

VIRGINIA:

In the Supreme Court of Virginia held at the Supreme Court Building in the City of Richmond on Friday the 9th day of June, 2023.

It is ordered that the Rules heretofore adopted and promulgated by this Court and now in effect are hereby amended, effective August 8, 2023.

Amend Rule 4:1(g) as follows:

Rule 4:1. General Provisions Governing Discovery.

* * *

(g) Signing of Discovery Requests, Responses, and Objections. — Every request for discovery or response or objection thereto made by a party represented by an attorney must be signed by at least one attorney of record in the attorney's individual name, whose address must be stated. A party who is not represented by an attorney must sign the request, response, or objection, and state the party's address. The signature of the attorney or party constitutes a certification that the signer has read the request, response, or objection, and that to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry it is: (1) consistent with these Rules and warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for extension, modification, or reversal of existing law; (2) not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation; and (3) not unreasonable or unduly burdensome or expensive, given the needs of the case, the discovery already had in the case, the amount in controversy and the importance of the issues at stake in the litigation. If a request, response, or objection is not signed, it will be stricken unless it is signed no later than 21 days after the omission is called to the attention of the party making the request, response, or objection, and a party is not obligated to take any action with respect to it until it is signed.

(1) Raising Signature Defects; Waiver. —

- (a) The issue of a signature defect must be raised in the trial court prior to the entry of the final order;
- (b) A party waives an objection to a signature defect in a discovery request,

