

## Rules Update: Approved Changes to the Uniform Trial Court Rules

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Chief Justice Flynn has signed CJO 23-020, which approved changes to the Uniform Trial Court Rules (UTCRC), effective August 1, 2023 (and one change effective February 1, 2024).

### Changes of Special Note:

Require a person remotely observing or participating in a proceeding to obtain permission before transmitting an electronic writing directly and specifically to a witness, until the witness is excused; in criminal cases, allow a party to request that a pretrial motion hearing be held prior to the date of trial, if so requested, the hearing must be held at least 7 days before trial, absent good cause; allow parties to agree to appear remotely to resolve

cases outside of the court with jurisdiction over the county where the defendant is in custody; remove plea agreements and negotiations from the type of activity that must be completed pursuant to certain deadlines; allow persons to request accommodation for expression of milk; allow joint petitions in certain domestic relations actions; and allow courts to accept oral Informal Domestic Relations Trial (IDRT) related waivers and to allow a party to opt in or out of the IDRT process at any time prior to trial.

The approved changes are available online at <http://courts.oregon.gov/programs/utcr/Pages/currentrules.aspx>. The Preface to the 2023 UTCRC includes detailed explanations of the changes. ■