

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2014

**COURT OF CHANCERY ANNOUNCES NEW RULE CHANGES AND
ADOPTS OPERATING PROCEDURES**

The Court of Chancery recently completed the process of updating several rules and converting numerous standing orders into rules. The revisions to the rules will go into effect on January 1, 2015. This process, which the Court began in September 2012, involved the collaborative effort of the judicial officers and experienced practitioners on the Court's Rules Committee. The Delaware Supreme Court approved the rules on November 13, 2014.

For several years, the Court adopted standing orders to implement new procedures or tweak rules, but those standing orders were not referenced in the Court's rules, were not easy to access, particularly for self-represented litigants, and made it difficult for new members of the bar to understand the Court's procedures. Many of these standing orders affected cases involving trusts, estates, and adult guardianships, but the orders also covered topics such as electronic filing, mandatory mediation, and the procedures for cases heard by the Masters in Chancery.

In addition to updating the rules to incorporate the content of the standing orders, the Court also adopted several other revisions to its rules, including modernizing the verification language in Rule 3, updating and unifying the procedure for mediation in cases before the Court, including cases mediated by a judicial officer, adopting a new procedure for appointment of a guardian *ad litem* in trust cases, and adopting a new rule governing court interpreters for indigent parties with limited English proficiency. The Court also adopted a set of operating procedures that include requirements that could not logically or efficiently be incorporated into the Court's rules. These operating procedures have been posted on the Court's website.

The Court is grateful for the assistance of its Rules Committee, particularly the practitioners who served on the subcommittee that drafted the rules. Those practitioners included David J. Ferry, Esq., Gerald I.H. Street, Esq., Donald W. Sparks, II, Esq., Crystal L. Carey, Esq., Lexis McFassel, Esq., Kristopher Starr, Esq., Alex J. Mili, Jr., Esq., and Tasha Marie Stevens, Esq.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
Karlis Johnson
Court of Chancery
302-255-0550