g), 49(b), and 51.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 25, 1988, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (485 U.S. 1057; Cong. Rec., vol. 134, pt. 7, p. 9154, Exec. Comm. 3516; H. Doc. 100-186), and became effective August 1, 1988. The amendments affected Rules 30 and 56.

Sections 6483, 7076, and 7089(c) of Public Law 100-690 (approved November 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4382, 4406, 4409) amended Rules 11(c)(1) and 54(c), and added Rule 12.3.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 25, 1989, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (490 U.S. 1135; Cong. Rec., vol. 135, pt. 6, p. 7542, Exec. Comm. 1059; H. Doc. 101-55), and became effective December 1, 1989. The amendments affected Rules 11(c)(1), 32(a), (c), 32.1(a), (b), 40(d), and 41(e).

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated May 1, 1990, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (495 U.S. 967; Cong. Rec., vol. 136, pt. 6, p. 9091, Ex. Comm. 3098; H. Doc. 101-185), and became effective December 1, 1990. The amendments affected Rules 5(b), 41(a), and 54(b)(4), (c), and added new Rule 58.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 30, 1991, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (500 U.S. 991; Cong. Rec., vol. 137, pt. 7, p. 9721, Ex. Comm. 1191; H. Doc. 102-78), and became effective December 1, 1991. The amendments affected Rules 16(a), 32(c), 32.1(a), 35(b), (c), 46(h), 54(a), and 58(b), (d).

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 22, 1993, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (507 U.S. 1161; Cong. Rec., vol. 139, pt. 6, p. 8127, Ex. Comm. 1103; H. Doc. 103-75), and became effective December 1, 1993. The amendments affected Rules 1, 3, 4(c)(1), (d), 5, 5.1, 6(e)(4), (f), 9(a) to (c), 12(i), 16(a)(1)(E), (2), (b)(1)(C), 17(a), (g), 26.2(c), (d), (g), 32(e), 32.1(c), 40(a), (b), (d), (e), (f), 41(a), (c), (d), (g), 44(a), 46(i), 49(e), 50(b), 54(b)(3), (4), (c), 55, 57, and 58(a)(1), (b)(2), (3), (c)(2), (d)(2), (g)(2), and added new Rule 26.3.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 29, 1994, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (511 U.S. 1175; Cong. Rec., vol. 140, pt. 7, p. 8903, Ex. Comm. 3084; H. Doc. 103-249), and became effective December 1, 1994. The amendments affected Rules 16(a)(1)(A), 29(b), 32, and 40(d).

Sections 230101(b), (c) and 330003(h) of Public Law 103-322 (approved September 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2078, 2141) affected Rules 32 and 46(i)(1). The amendments to Rule 32 became effective December 1, 1994. The amendment to Rule 46 became effective September 13, 1994.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 27, 1995, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (514 U.S. 1159; Cong. Rec., vol. 141, pt. 8, p. 11745,

Ex. Comm. 805; H. Doc. 104-65), and became effective December 1, 1995. The amendments affected Rules 5, 40, 43, 49, and 57.

An additional amendment was adopted by the Court by order dated April 23, 1996, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (517 U.S. 1285; Cong. Rec., vol. 142, pt. 6, p. 8831, Ex. Comm. 2488; H. Doc. 104-202), and became effective December 1, 1996. The amendment affected Rule 32(d)(2).

Sections 207(a) and 211 of Public Law 104-132 (approved April 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1236, 1241) amended Rule 32(b), effective, to the extent constitutionally permissible, for sentencing proceedings in cases in which the defendant is convicted on or after the date of enactment of Public Law 104-132.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 11, 1997, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (520 U.S. 1313; Cong. Rec., vol. 143, pt. 4, p. 5551, Ex. Comm. 2796; H. Doc. 105-68), and became effective December 1, 1997. The amendments affected Rules 16 and 58.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 24, 1998, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (523 U.S. 1227; H. Doc. 105-267), and became effective December 1, 1998. The amendments affected Rules 5.1, 26.2, 31, 33, 35, and 43.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 26, 1999, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (526 U.S. 1189; Cong. Rec., vol. 145, pt. 6, p. 7907, Ex. Comm. 1788; H. Doc. 106-55), and became effective December 1, 1999. The amendments affected Rules 6, 11, 24, and 54.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 17, 2000, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (529 U.S. 1179; Cong. Rec., vol. 146, pt. 5, p. 6328, Ex. Comm. 7335; H. Doc. 106-227), and became effective December 1, 2000. The amendments affected Rules 7, 31, 32, and 38, and added new Rule 32.2.

Sections 203(a) and 219 of Public Law 107-56 (approved October 26, 2001, 115 Stat. 278, 291) amended Rules 6(e)(3)(C), (D) and 41(a).

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 29, 2002, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (535 U.S. 1157; Cong. Rec., vol. 148, pt. 5, p. 6813, Ex. Comm. 6621; H. Doc. 107-203), and became effective December 1, 2002. The amendments affected Rules 1 to 60.

Section 11019(b), (c) of Pub. L. 107-273 (approved November 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1825, 1826) amended Rule 16(a)(1)(G), (b)(1)(C), effective December 1, 2002.

Sections 4 and 895 of Pub. L. 107-296 (approved November 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2142, 2256) which directed the amendment of Rule 6(e)(2), (3)(A)(ii), (C)(i), (iii), effective 60 days after the date of enactment of Pub. L. 107-296, could not be executed after the amendments of April 29, 2002, effective December 1, 2002.

Section 610(b) of Pub. L. 108-21 (approved April 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 692) amended Rule 7(c)(1).

An additional amendment was adopted by the Court by order dated April 26, 2004, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (541 U.S. 1103; Cong. Rec., vol. 150, pt. 6, p. 7968, Ex. Comm. 7865; H. Doc. 108-182), and became effective December 1, 2004. The amendment affected Rule 35.

Section 6501(a) of Pub. L. 108-458 (approved December 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3760) amended Rule 6(e).

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 25, 2005, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (544 U.S. 1181; Cong. Rec., vol. 151, pt. 7, p. 8784, Ex. Comm. 1905; H. Doc. 109-22), and became effective December 1, 2005. The amendments affected Rules 12.2, 29, 32.1, 33, 34, and 45, and added new Rule 59.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 12, 2006, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (547 U.S. 1269; Cong. Rec., vol. 152, pt. 6, p. 7213, Ex. Comm. 7316; H. Doc. 109-104), and became effective December 1, 2006. The amendments affected Rules 5, 6, 32.1, 40, 41, and 58.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 30, 2007, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (550 U.S. 1165; Cong. Rec., vol. 153, pt. 8, pp. 10611-10612, Ex. Comm. 1376; H. Doc. 110-26), and became effective December 1, 2007. The amendments affected Rules 11, 32, 35, and 45, added a new Rule 49.1, and abrogated the Model Form for Use in 28 U.S.C. § 2254 Cases Involving a Rule 9 Issue.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 23, 2008, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (553 U.S. 1155; Cong. Rec., vol. 154, pt. 8, p. 11078, Ex. Comm. 6879; H. Doc. 110-118), and became effective December 1, 2008. The amendments affected Rules 1, 12.1, 17, 18, 32, 41, and 45, added new Rule 60, and renumbered former Rule 60 as 61.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated March 26, 2009, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on March 25, 2009 (556 U.S. 1363; Cong. Rec., vol. 155, pt. 8, p. 10210, Ex. Comm. 1265; H. Doc. 111-30), and became effective December 1, 2009. The amendments affected Rules 5.1, 7, 12.1, 12.3, 29, 32, 32.2, 33, 34, 35, 41, 45, 47, 58, and 59.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 28, 2010, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (559 U.S. 1151; Cong. Rec., vol. 156, pt. 6, p. 8139, Ex. Comm. 7472; H. Doc. 111-110), and became effective December 1, 2010. The amendments affected Rules 12.3, 21, and 32.1.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 26, 2011, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (563 U.S. 1063; Cong. Rec., vol. 157, pt. 6, p. 7770, Ex. Comm. 1664; H. Doc. 112-31), and became effective December 1, 2011. The amendments affected Rules 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 32, 40, 41, 43, and 49, and added new Rule 4.1.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 23, 2012, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (566 U.S. 1053; Cong. Rec., vol. 158, pt. 5, p. 6055, Ex. Comm. 5883; H. Doc. 112-104), and became effective December 1, 2012. The amendments affected Rules 5 and 15, and added new Rule 37.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 16, 2013, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (569 U.S. 1161; Cong. Rec., vol. 159, pt. 5, p. 6968, Ex. Comm. 1491; H. Doc. 113-25), and became effective December 1, 2013. The amendments affected Rules 11 and 16.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 25, 2014, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (572 U.S. 1223; Cong. Rec., vol. 160, pt. 11, p. 15506, Ex. Comm. 7578; H. Doc. 113–162), and became effective December 1, 2014. The amendments affected Rules 5, 6, 12, 34, and 58.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 28, 2016, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (578 U.S. 1067; Cong. Rec., vol. 162, pt. 4, pp. 5466–5467, Ex. Comm. 5232; H. Doc. 114–127), and became effective December 1, 2016. The amendments affected Rules 4, 41, and 45.

Section 2(c) of Public Law 114–324 (approved December 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1948) amended Rule 28.

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 26, 2018, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (584 U.S. 1087; Cong. Rec., vol. 164, p. H3927, Daily Issue, Ex. Comm. 4790; H. Doc. 115–120), and became effective December 1, 2018. The amendments affected Rules 12.4, 45, and 49.

An additional amendment was adopted by the Court by order dated April 25, 2019, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (587 U.S. 1095; Cong. Rec., vol. 165, p. H7864, Daily Issue, Ex. Comm. 2224; H. Doc. 116–66), and became effective December 1, 2019. The amendment added new Rule 16.1.

Section 2 of Public Law 116–182 (approved October 21, 2020, 134 Stat. 894) amended Rule 5.

An additional amendment was adopted by the Court by order dated April 11, 2022, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (596 U.S.—; Cong. Rec., vol. 168, p. H4442, Daily Issue, Ex. Comm. 3744; H. Doc. 117–109), and became effective December 1, 2022. The amendment affected Rule 16.

Section 323(a)(1)(A) of Public Law 117–347 (approved January 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6206) amended Rule 6(e).

Additional amendments were adopted by the Court by order dated April 24, 2023, transmitted to Congress by the Chief Justice on the same day (599 U.S.—; Cong. Rec., vol. 169, p. H1944, Daily Issue, Ex. Comm. 792; H. Doc. 118–31), and became effective December 1, 2023. The amendments affected Rules 16, 45, and 56, and added new Rule 62.

Proceedings After Verdict

By act of February 24, 1933, ch. 119, 47 Stat. 904, as amended (subsequently 18 United States Code, §3772), the Supreme Court was authorized to prescribe general rules of criminal procedure with respect to proceedings after verdict or finding of guilty by the court, or plea of guilty, which became effective on dates fixed by the Court. These rules were not required to be submitted to Congress.

Rules 32 to 39, inclusive, were adopted by order of the Court on February 8, 1946, and became effective on March 21, 1946 (327 U.S. 825). Prior rules promulgated on May 7, 1934 (292 U.S. 659), were not specifically rescinded by that order but were superseded by these later rules.

Amendments to Rules 37(a)(1), 38(a)(3), (c), and 39(b)(2) were adopted by order of the Court dated December 27, 1948, and became effective on January 1, 1949 (335 U.S. 917).

Additional amendment to Rule 37 was adopted by order of the Court dated April 12, 1954, and became effective on July 1, 1954 (346 U.S. 941).

The Court adopted separate Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure by order dated December 4, 1967, transmitted to Congress on January 15, 1968, effective July 1, 1968. As noted above, Rules 37, 38(b), (c), and 39, and Forms 26 and 27, were abrogated effective July 1, 1968, by that same order.

Effective December 1, 1988, section 3772 of Title 18 was repealed and supplanted by section 2072 of Title 28, United States Code, see first paragraph of Historical Note above.

Committee Notes

Committee Notes prepared by the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure and the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Judicial Conference of the United States, explaining the purpose and intent of the amendments are set out in the Appendix to Title 18, United States Code, following the particular rule to which they relate. In addition, the rules and amendments, together with Committee Notes, are set out in the House documents listed above.

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FEDERAL RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Effective March 21, 1946, as amended to December 1, 2025

TITLE I. APPLICABILITY

Rule 1. Scope; Definitions

(a) Scope.

(1) ***In General.*** These rules govern the procedure in all criminal proceedings in the United States district courts, the United States courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

(2) ***State or Local Judicial Officer.*** When a rule so states, it applies to a proceeding before a state or local judicial officer.

(3) ***Territorial Courts.*** These rules also govern the procedure in all criminal proceedings in the following courts:

(A) the district court of Guam;

(B) the district court for the Northern Mariana Islands, except as otherwise provided by law; and

(C) the district court of the Virgin Islands, except that the prosecution of offenses in that court must be by indictment or information as otherwise provided by law.

(4) ***Removed Proceedings.*** Although these rules govern all proceedings after removal from a state court, state law governs a dismissal by the prosecution.

(5) ***Excluded Proceedings.*** Proceedings not governed by these rules include:

(A) the extradition and rendition of a fugitive;

(B) a civil property forfeiture for violating a federal statute;

(C) the collection of a fine or penalty;

(D) a proceeding under a statute governing juvenile delinquency to the extent the procedure is inconsistent with the statute, unless Rule 20(d) provides otherwise;

(E) a dispute between seamen under 22 U.S.C. §§ 256–258; and

(F) a proceeding against a witness in a foreign country under 28 U.S.C. § 1784.

(b) Definitions. The following definitions apply to these rules:

(1) “Attorney for the government” means:

(A) the Attorney General or an authorized assistant;

(B) a United States attorney or an authorized assistant;

(C) when applicable to cases arising under Guam law, the Guam Attorney General or other person whom Guam law authorizes to act in the matter; and

(D) any other attorney authorized by law to conduct proceedings under these rules as a prosecutor.

(2) “Court” means a federal judge performing functions authorized by law.

(3) “Federal judge” means:

(A) a justice or judge of the United States as these terms are defined in 28 U.S.C. § 451;

(B) a magistrate judge; and

(C) a judge confirmed by the United States Senate and empowered by statute in any commonwealth, territory, or possession to perform a function to which a particular rule relates.

(4) “Judge” means a federal judge or a state or local judicial officer.

(5) “Magistrate judge” means a United States magistrate judge as defined in 28 U.S.C. §§ 631–639.

(6) “Oath” includes an affirmation.

(7) “Organization” is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 18.

(8) “Petty offense” is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 19.

(9) “State” includes the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(10) “State or local judicial officer” means:

(A) a state or local officer authorized to act under 18 U.S.C. § 3041; and

(B) a judicial officer empowered by statute in the District of Columbia or in any commonwealth, territory, or possession to perform a function to which a particular rule relates.

(11) “Telephone” means any technology for transmitting live electronic voice communication.

(12) “Victim” means a “crime victim” as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3771(e).¹

(c) Authority of a Justice or Judge of the United States. When these rules authorize a magistrate judge to act, any other federal judge may also act.

(As amended Apr. 24, 1972, eff. Oct. 1, 1972; Apr. 28, 1982, eff. Aug. 1, 1982; Apr. 22, 1993, eff. Dec. 1, 1993; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002; Apr. 23, 2008, eff. Dec. 1, 2008; Apr. 26, 2011, eff. Dec. 1, 2011.)

Rule 2. Interpretation

These rules are to be interpreted to provide for the just determination of every criminal proceeding, to secure simplicity in procedure and fairness in administration, and to eliminate unjustifiable expense and delay.

(As amended Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002.)

TITLE II. PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS

Rule 3. The Complaint

The complaint is a written statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged. Except as provided in Rule 4.1, it must be made under oath before a magistrate judge or, if none is reasonably available, before a state or local judicial officer.

(As amended Apr. 24, 1972, eff. Oct. 1, 1972; Apr. 22, 1993, eff. Dec. 1, 1993; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002; Apr. 26, 2011, eff. Dec. 1, 2011.)

¹18 U.S.C. § 3771(e) was redesignated 18 U.S.C. § 3771(e)(2) by Pub. L. 114-22, title I, § 113(a)(3)(A), May 29, 2015, 129 Stat. 240.

Rule 4. Arrest Warrant or Summons on a Complaint

(a) Issuance. If the complaint or one or more affidavits filed with the complaint establish probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed and that the defendant committed it, the judge must issue an arrest warrant to an officer authorized to execute it. At the request of an attorney for the government, the judge must issue a summons, instead of a warrant, to a person authorized to serve it. A judge may issue more than one warrant or summons on the same complaint. If an individual defendant fails to appear in response to a summons, a judge may, and upon request of an attorney for the government must, issue a warrant. If an organizational defendant fails to appear in response to a summons, a judge may take any action authorized by United States law.

(b) Form.**(1) Warrant.** A warrant must:

(A) contain the defendant's name or, if it is unknown, a name or description by which the defendant can be identified with reasonable certainty;

(B) describe the offense charged in the complaint;

(C) command that the defendant be arrested and brought without unnecessary delay before a magistrate judge or, if none is reasonably available, before a state or local judicial officer; and

(D) be signed by a judge.

(2) Summons. A summons must be in the same form as a warrant except that it must require the defendant to appear before a magistrate judge at a stated time and place.

(c) Execution or Service, and Return.

(1) By Whom. Only a marshal or other authorized officer may execute a warrant. Any person authorized to serve a summons in a federal civil action may serve a summons.

(2) Location. A warrant may be executed, or a summons served, within the jurisdiction of the United States or anywhere else a federal statute authorizes an arrest. A summons to an organization under Rule 4(c)(3)(D) may also be served at a place not within a judicial district of the United States.

(3) Manner.

(A) A warrant is executed by arresting the defendant. Upon arrest, an officer possessing the original or a duplicate original warrant must show it to the defendant. If the officer does not possess the warrant, the officer must inform the defendant of the warrant's existence and of the offense charged and, at the defendant's request, must show the original or a duplicate original warrant to the defendant as soon as possible.

(B) A summons is served on an individual defendant:

(i) by delivering a copy to the defendant personally; or

(ii) by leaving a copy at the defendant's residence or usual place of abode with a person of suitable age and discretion residing at that location and by mailing a copy to the defendant's last known address.

(C) A summons is served on an organization in a judicial district of the United States by delivering a copy to an officer, to a managing or general agent, or to another agent appointed or legally authorized to receive service of process. If the agent is one authorized by statute and the statute so requires, a copy must also be mailed to the organization.

(D) A summons is served on an organization not within a judicial district of the United States:

(i) by delivering a copy, in a manner authorized by the foreign jurisdiction's law, to an officer, to a managing or general agent, or to an agent appointed or legally authorized to receive service of process; or

(ii) by any other means that gives notice, including one that is:

(a) stipulated by the parties;

(b) undertaken by a foreign authority in response to a letter rogatory, a letter of request, or a request submitted under an applicable international agreement; or

(c) permitted by an applicable international agreement.

(4) Return.

(A) After executing a warrant, the officer must return it to the judge before whom the defendant is brought in accordance with Rule 5. The officer may do so by reliable electronic means. At the request of an attorney for the government, an unexecuted warrant must be brought back to and canceled by a magistrate judge or, if none is reasonably available, by a state or local judicial officer.

(B) The person to whom a summons was delivered for service must return it on or before the return day.

(C) At the request of an attorney for the government, a judge may deliver an unexecuted warrant, an unserved summons, or a copy of the warrant or summons to the marshal or other authorized person for execution or service.

(d) Warrant by Telephone or Other Reliable Electronic Means. In accordance with Rule 4.1, a magistrate judge may issue a warrant or summons based on information communicated by telephone or other reliable electronic means.

(As amended Feb. 28, 1966, eff. July 1, 1966; Apr. 24, 1972, eff. Oct. 1, 1972; Apr. 22, 1974, eff. Dec. 1, 1975; Pub. L. 94-64, §3(1)-(3), July 31, 1975, 89 Stat. 370, eff. Dec. 1, 1975; Mar. 9, 1987, eff. Aug. 1, 1987; Apr. 22, 1993, eff. Dec. 1, 1993; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002; Apr. 26, 2011, eff. Dec. 1, 2011; Apr. 28, 2016, eff. Dec. 1, 2016.)

Rule 4.1. Complaint, Warrant, or Summons by Telephone or Other Reliable Electronic Means

(a) In General. A magistrate judge may consider information communicated by telephone or other reliable electronic means when reviewing a complaint or deciding whether to issue a warrant or summons.

(b) Procedures. If a magistrate judge decides to proceed under this rule, the following procedures apply:

(1) *Taking Testimony Under Oath.* The judge must place under oath—and may examine—the applicant and any person on whose testimony the application is based.

(2) *Creating a Record of the Testimony and Exhibits.*

(A) *Testimony Limited to Attestation.* If the applicant does no more than attest to the contents of a written affidavit submitted by reliable electronic means, the judge must acknowledge the attestation in writing on the affidavit.

(B) *Additional Testimony or Exhibits.* If the judge considers additional testimony or exhibits, the judge must:

(i) have the testimony recorded verbatim by an electronic recording device, by a court reporter, or in writing;

(ii) have any recording or reporter's notes transcribed, have the transcription certified as accurate, and file it;

(iii) sign any other written record, certify its accuracy, and file it; and

(iv) make sure that the exhibits are filed.

(3) *Preparing a Proposed Duplicate Original of a Complaint, Warrant, or Summons.* The applicant must prepare a proposed duplicate original of a complaint, warrant, or summons, and must read or otherwise transmit its contents verbatim to the judge.

(4) *Preparing an Original Complaint, Warrant, or Summons.* If the applicant reads the contents of the proposed duplicate original, the judge must enter those contents into an original complaint, warrant, or summons. If the applicant transmits the contents by reliable electronic means, the transmission received by the judge may serve as the original.

(5) *Modification.* The judge may modify the complaint, warrant, or summons. The judge must then:

(A) transmit the modified version to the applicant by reliable electronic means; or

(B) file the modified original and direct the applicant to modify the proposed duplicate original accordingly.

(6) *Issuance.* To issue the warrant or summons, the judge must:

(A) sign the original documents;

(B) enter the date and time of issuance on the warrant or summons; and

(C) transmit the warrant or summons by reliable electronic means to the applicant or direct the applicant to sign the judge's name and enter the date and time on the duplicate original.

(c) *Suppression Limited.* Absent a finding of bad faith, evidence obtained from a warrant issued under this rule is not subject to suppression on the ground that issuing the warrant in this manner was unreasonable under the circumstances.

(As added Apr. 26, 2011, eff. Dec. 1, 2011.)

Rule 5. Initial Appearance**(a) In General.****(1) Appearance Upon an Arrest.**

(A) A person making an arrest within the United States must take the defendant without unnecessary delay before a magistrate judge, or before a state or local judicial officer as Rule 5(c) provides, unless a statute provides otherwise.

(B) A person making an arrest outside the United States must take the defendant without unnecessary delay before a magistrate judge, unless a statute provides otherwise.

(2) Exceptions.

(A) An officer making an arrest under a warrant issued upon a complaint charging solely a violation of 18 U.S.C. §1073 need not comply with this rule if:

(i) the person arrested is transferred without unnecessary delay to the custody of appropriate state or local authorities in the district of arrest; and

(ii) an attorney for the government moves promptly in the district where the warrant was issued, to dismiss the complaint.

(B) If a defendant is arrested for violating probation or supervised release, Rule 32.1 applies.

(C) If a defendant is arrested for failing to appear in another district, Rule 40 applies.

(3) Appearance Upon a Summons. When a defendant appears in response to a summons under Rule 4, a magistrate judge must proceed under Rule 5(d) or (e), as applicable.

(b) Arrest Without a Warrant. If a defendant is arrested without a warrant, a complaint meeting Rule 4(a)'s requirement of probable cause must be promptly filed in the district where the offense was allegedly committed.

(c) Place of Initial Appearance; Transfer to Another District.

(1) Arrest in the District Where the Offense Was Allegedly Committed. If the defendant is arrested in the district where the offense was allegedly committed:

(A) the initial appearance must be in that district; and

(B) if a magistrate judge is not reasonably available, the initial appearance may be before a state or local judicial officer.

(2) Arrest in a District Other Than Where the Offense Was Allegedly Committed. If the defendant was arrested in a district other than where the offense was allegedly committed, the initial appearance must be:

(A) in the district of arrest; or

(B) in an adjacent district if:

(i) the appearance can occur more promptly there; or

(ii) the offense was allegedly committed there and the initial appearance will occur on the day of arrest.

(3) Procedures in a District Other Than Where the Offense Was Allegedly Committed. If the initial appearance occurs in a district other than where the offense was allegedly committed, the following procedures apply:

(A) the magistrate judge must inform the defendant about the provisions of Rule 20;

(B) if the defendant was arrested without a warrant, the district court where the offense was allegedly committed must first issue a warrant before the magistrate judge transfers the defendant to that district;

(C) the magistrate judge must conduct a preliminary hearing if required by Rule 5.1;

(D) the magistrate judge must transfer the defendant to the district where the offense was allegedly committed if:

(i) the government produces the warrant, a certified copy of the warrant, or a reliable electronic form of either; and

(ii) the judge finds that the defendant is the same person named in the indictment, information, or warrant; and

(E) when a defendant is transferred and discharged, the clerk must promptly transmit the papers and any bail to the clerk in the district where the offense was allegedly committed.

(4) Procedure for Persons Extradited to the United States. If the defendant is surrendered to the United States in accordance with a request for the defendant's extradition, the initial appearance must be in the district (or one of the districts) where the offense is charged.

(d) Procedure in a Felony Case.

(1) Advice. If the defendant is charged with a felony, the judge must inform the defendant of the following:

(A) the complaint against the defendant, and any affidavit filed with it;

(B) the defendant's right to retain counsel or to request that counsel be appointed if the defendant cannot obtain counsel;

(C) the circumstances, if any, under which the defendant may secure pretrial release;

(D) any right to a preliminary hearing;

(E) the defendant's right not to make a statement, and that any statement made may be used against the defendant; and

(F) that a defendant who is not a United States citizen may request that an attorney for the government or a federal law enforcement official notify a consular officer from the defendant's country of nationality that the defendant has been arrested—but that even without the defendant's request, a treaty or other international agreement may require consular notification.

(2) Consulting with Counsel. The judge must allow the defendant reasonable opportunity to consult with counsel.

(3) Detention or Release. The judge must detain or release the defendant as provided by statute or these rules.

(4) Plea. A defendant may be asked to plead only under Rule 10.

(e) Procedure in a Misdemeanor Case. If the defendant is charged with a misdemeanor only, the judge must inform the defendant in accordance with Rule 58(b)(2).

(f) Reminder of Prosecutorial Obligation.

(1) *In General.* In all criminal proceedings, on the first scheduled court date when both prosecutor and defense counsel are present, the judge shall issue an oral and written order to prosecution and defense counsel that confirms the disclosure obligation of the prosecutor under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963) and its progeny, and the possible consequences of violating such order under applicable law.

(2) *Formation of Order.* Each judicial council in which a district court is located shall promulgate a model order for the purpose of paragraph (1) that the court may use as it determines is appropriate.

(g) *Video Conferencing.* Video conferencing may be used to conduct an appearance under this rule if the defendant consents.

(As amended Feb. 28, 1966, eff. July 1, 1966; Apr. 24, 1972, eff. Oct. 1, 1972; Apr. 28, 1982, eff. Aug. 1, 1982; Pub. L. 98-473, title II, §209(a), Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 1986; Mar. 9, 1987, eff. Aug. 1, 1987; May 1, 1990, eff. Dec. 1, 1990; Apr. 22, 1993, eff. Dec. 1, 1993; Apr. 27, 1995, eff. Dec. 1, 1995; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002; Apr. 12, 2006, eff. Dec. 1, 2006; Apr. 23, 2012, eff. Dec. 1, 2012; Apr. 25, 2014, eff. Dec. 1, 2014; Pub. L. 116-182, §2, Oct. 21, 2020, 134 Stat. 894.)

Rule 5.1. Preliminary Hearing

(a) *In General.* If a defendant is charged with an offense other than a petty offense, a magistrate judge must conduct a preliminary hearing unless:

- (1) the defendant waives the hearing;
- (2) the defendant is indicted;
- (3) the government files an information under Rule 7(b) charging the defendant with a felony;
- (4) the government files an information charging the defendant with a misdemeanor; or
- (5) the defendant is charged with a misdemeanor and consents to trial before a magistrate judge.

(b) *Selecting a District.* A defendant arrested in a district other than where the offense was allegedly committed may elect to have the preliminary hearing conducted in the district where the prosecution is pending.

(c) *Scheduling.* The magistrate judge must hold the preliminary hearing within a reasonable time, but no later than 14 days after the initial appearance if the defendant is in custody and no later than 21 days if not in custody.

(d) *Extending the Time.* With the defendant's consent and upon a showing of good cause—taking into account the public interest in the prompt disposition of criminal cases—a magistrate judge may extend the time limits in Rule 5.1(c) one or more times. If the defendant does not consent, the magistrate judge may extend the time limits only on a showing that extraordinary circumstances exist and justice requires the delay.

(e) *Hearing and Finding.* At the preliminary hearing, the defendant may cross-examine adverse witnesses and may introduce evidence but may not object to evidence on the ground that it was unlawfully acquired. If the magistrate judge finds probable cause

to believe an offense has been committed and the defendant committed it, the magistrate judge must promptly require the defendant to appear for further proceedings.

(f) Discharging the Defendant. If the magistrate judge finds no probable cause to believe an offense has been committed or the defendant committed it, the magistrate judge must dismiss the complaint and discharge the defendant. A discharge does not preclude the government from later prosecuting the defendant for the same offense.

(g) Recording the Proceedings. The preliminary hearing must be recorded by a court reporter or by a suitable recording device. A recording of the proceeding may be made available to any party upon request. A copy of the recording and a transcript may be provided to any party upon request and upon any payment required by applicable Judicial Conference regulations.

(h) Producing a Statement.

(1) In General. Rule 26.2(a)–(d) and (f) applies at any hearing under this rule, unless the magistrate judge for good cause rules otherwise in a particular case.

(2) Sanctions for Not Producing a Statement. If a party disobeys a Rule 26.2 order to deliver a statement to the moving party, the magistrate judge must not consider the testimony of a witness whose statement is withheld.

(As added Apr. 24, 1972, eff. Oct. 1, 1972; amended Mar. 9, 1987, eff. Aug. 1, 1987; Apr. 22, 1993, eff. Dec. 1, 1993; Apr. 24, 1998, eff. Dec. 1, 1998; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002; Mar. 26, 2009, eff. Dec. 1, 2009.)

TITLE III. THE GRAND JURY, THE INDICTMENT, AND THE INFORMATION

Rule 6. The Grand Jury

(a) Summoning a Grand Jury.

(1) In General. When the public interest so requires, the court must order that one or more grand juries be summoned. A grand jury must have 16 to 23 members, and the court must order that enough legally qualified persons be summoned to meet this requirement.

(2) Alternate Jurors. When a grand jury is selected, the court may also select alternate jurors. Alternate jurors must have the same qualifications and be selected in the same manner as any other juror. Alternate jurors replace jurors in the same sequence in which the alternates were selected. An alternate juror who replaces a juror is subject to the same challenges, takes the same oath, and has the same authority as the other jurors.

(b) Objection to the Grand Jury or to a Grand Juror.

(1) Challenges. Either the government or a defendant may challenge the grand jury on the ground that it was not lawfully drawn, summoned, or selected, and may challenge an individual juror on the ground that the juror is not legally qualified.

(2) Motion to Dismiss an Indictment. A party may move to dismiss the indictment based on an objection to the grand jury or on an individual juror's lack of legal qualification, unless

the court has previously ruled on the same objection under Rule 6(b)(1). The motion to dismiss is governed by 28 U.S.C. §1867(e). The court must not dismiss the indictment on the ground that a grand juror was not legally qualified if the record shows that at least 12 qualified jurors concurred in the indictment.

(c) Foreperson and Deputy Foreperson. The court will appoint one juror as the foreperson and another as the deputy foreperson. In the foreperson's absence, the deputy foreperson will act as the foreperson. The foreperson may administer oaths and affirmations and will sign all indictments. The foreperson—or another juror designated by the foreperson—will record the number of jurors concurring in every indictment and will file the record with the clerk, but the record may not be made public unless the court so orders.

(d) Who May Be Present.

(1) *While the Grand Jury Is in Session.* The following persons may be present while the grand jury is in session: attorneys for the government, the witness being questioned, interpreters when needed, and a court reporter or an operator of a recording device.

(2) *During Deliberations and Voting.* No person other than the jurors, and any interpreter needed to assist a hearing-impaired or speech-impaired juror, may be present while the grand jury is deliberating or voting.

(e) Recording and Disclosing the Proceedings.

(1) *Recording the Proceedings.* Except while the grand jury is deliberating or voting, all proceedings must be recorded by a court reporter or by a suitable recording device. But the validity of a prosecution is not affected by the unintentional failure to make a recording. Unless the court orders otherwise, an attorney for the government will retain control of the recording, the reporter's notes, and any transcript prepared from those notes.

(2) *Secrecy.*

(A) No obligation of secrecy may be imposed on any person except in accordance with Rule 6(e)(2)(B).

(B) Unless these rules provide otherwise, the following persons must not disclose a matter occurring before the grand jury:

- (i) a grand juror;
- (ii) an interpreter;
- (iii) a court reporter;
- (iv) an operator of a recording device;
- (v) a person who transcribes recorded testimony;
- (vi) an attorney for the government; or
- (vii) a person to whom disclosure is made under Rule 6(e)(3)(A)(ii) or (iii).

(3) *Exceptions.*

(A) Disclosure of a grand-jury matter—other than the grand jury's deliberations or any grand juror's vote—may be made to:

- (i) an attorney for the government for use in performing that attorney's duty;

(ii) any government personnel—including those of a state, state subdivision, Indian tribe, or foreign government—that an attorney for the government considers necessary to assist in performing that attorney’s duty to enforce federal criminal law; or

(iii) a person authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3322.

(B) A person to whom information is disclosed under Rule 6(e)(3)(A)(ii) may use that information only to assist an attorney for the government in performing that attorney’s duty to enforce federal criminal law. An attorney for the government must promptly provide the court that impaneled the grand jury with the names of all persons to whom a disclosure has been made, and must certify that the attorney has advised those persons of their obligation of secrecy under this rule.

(C) An attorney for the government may disclose any grand-jury matter to another federal grand jury.

(D) An attorney for the government may disclose any grand-jury matter involving foreign intelligence, counter-intelligence (as defined in 50 U.S.C. § 3003), or foreign intelligence information (as defined in Rule 6(e)(3)(D)(iii)) to any federal law enforcement, intelligence, protective, immigration, national defense, or national security official to assist the official receiving the information in the performance of that official’s duties. An attorney for the government may also disclose any grand-jury matter involving, within the United States or elsewhere, a threat of attack or other grave hostile acts of a foreign power or its agent, a threat of domestic or international sabotage or terrorism, or clandestine intelligence gathering activities by an intelligence service or network of a foreign power or by its agent, to any appropriate federal, state, state subdivision, Indian tribal, or foreign government official, for the purpose of preventing or responding to such threat or activities.

(i) Any official who receives information under Rule 6(e)(3)(D) may use the information only as necessary in the conduct of that person’s official duties subject to any limitations on the unauthorized disclosure of such information. Any state, state subdivision, Indian tribal, or foreign government official who receives information under Rule 6(e)(3)(D) may use the information only in a manner consistent with any guidelines issued by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence.

(ii) Within a reasonable time after disclosure is made under Rule 6(e)(3)(D), an attorney for the government must file, under seal, a notice with the court in the district where the grand jury convened stating that such information was disclosed and the departments, agencies, or entities to which the disclosure was made.

(iii) As used in Rule 6(e)(3)(D), the term “foreign intelligence information” means:

(a) information, whether or not it concerns a United States person, that relates to the ability of the United States to protect against—

- actual or potential attack or other grave hostile acts of a foreign power or its agent;
- sabotage or international terrorism by a foreign power or its agent; or
- clandestine intelligence activities by an intelligence service or network of a foreign power or by its agent; or

(b) information, whether or not it concerns a United States person, with respect to a foreign power or foreign territory that relates to—

- the national defense or the security of the United States; or
- the conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States.

(E) The court may authorize disclosure—at a time, in a manner, and subject to any other conditions that it directs—of a grand-jury matter:

(i) preliminarily to or in connection with a judicial proceeding;

(ii) at the request of a defendant who shows that a ground may exist to dismiss the indictment because of a matter that occurred before the grand jury;

(iii) at the request of the government, when sought by a foreign court or prosecutor for use in an official criminal investigation;

(iv) at the request of the government if it shows that the matter may disclose a violation of State, Indian tribal, or foreign criminal law, as long as the disclosure is to an appropriate state, state-subdivision, Indian tribal, or foreign government official for the purpose of enforcing that law; or

(v) at the request of the government if it shows that the matter may disclose a violation of military criminal law under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, as long as the disclosure is to an appropriate military official for the purpose of enforcing that law.

(F) A petition to disclose a grand-jury matter under Rule 6(e)(3)(E)(i) must be filed in the district where the grand jury convened. Unless the hearing is ex parte—as it may be when the government is the petitioner—the petitioner must serve the petition on, and the court must afford a reasonable opportunity to appear and be heard to:

(i) an attorney for the government;

(ii) the parties to the judicial proceeding; and

(iii) any other person whom the court may designate.

(G) If the petition to disclose arises out of a judicial proceeding in another district, the petitioned court must transfer the petition to the other court unless the petitioned court can reasonably determine whether disclosure is proper. If the petitioned court decides to transfer, it must send to the transferee court the material sought to be disclosed, if feasible, and a written evaluation of the

need for continued grand-jury secrecy. The transferee court must afford those persons identified in Rule 6(e)(3)(F) a reasonable opportunity to appear and be heard.

(4) *Sealed Indictment.* The magistrate judge to whom an indictment is returned may direct that the indictment be kept secret until the defendant is in custody or has been released pending trial. The clerk must then seal the indictment, and no person may disclose the indictment's existence except as necessary to issue or execute a warrant or summons.

(5) *Closed Hearing.* Subject to any right to an open hearing in a contempt proceeding, the court must close any hearing to the extent necessary to prevent disclosure of a matter occurring before a grand jury.

(6) *Sealed Records.* Records, orders, and subpoenas relating to grand-jury proceedings must be kept under seal to the extent and as long as necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of a matter occurring before a grand jury.

(7) *Contempt.* A knowing violation of Rule 6, or of any guidelines jointly issued by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence under Rule 6, may be punished as a contempt of court.

(f) *Indictment and Return.* A grand jury may indict only if at least 12 jurors concur. The grand jury—or its foreperson or deputy foreperson—must return the indictment to a magistrate judge in open court. To avoid unnecessary cost or delay, the magistrate judge may take the return by video teleconference from the court where the grand jury sits. If a complaint or information is pending against the defendant and 12 jurors do not concur in the indictment, the foreperson must promptly and in writing report the lack of concurrence to the magistrate judge.

(g) *Discharging the Grand Jury.* A grand jury must serve until the court discharges it, but it may serve more than 18 months only if the court, having determined that an extension is in the public interest, extends the grand jury's service. An extension may be granted for no more than 6 months, except as otherwise provided by statute.

(h) *Excusing a Juror.* At any time, for good cause, the court may excuse a juror either temporarily or permanently, and if permanently, the court may impanel an alternate juror in place of the excused juror.

(i) *"Indian Tribe" Defined.* "Indian tribe" means an Indian tribe recognized by the Secretary of the Interior on a list published in the Federal Register under 25 U.S.C. §479a-1.¹

(As amended Feb. 28, 1966, eff. July 1, 1966; Apr. 24, 1972, eff. Oct. 1, 1972; Apr. 26 and July 8, 1976, eff. Aug. 1, 1976; Pub. L. 95-78, §2(a), July 30, 1977, 91 Stat. 319, eff. Oct. 1, 1977; Apr. 30, 1979, eff. Aug. 1, 1979; Apr. 28, 1983, eff. Aug. 1, 1983; Pub. L. 98-473, title II, §215(f), Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2016, eff. Nov. 1, 1987; Apr. 29, 1985, eff. Aug. 1, 1985; Mar. 9, 1987, eff. Aug. 1, 1987; Apr. 22, 1993, eff. Dec. 1, 1993; Apr. 26, 1999, eff. Dec. 1, 1999; Pub. L. 107-56, title II, §203(a), Oct. 26, 2001, 115 Stat. 278; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002; Pub. L. 107-296, title VIII, §895, Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2256; Pub. L. 108-458, title

¹ Now editorially reclassified 25 U.S.C. 5131.

VI, §6501(a), Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3760; Apr. 12, 2006, eff. Dec. 1, 2006; Apr. 26, 2011, eff. Dec. 1, 2011; Apr. 25, 2014, eff. Dec. 1, 2014; Pub. L. 117–347, title III, §323(a)(1)(A), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6206.)

Rule 7. The Indictment and the Information

(a) When Used.

(1) **Felony.** An offense (other than criminal contempt) must be prosecuted by an indictment if it is punishable:

(A) by death; or

(B) by imprisonment for more than one year.

(2) **Misdemeanor.** An offense punishable by imprisonment for one year or less may be prosecuted in accordance with Rule 58(b)(1).

(b) **Waiving Indictment.** An offense punishable by imprisonment for more than one year may be prosecuted by information if the defendant—in open court and after being advised of the nature of the charge and of the defendant's rights—waives prosecution by indictment.

(c) Nature and Contents.

(1) **In General.** The indictment or information must be a plain, concise, and definite written statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged and must be signed by an attorney for the government. It need not contain a formal introduction or conclusion. A count may incorporate by reference an allegation made in another count. A count may allege that the means by which the defendant committed the offense are unknown or that the defendant committed it by one or more specified means. For each count, the indictment or information must give the official or customary citation of the statute, rule, regulation, or other provision of law that the defendant is alleged to have violated. For purposes of an indictment referred to in section 3282 of title 18, United States Code, for which the identity of the defendant is unknown, it shall be sufficient for the indictment to describe the defendant as an individual whose name is unknown, but who has a particular DNA profile, as that term is defined in section 3282.

(2) **Citation Error.** Unless the defendant was misled and thereby prejudiced, neither an error in a citation nor a citation's omission is a ground to dismiss the indictment or information or to reverse a conviction.

(d) **Surplusage.** Upon the defendant's motion, the court may strike surplusage from the indictment or information.

(e) **Amending an Information.** Unless an additional or different offense is charged or a substantial right of the defendant is prejudiced, the court may permit an information to be amended at any time before the verdict or finding.

(f) **Bill of Particulars.** The court may direct the government to file a bill of particulars. The defendant may move for a bill of particulars before or within 14 days after arraignment or at a later time if the court permits. The government may amend a bill of particulars subject to such conditions as justice requires.

(As amended Feb. 28, 1966, eff. July 1, 1966; Apr. 24, 1972, eff. Oct. 1, 1972; Apr. 30, 1979, eff. Aug. 1, 1979; Mar. 9, 1987, eff. Aug. 1, 1987; Apr. 17, 2000, eff. Dec. 1, 2000; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002; Pub.

L. 108–21, title VI, § 610(b), Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 692; Mar. 26, 2009, eff. Dec. 1, 2009.)

Rule 8. Joinder of Offenses or Defendants

(a) Joinder of Offenses. The indictment or information may charge a defendant in separate counts with 2 or more offenses if the offenses charged—whether felonies or misdemeanors or both—are of the same or similar character, or are based on the same act or transaction, or are connected with or constitute parts of a common scheme or plan.

(b) Joinder of Defendants. The indictment or information may charge 2 or more defendants if they are alleged to have participated in the same act or transaction, or in the same series of acts or transactions, constituting an offense or offenses. The defendants may be charged in one or more counts together or separately. All defendants need not be charged in each count.

(As amended Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002.)

Rule 9. Arrest Warrant or Summons on an Indictment or Information

(a) Issuance. The court must issue a warrant—or at the government's request, a summons—for each defendant named in an indictment or named in an information if one or more affidavits accompanying the information establish probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed and that the defendant committed it. The court may issue more than one warrant or summons for the same defendant. If a defendant fails to appear in response to a summons, the court may, and upon request of an attorney for the government must, issue a warrant. The court must issue the arrest warrant to an officer authorized to execute it or the summons to a person authorized to serve it.

(b) Form.

(1) Warrant. The warrant must conform to Rule 4(b)(1) except that it must be signed by the clerk and must describe the offense charged in the indictment or information.

(2) Summons. The summons must be in the same form as a warrant except that it must require the defendant to appear before the court at a stated time and place.

(c) Execution or Service; Return; Initial Appearance.

(1) Execution or Service.

(A) The warrant must be executed or the summons served as provided in Rule 4(c)(1), (2), and (3).

(B) The officer executing the warrant must proceed in accordance with Rule 5(a)(1).

(2) Return. A warrant or summons must be returned in accordance with Rule 4(c)(4).

(3) Initial Appearance. When an arrested or summoned defendant first appears before the court, the judge must proceed under Rule 5.

(d) Warrant by Telephone or Other Means. In accordance with Rule 4.1, a magistrate judge may issue an arrest warrant or summons based on information communicated by telephone or other reliable electronic means.

(As amended Apr. 24, 1972, eff. Oct. 1, 1972; Apr. 22, 1974, eff. Dec. 1, 1975; Pub. L. 94–64, § 3(4), July 31, 1975, 89 Stat. 370, eff. Dec. 1,

1975; Pub. L. 94-149, §5, Dec. 12, 1975, 89 Stat. 806; Apr. 30, 1979, eff. Aug. 1, 1979; Apr. 28, 1982, eff. Aug. 1, 1982; Apr. 22, 1993, eff. Dec. 1, 1993; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002; Apr. 26, 2011, eff. Dec. 1, 2011.)

TITLE IV. ARRAIGNMENT AND PREPARATION FOR TRIAL

Rule 10. Arraignment

(a) **In General.** An arraignment must be conducted in open court and must consist of:

- (1) ensuring that the defendant has a copy of the indictment or information;
- (2) reading the indictment or information to the defendant or stating to the defendant the substance of the charge; and
- (3) asking the defendant to plead to the indictment or information.

(b) **Waiving Appearance.** A defendant need not be present for the arraignment if:

- (1) the defendant has been charged by indictment or misdemeanor information;
- (2) the defendant, in a written waiver signed by both the defendant and defense counsel, has waived appearance and has affirmed that the defendant received a copy of the indictment or information and that the plea is not guilty; and
- (3) the court accepts the waiver.

(c) **Video Teleconferencing.** Video teleconferencing may be used to arraign a defendant if the defendant consents.

(As amended Mar. 9, 1987, eff. Aug. 1, 1987; Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002.)

Rule 11. Pleas

(a) Entering a Plea.

(1) **In General.** A defendant may plead not guilty, guilty, or (with the court's consent) nolo contendere.

(2) **Conditional Plea.** With the consent of the court and the government, a defendant may enter a conditional plea of guilty or nolo contendere, reserving in writing the right to have an appellate court review an adverse determination of a specified pretrial motion. A defendant who prevails on appeal may then withdraw the plea.

(3) **Nolo Contendere Plea.** Before accepting a plea of nolo contendere, the court must consider the parties' views and the public interest in the effective administration of justice.

(4) **Failure to Enter a Plea.** If a defendant refuses to enter a plea or if a defendant organization fails to appear, the court must enter a plea of not guilty.

(b) Considering and Accepting a Guilty or Nolo Contendere Plea.

(1) **Advising and Questioning the Defendant.** Before the court accepts a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, the defendant may be placed under oath, and the court must address the defendant personally in open court. During this address, the court must inform the defendant of, and determine that the defendant understands, the following:

- (A) the government's right, in a prosecution for perjury or false statement, to use against the defendant any statement that the defendant gives under oath;