

From: [Carrie Vellenga](#)
To: [RulesCommittee](#)
Subject: Proposal 21-06 (P.R. 0299) Amends Supreme Court Rule 207 (Signing and Filing Depositions).
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 10:17:59 AM

Proposal 21-06 (P.R. 0299) Amends Supreme Court Rule 207 (Signing and Filing Depositions).

Court reporters are trained, highly skilled, unbiased, licensed professionals that record proceedings that can last mere minutes to days and days on end. The equipment to perform this task, including the stenography machine, the upkeep and maintenance of said machine, annual subscriptions for extremely expensive software, laptops, printers, scanners and a multitude of accessories as well as the continuing education required in order to maintain his or her required Illinois license and stay up to date on the latest technologies, is extremely costly.

We are the keepers of the record, and having an accurate official record is vital for everyone involved, and as such the reporter should be paid for her work product. The record, depending on how long the proceedings lasted, can be extremely time consuming and expensive to produce. Asking a court reporter to hand over that record for free is shameful.

It is very simple to allow a witness who reserves signature to read the transcript when the representing attorney does not order the transcript. We can simply provide them a link to the transcript and an email containing an errata sheet to fill out, and they can make necessary changes from there. They do not need to be provided with the transcript for free. The idea is ludicrous.

I work hard. I take time away from my family so that I can produce transcripts in a timely manner. I take the utmost pride in my work, and I love my job. However, I should not be expected to do it for free, just as I do not expect an attorney to provide his or her services for free. If you open the door to allowing transcripts to be given away, attorneys will reserve signature every single time to avoid paying for a transcript. This would be devastating to court reporters as our livelihood depends on the sale of transcripts.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Vellenga, CSR