

"Petition 13-14 to Amend SCR 60.04."



Clerk of Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk---Rules
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, Wis, 53701-1688

Dear Clerk of Supreme Court:

In regards to petition 13-14 to amend SCR 60.04: A judge should exercise discretion consistent with the law and court rules to help ensure that all litigants are fairly heard. A judge's responsibility is to promote access to justice, combined with the growth in litigation involving self-represented litigants, which warrants more frequent exercise of such discretion using techniques that enhance the process of reaching a fair determination in the case. While the appropriate scope of such discretion and how it is exercised will vary with the circumstances of each case, a judge's exercise of such discretion will not generally raise a reasonable question about the judge's impartiality.

We know that some members of the Court are very concerned about victims of domestic violence and we are hoping with this new verbage it this law would be helpful for victims who most often appear in injunction proceedings without lawyers to allow judges the discretion to facilitate a victim's ability to provide the basis for the injunction request without worrying that the judge is violating the code of judicial ethics. As you are well aware, court proceedings are so intimidating to almost anyone but even more so to victims who are also often facing their abusers when trying to present their case.

We hope you will consider supporting:
Section 4. Supreme Court Rule 60.04 (1) (i).

On behalf of our domestic violent victims, our agency and all victims everywhere thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Lindee Kimball
Executive Director
Solutions Center Shelter & Support Services
Fond du Lac, WI 54935