

From: [Susan Pilar-Musumeci](#)
To: [RulesCommittee](#)
Subject: Proposed Rule 207 Change Public Hearing RE: Deponent Read/Sign
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 3:20:40 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

As a seasoned certified shorthand stenographer of 32 years, transcripts are my personal work product. My livelihood is incumbent upon transcript sales. This income allows me to, first and foremost, help support my family, contribute to our economy, and maintain my CSR license which is required by the State of Illinois.

The proposition of providing my work product free of charge to an individual who reserves their right to review my transcript will open the door to not only plagiarism, but also further sharing of my work product file; thus, once again, greatly impacting my income. Furthermore, providing my transcripts free of charge devalues my work product and impacts my ability to earn necessary income and contribute to our nation's economy.

After the pandemic hit, court reporters quickly forged ahead in very innovative ways to accommodate for our inability to be in person for legal proceedings by implementing Zoom and other technological platforms. If a witness reserves signature and their attorney does not order a transcript, I provide said witness with their own Zoom link where they can log in and read their transcript with ease online just as they had given their testimony previously. It is actually easier and more convenient for them to do it this way than to have to drive to an office somewhere to review it.

My ability as a court reporter to remain current with my license certification, update and maintain my very costly equipment and software so that I may continue to provide cutting-edge service in our ever-changing legal field will be greatly impacted if my work product is given away for free. It devalues all of my hard work I expend in creating and producing my transcript. You see, we don't just press a button on our computer when we're done writing a legal proceeding on our stenographic machines and a transcript just magically appears. First we write the proceeding on our machine, then we translate and edit it through our software, and then we proofread and correct our verbatim transcripts which can take anywhere from hours to days to weeks to complete depending on the length of the proceeding.

Giving away our transcripts free of cost which we worked so incredibly hard to produce will be extremely devastating to our entire profession across the United States. The impact will undeniably be catastrophic to every single court reporter working in our country today and, therefore, it is completely unconscionable to take our imperative income earning ability away. I think this would be comparable to an attorney spending hours writing up a lengthy motion to be used in court and then not being able to bill for the time it took him/her to prepare it.

For these reasons, I am vehemently opposing Proposal 21-06 (P.R. 0299).

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and please take all of this into consideration when making the decision on this.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Pilar, CSR