RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PART ONE RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL PROCEEDINGS

Rule 1:4. General Provisions as to Pleadings.

- (a) Counsel tendering a pleading gives his assurance as an officer of the court that it is filed in good faith and not for delay.
- (b) A pleading that is sworn to is an affidavit for all purposes for which an affidavit is required or permitted.
- (c) Counsel or an unrepresented party who files a pleading shall sign it and state his address.
- (d) Every pleading shall state the facts on which the party relies in numbered paragraphs, and it shall be sufficient if it clearly informs the opposite party of the true nature of the claim or defense.
- (e) An allegation of fact in a pleading that is not denied by the adverse party's pleading, when the adverse party is required by these Rules to file such pleading, is deemed to be admitted. An allegation in a pleading that the party does not know whether a fact exists shall be treated as a denial that the fact exists.
- (f) Requirements of pleadings applicable to instruments not under seal shall apply to instruments under seal.
- (g) Requirements of pleadings applicable to legal defenses shall apply to equitable defenses.
- (h) The clerk shall note and attest the filing date on every pleading. In an Electronically Filed Case, the procedures of Rule 1:17 shall be applicable to the notation by the clerk of the date of filing.
- (i) The mention in a pleading of an accompanying exhibit shall, of itself and without more, make such exhibit a part of the pleading. Filing of such exhibits shall be governed by Rule 3:4.
- (j) Brevity is enjoined as the outstanding characteristic of good pleading. In any pleading a simple statement, in numbered paragraphs, of the essential facts is sufficient.

- (k) A party asserting either a claim, counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim or a defense may plead alternative facts and theories of recovery against alternative parties, provided that such claims, defenses, or demands for relief so joined arise out of the same transaction or occurrence. When two or more statements are made in the alternative and one of them if made independently would be sufficient, the pleading is not made insufficient by the insufficiency of one or more of the alternative statements. A party may also state as many separate claims or defenses as he has regardless of consistency and whether based on legal or equitable grounds.
- (l) Every pleading, motion or other paper served or filed shall contain at the foot the <u>Virginia State Bar number</u>, office address and telephone number of the counsel of record submitting it, along with any <u>electronic mail (E-mail) address</u> and facsimile number regularly used for business purposes by such counsel of record.

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PART ONE RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL PROCEEDINGS

Rule 1:17. Electronic Filing and Service.

(a) Scope of Electronic Filing Rules. Pursuant to § 8.01-271.01 and Article 4.1 (§§ 17.1-258.2 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 17.1 of the Code of Virginia, this Rule shall be applicable in any court that has established an electronic filing system under the standards and procedures set forth in subdivision (c) of this Rule, and applies in civil cases in circuit court as provided in Rule 3:3, in criminal cases in circuit court as provided in Rule 3A:23, in general district court proceedings as provided in Rule 7A:7(c), and in juvenile and domestic relations district court proceedings as provided in Rule 8:8(f).

(b) Definitions.

- (1) "**Electronic Document**" means any defined set of textural matter, graphic content or other encoded information in an approved format, that can be read, printed, and stored or retained as electrical, magnetic or optically encoded signals in some medium and that can be transmitted by a data-link.
- (2) "**Data-link**" refers to any means of electronic transmission of a document in a coded form such that the document can be received, read, printed, and stored by the recipient.
- (3) "**E-Filing Portal**" means the electronic web site maintained by the Supreme Court of Virginia designated as the facility for electronically filing documents, or an alternative which meets the standards set forth in this Rule and is made available by individual circuit courts.
- (4) "**Electronic filing**" means the official filing of an electronic document on the court's docket and case files in electronic form by transmission over a datalink.
- (5) "Electronically Filed Case" means a case in which pleadings, motions, notices and other filings are made electronically in accordance with these rules.
- (6) "Hyperlink" means an electronic connection or reference to another place in the document, such that when the hyperlink is selected the user is taken to the portion of the document to which the link refers. It is not in itself a part of the document.

- (c) *System Operational Standards*. In addition to the obligations and procedures set forth in subdivision (d) of this Rule, electronic filing systems under this Rule shall meet these requirements:
 - (1) Electronic documents must be stored without loss of content or material alteration of appearance.
 - (2) Files capable of carrying viruses into court computers must be scanned for viruses prior to being written to disk in the clerk's office.
 - (3) The electronic filing system must be capable of securing the document upon receipt so that it is protected from alteration.
 - (4) The electronic filing system must be capable of establishing the identity of a sender of a document by means of a registered user identity and password, or by digitally encrypted electronic signatures, or by any other means reasonably calculated to ensure identification to a high degree of certainty.
 - (5) Remote electronic access to documents submitted in an electronically filed case and stored electronically shall be limited to judges, court personnel, any persons assisting such persons in the administration of the electronic filing system, and to active members of the Virginia State Bar and their authorized agents counsel of record, including parties appearing pro se, who have complied with the registration requirements to use the electronic filing system.
 - (6) If the court accepts payment of fees by credit card, debit card, debit account, or electronic funds transfer, registration for the user identity shall include submission of all information required to effect the payment of fees. Electronic submission of this information shall be deemed a signature by the cardholder sender, authorizing the payment of document filing fees. This information shall be kept confidential. There shall be an electronic confirmation from the clerk of any charge to or the debit from the user's account.
 - (7) No unauthorized person shall be permitted access to other court networks, data or applications unrelated to electronic filing. Administrative access to computer equipment and networks handling electronic filing will be restricted to designated court employees or authorized maintenance personnel.
 - (8) Electronic filing systems must reasonably protect filed documents against system and security failures and must provide, at a minimum, for daily backup, periodic off-site backup storage if feasible, and prudent disaster recovery mechanisms.

- (d) Electronic Service and Filing Practice and Procedures.
- (1) In an Electronically Filed Case, all pleadings, motions, notices and other material filed with the court shall be in the form of Electronic Documents except where otherwise expressly provided by statute or the Rules of Court, or where the court orders otherwise in an individual case for good cause shown.
- (2) Each attorney admitted to practice in the Commonwealth shall be entitled to a registered User ID and password issued by the clerk, or access using any comparable identification system approved by the Supreme Court, for the electronic filing and retrieval of documents.
- (3) The clerk shall provide a means, in the courthouse or other designated location, for the parties, counsel and the public to review and copy electronic records from the electronic file during normal business hours.
- (4) The format for electronically filed material shall be the Portable Document Format (PDF). Notice will be provided if any other format is approved.
 - (5) (i) Subject to the provisions of subsections (d)(6) and (7) of this Rule, an electronic document shall be filed by following the procedures of the applicable E-Filing Portal, and shall be deemed filed on the date that it is received in the E-Filing Portal without regard to whether the filing occurred within or outside of standard business hours. If the electronic document is received in the E-Filing Portal on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or any day or part of a day on which the clerk's office is closed as authorized by an act of the General Assembly, then such document shall be deemed filed on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or day or part of a day on which the clerk's office is closed. Filings will be accepted during normal business hours and until 11:59:59 p.m. on any day the clerk's office is open.
 - (ii) Upon electronic filing of a document, an electronic confirmation shall be transmitted to the filing party indicating that the document has been successfully filed through the E-Filing Portal. In addition, the court to which the document is directed shall promptly transmit an electronic acknowledgement of its receipt of the electronically filed document, specifying the identity of the receiving court, the date the document was received by the court, and a court-assigned document reference or docketing number.

- (6) A person who files a document electronically shall have the same responsibility as a person filing a document in paper form to ensure that the document is properly filed, complete, and readable. However,
 - (i) if technical problems at the E-Filing Portal result in a failure to timely file the electronic document, counsel shall provide to the clerk of the court on the next business day all documentation which exists demonstrating the attempt to file the document through the E-Filing Portal, any delivery failure notice received in response to the attempt, and a copy of the document, and
 - (ii) in the event that the E-Filing Portal was not available due to technical problems during the last filing hours of a business day, the office of the clerk of the court to which the document is directed shall be deemed to have been closed on that day solely with respect to that attempted filing and the provisions of Virginia Code § 1-210(B) and (C) shall apply to that particular attempted filing for purposes of computing the last day for performing any act in a judicial proceeding or the filing of any legal action.

(7) <u>Clerk's notice of defects in a filing; striking documents; court orders.</u>

- (i) <u>Incorrect or missing fee.</u> If the clerk of court determines that an electronically filed document is defective because of an incorrect or missing filing fee, and or missing signature or required verification, notice shall be sent electronically to the filing party, who shall have a period of five business days after such notice is transmitted in which to cure the defect. A copy of this notice will be retained in the permanent electronic case file maintained by the court. The document remains validly filed during the period afforded for curing such defects and until an order of the court provides otherwise.
 - (A) if the clerk has been provided by the filing party with a credit or payment account through which to obtain payment of fees, the clerk shall immediately process payment of the correct fee through such credit or payment account; or
 - (B) if processing by the clerk of the proper payment through a credit or payment account authorized by the filing party is not feasible, notice shall be sent by the clerk electronically to the filing party, and all other parties who have appeared in the case.
- (ii) If the defect in an electronically filed document set forth in a notice transmitted pursuant to subsection (d)(7)(i) is not cured within the permitted period, or if any other defect considered grounds for rejection or striking of a filed document are identified by the clerk, the clerk shall

prepare and transmit electronically to all parties a notice that the defect will be presented to a judge of the court at a specified date and time for consideration of an order striking the document from the court records or directing other action. The hearing date specified in the notice under this subsection shall be at least 10 calendar days after transmission of the notice for that hearing. *Document filed in the wrong case by counsel*. If the clerk of court determines prior to acceptance that an electronic document has been filed by counsel under the wrong case or docket number, the clerk shall notify the filing party as soon as practicable, by notice through the E-Filing system, by telephone, or by other effective means.

- (iii) A copy of all notices transmitted by the clerk under this subpart (d)(7) shall be retained in the permanent electronic case file maintained by the clerk. A copy of any document stricken shall be retained by the clerk with a designation clearly reflecting that it was stricken and the date of such striking, as a record of its content and disposition.
- (8) The clerk's office must accommodate the submission of non-electronic documents in an Electronically Filed Case if filing in electronic form cannot, as a practical matter, be achieved. Such documents shall be imaged to facilitate the creation of a single electronic case file to the extent reasonably possible. An outsized document that is capable of being imaged shall be retained in the form submitted.
- (9) When a judge enters an order, the judge or clerk will update the electronic record to indicate the identity of the judge an order is entered, the electronic record will be updated to identify the judge who directed entry of the order and the date it was entered, and shall send a notification shall be sent to counsel of record that the order has been entered, along with a copy of the order or an electronic link providing access to such order. If the entry of an order is done on a paper copy of the order, a digital image of such order shall be made a part of the electronic record, and the endorsed original paper shall be retained for the record.
- (10) Hyperlinks between two portions of a filed document or between two or more documents filed in the same case, are permissible, but hyperlinks to other documents, or to external websites, are prohibited. A hyperlink is not itself a part of the official filed document and each hyperlink must contain a text reference to the target of the link.
- (e) Application of, and Compliance with, Other Rules. In an Electronically Filed Case:
 - (1) Unless otherwise agreed by all parties, or ordered by the court in an individual case for good cause shown, all documents required to be served after the initial service of process —may shall be served by electronic transmission, or

by delivering, dispatching by commercial delivery service, transmitting by facsimile, or mailing, a copy to each counsel of record on or before the day of filing. Such service shall be effective as provided in Rule 1:12.

- (2) Annotation by the clerk as provided in Rule 1:4(h) is not required to be made physically upon the face of the pleading and if it is made by a separate document it shall specify the pleading to which such annotation pertains.
- (3) An e-mail address of the counsel of record shall be included in the electronic documents filed as required by Rule 1:4(l).
- (4) The approved electronic identification accompanying the document when filed shall constitute that person's signature on the document for purposes of Rule 1:5 and Virginia Code § 8.01-271.1.
- (5) The provisions of Article 4.1 (§§ 17.1-258.2 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 17.1 of the Code of Virginia shall be applicable where a document is to be notarized, sworn, attested, verified, or otherwise certified, or if any sworn signatures, stamps, seals or other authentications relating to the document are required by any statute or Rule, and an electronic or digitally imaged document with such accompanying entries shall be filed in the clerk's office. Electronic notarization in compliance with the Virginia Notary Act (§§ 47.1-1 et seq.) may also be employed with the filing.
- (6) An acceptance of service or a certificate of counsel that electronic copies were served as this Rule requires, showing the date of delivery, shall electronically accompany the served papers and shall satisfy Rule 1:12.
- (7) In compliance with Rule 1:13, drafts of orders, decrees and notices shall be served on each counsel of record. Such service may be by electronic transmission and shall make provision for electronic endorsement by multiple parties where applicable. Objections or other notations by the parties shall be entered upon the drafts so circulated, or appended to such drafts by specific cross-reference or other unambiguous association. Endorsed drafts shall be submitted electronically whenever possible, and shall be accompanied by proof of service or acceptance of service when required by the rules of court. If there is no practical means of submitting an electronic or digitally imaged endorsed draft, the manually endorsed document shall be filed in the clerk's office. The clerk shall accommodate the imaging of the document into electronic form and shall retain the original endorsed document.

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PART THREE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN CIVIL ACTIONS

Rule 3:3. Filing of Pleadings; Return of Certain Writs.

- (a) *Filing Generally*. The clerk shall receive and file all pleadings when tendered, without order of the court. The clerk shall note and attest the date of filing thereon. In an Electronically Filed Case, the procedures of Rule 1:17 shall be applicable to the notation by the clerk of the date of filing. Any controversy over whether a party who has filed a pleading has a right to file it shall be decided by the court.
- (b) *Electronic Filing*. In any circuit court which has established an electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 1:17:
 - (1) Any civil proceeding action for which electronic filing is available in the circuit court may be designated as an Electronically Filed Case upon consent of all parties in the case. Such designation shall be made promptly, complying with all filing and procedural requirements for making such designations as may be prescribed by such circuit court.
 - (2) Except where service and/or filing of an original paper document is expressly required by these rules, all pleadings, motions, notices and other filings in an Electronically Filed Case shall be formatted, served and filed electronically as specified in the requirements and procedures of Rule 1:17; provided, however, that when any document listed below is filed in the case, the filing party shall notify the clerk of court that the original document must be retained.
 - (i) Any pleading or affidavit required by statute or rule to be sworn, verified or certified as provided in Rule 1:17(d)(5).
 - (ii) Any last will and testament or other testamentary document, whether or not it is holographic.
 - (iii) Any contract or deed.
 - (iv) Any prenuptial agreement or written settlement agreement, including any property settlement agreement.
 - (v) Any check or other negotiable instrument.
 - (vi) Any handwritten statement, waiver, or consent by a defendant or witness in a criminal proceeding.
 - (vii) Any form signed by a defendant in a criminal proceeding, including any typed statements or a guilty plea form.
 - (viii) Any document that cannot be converted into an electronic document in such a way as to produce a clear and readable image.

(c) <i>Return of writs</i> . No writ shall be returnable more than 90 days after its date unless a longer period is provided by statute.

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PART THREE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN CIVIL ACTIONS

Rule 3:4. Copies of Complaint.

- (a) *Copies for Service*. Except in cases where service is waived pursuant to Code § 8.01-286.1, the plaintiff shall furnish the clerk when the complaint is filed with as many paper copies thereof as there are defendants upon whom it is to be served. In an Electronically Filed Case, the plaintiff shall file the complaint electronically and furnish paper copies to the clerk as provided in this Rule.
- (b) *Exhibits*. It is not required that physical copies of exhibits filed with the complaint be furnished or served. Unless an individual case is exempted by order of the court for good cause shown, an electronic or digitally imaged copy of all exhibits that are incorporated by reference in the pleading shall be filed with the complaint. Upon the adoption of standards for the preparation of electronic or digital records for use in appeals, exhibits under this Rule shall comply with such standards.
- (c) *Additional copies*. A deficiency in the number of copies of the complaint shall not affect the pendency of the action.
 - (1) If the plaintiff fails to furnish the required number of copies, the clerk shall request that additional copies be furnished by the plaintiff as needed, and if the plaintiff fails to do so promptly, the clerk shall bring the fact to the attention of the judge, who shall notify the plaintiff's counsel, or the plaintiff personally if no counsel has appeared for plaintiff, to furnish them by a specified date. If the required copies are not furnished on or before that date, the court may enter an order dismissing the suit.
 - (2) Additionally, in an Electronically Filed Case, if the clerk has been provided by the plaintiff with a credit or payment account through which to obtain payment of fees for duplication of required copies of filings, the clerk shall promptly prepare additional copies of the pleading as needed, and process payment through such credit or payment account; or, if processing by the clerk of the proper payment for duplication of additional copies of the pleading through a credit or payment account authorized by the filing party is not feasible, the clerk shall proceed as provided in subpart (c)(1) of this Rule.

Addition of New Part 3 Rule Addressing Voir Dire in Civil Cases
This Rule is new in its entirety and therefore does not contain any interlineations.

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PART THREE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN CIVIL ACTIONS

Rule 3:22A. Examination of Prospective Trial Jurors (Voir Dire).

- (a) *Examination*. After the prospective jurors are sworn on the voir dire, the court shall question them individually or collectively to determine whether anyone:
 - (1) Is related by blood, adoption, or marriage to the accused or to the Plaintiff or Defendant;
 - (2) Is an officer, director, agent or employee of the Plaintiff or Defendant;
 - (3) Has any interest in the trial or the outcome of the case;
 - (4) Has acquired any information about the case or the parties from the news media or other sources and, if so, whether such information would affect the juror's impartiality in the case;
 - (5) Has expressed or formed any opinion about the case;
 - (6) Has a bias or prejudice against the Plaintiff or Defendant; or
 - (7) Has any reason to believe the juror might not give a fair and impartial trial to the Plaintiff and Defendant based solely on the law and the evidence.

Thereafter, the court, and counsel as of right, may examine on oath the venire, and any prospective juror, and ask questions relevant to the qualifications as an impartial juror. A party objecting to a juror may introduce competent evidence in support of the objection.

(b) *Challenge for Cause*. The court, on its own motion or following a challenge for cause, may excuse a prospective juror if it appears the juror is not qualified, and another shall be drawn or called and placed in the juror's stead for the trial of that case.

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PART THREE C NON-TRAFFIC PREPAYABLE OFFENSES AND UNIFORM FINE SCHEDULE

Rule 3C:2. Uniform Fine Schedule.

Any person charged with any offense listed below may enter a written appearance, waiver of court hearing, plea of guilty, and pay fines and costs.

This schedule is applied uniformly throughout the Commonwealth, and a clerk or magistrate may not impose a fine different from the amounts shown here. Costs shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder. The schedule does not restrict the fine a judge may impose for an offense listed here in any case for which there is a court hearing.

Where injury to the person is involved, prepayment may not be made, even though the offense or violation appears on the list below. See Va. Code § 16.1-69.40:2(A).

A violation of a provision of Title 28.2 may be prepaid only if the person has not violated a provision of Title 28.2 within the past 12 months. See Va. Code \S 28.2-903.

Description of Offense*	Statute or Regulation	<u>Fine</u>	Processing** Fee***	<u>Total</u>		
	* * * *					
Expectorating in public	<u>18.2-322</u>	\$15	\$61	\$76		
Drinking alcoholic beverage while driving motor vehicle	<u>18.2-323.1</u>	\$ 35 <u>75</u>	\$61	\$ 96 <u>136</u>		
Gambling illegally	<u>18.2-326</u>	\$35	\$61	\$96		
* * * *						
Improper Identification of Crab Pot Vessel	PRFC Reg VII		2	\$125		
Improper Identification of Crabbing Gear	PRFC Reg VII 3 b ¹		2	\$125		
Crab Pots without Decal/Tag – 300 Pot License						
# pots without decal/tag 1 to 15	PRFC Reg VII 3 b 1		2	<u>\$250</u>		
<u>16 to 30</u>	PRFC Reg VII 3 b 1		2	<u>\$500</u>		

Crab Pots without Decal/Tag – 400 Pot License						
# pots without decal/tag						
1 to 20	PRFC Reg VII	<u>2</u>	<u>\$250</u>			
	3 b 1					
		<u>2</u>				
21 to 40	PRFC Reg VII	<u> </u>	<u>\$500</u>			
	$3b^{1}$					
Crab Pots without Docal/Tag 500 Pot	Licansa					
<u>Crab Pots without Decal/Tag – 500 Pot License</u> # pots without decal/tag						
1 to 25	PRFC Reg VII	<u>2</u>	\$250			
<u>- 10 - 10</u>	3 b 1		4-00			
						
26 to 50	PRFC Reg VII	<u>2</u>	<u>\$500</u>			
	<u>3 b ¹</u>					
	PDFG P VIII	2	42.5 0			
Crabbing/Possession of	PRFC Reg VII	2	\$250			
Crabs During Closed Season	4 a ¹					
Crabbing at Night	PRFC Reg VII	2	\$200			
Crubbing at 11ight	5 b ¹		Ψ200			
No Culling Container on Board	PRFC Reg VII	2	\$200			
-	6 a ¹					
* * * *						

The description of offense is for reference and is not a legal definition.

All PRFC prepayable offenses should have 1 and 2 footnotes.

See §§ 9.1-106 and 53.1-120 of the Code.

This designation "PRFC Reg" refers to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission Regulations.

The cite provides the regulation number, the section number and the subsection number.

² Subtract fees from total and post balance to fine.

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PART FOUR PRETRIAL PROCEDURES, DEPOSITIONS AND PRODUCTION AT TRIAL

Rule 4:5. Depositions Upon Oral Examination.

* * * *

(c) Examination and Cross-Examination; Record of Examination; Oath; Objections. Examination and cross-examination of witnesses may proceed as permitted at the trial. The officer before whom the deposition is to be taken shall put the witness on oath and shall personally, or by someone acting under his direction and in his presence, record the testimony of the witness. If requested by one of the parties, the testimony shall be transcribed.

All objections made at time of the examination to the qualifications of the officer taking the deposition, or to the manner of taking it, or to the evidence presented, or to the conduct of any party, and any other objection to the proceedings, shall be noted by the officer upon the deposition. Any objection must be stated concisely in a nonargumentative and nonsuggestive manner. Evidence objected to shall be taken subject to the objections. In lieu of participating in the oral examination, parties may serve written questions in a sealed envelope on the party taking the deposition and he shall transmit them to the officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim.

* * * *

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PART FIVE THE SUPREME COURT F. SPECIAL RULES

Rule 5:21. Special Rules Applicable to Certain Appeals of Right.

(a) Appeals from the State Corporation Commission.

* * * *

(9) Assignments of Error. Within 10 days after the issuance by the clerk of this Court of the certificate pursuant to Rule 5:23, each party appellant shall file assignments of error in the office of the clerk of this Court and mail a copy thereof to every other party to the appeal. Under a heading entitled "Assignments of Error" shall be listed, clearly and concisely and without extraneous argument, the specific errors in the rulings below upon which the party intends to rely. A clear and exact reference to the pages of the transcript, written statement of facts, or record where the alleged error has been preserved shall be included with each assignment of error. Only errors so assigned will be noticed by this Court and no error not so assigned will be considered as grounds for reversal of the decision below. Error will not be sustained to any No ruling by the Commission will be considered as a basis for reversal unless the an objection was stated with reasonable certainty at the time of the ruling, except for good cause shown or to enable this Court to attain the ends of justice. An assignment of error which merely states that the judgment is contrary to the law and the evidence is not sufficient.

* * * *