

From: [Info](#)
To: [RulesCommittee](#)
Subject: Proposed change to Supreme Court Rule 207-witness reading and signing transcripts
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:33:02 AM
Importance: High

I am writing regarding the proposed change to Supreme Court Rule 207 regarding witness reading and signing of their transcripts.

As a court reporter who has been certified in the State of Illinois since 1981, this proposed change is not necessary. As court reporters, we provided and allow deponents of all cases where applicable the opportunity to come into our office or a location that is convenient to them to read and sign their depositions. We have been doing that since the existence of our business in the State of Illinois. NEVER have we been agreeable to provide the deponent/witness a FREE copy of our work product.

The normal procedure is when the deponent is represented by an attorney and wishes to "reserve" his/her signature on their deposition, the attorney who is representing them has the opportunity to "order a copy" of that transcript and thus provide it to the deponent for reading and signing, returning to opposing counsel of record and our office a copy of any corrections/changes made at the time of reading and signing. If that attorney does not wish to order a copy of the transcript, we send a letter directly to the witnesses setting forth instructions for them to read and sign their transcript at a location agreed upon by us and them.

That procedure has worked as far back as I can remember. Why "fix it if it's not broken" is very applicable here. The ramifications of "providing" a witness a FREE copy of his/her deposition are far reaching. Why would opposing counsel ever want to order a transcript when he/she can receive a "copy" from the deponent? It is utterly ridiculous to think that our work product will not be "STOLEN" from us. It surely will be

Court reporters go through a very intense training program and a grueling state test to get certified in the State of Illinois. We practice a skill that not everyone possesses. This proposed change to Rule 207 is a slap in our faces and a very demeaning step to our profession. We deserve to get paid for our work product just as an attorney deserves to get paid for his/her time devoted to a case.

I implore the Rules Committee to take a hard look at the very real outcome to the court reporting profession if this proposed change is passed. It will be one more nail in the State of Illinois coffin and one more reason for certified shorthand reporters to seek work elsewhere, far from the State of Illinois.

I speak on behalf of thousands of professionally trained, certified shorthand reporters in this state. Our voices must be heard if we are expected to continue to be an integral part of the judicial system and remain officers of the court.

I appreciate your attention to these comments and urge you to vote NO on this proposed change.

Kind regards,

Claudia Paquet, President, RPR, (Ret. CSR)

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL. THANK YOU!

~ For the integrity of your record, always use a certified shorthand reporter ~

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