



the doj & cd

Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT – Draft new e-Rules published for public comment

11 MARCH 2021

PROPOSED NEW E-RULES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFORM AND MAGISTRATES' COURTS RULES FOR THE ELECTRONIC CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Rules Board for Courts of Law (Rules Board) has considered that the benefits of technology should be utilized and incorporated into the civil justice system to improve the efficiency of our courts and the processes of litigation which would optimally utilize resources and enhance access to justice for users of the Civil Justice System.

To assist it in the process, the Rules Board established a Task Team in 2018 to investigate and make recommendations on the amendment of the rules of the Superior Courts and the Magistrates' Courts to facilitate the use of electronic systems and to recommend new rules where necessary.

With the assistance of the recommendations made by the Task Team, the Rules Board has drafted proposed new "e-Rules" and amendments to the Uniform Rules of Court and the Rules of the Magistrates' Courts to regulate the processes relating to filing and service of pleadings and documents and the hearing of cases, electronically.

The Rules Board has now published, for public comment, new draft e-rules and amendments to the Uniform and Magistrates' courts rules for the electronic Civil Justice System. Accordingly, members of the public and interested parties are invited to comment on the following set of draft rules:

1. E-Rules and certain amended rules for the High Court
2. E-Rules and certain amended rules for the Magistrates' Courts.

The above proposed rules are available on the DOJ&CD website: www.justice.gov.za.

Comments must be submitted on or before Friday, 14 May 2021 and may be delivered to the Secretariat of the Rules Board in any of the following ways: *By hand delivery to the offices of the Secretariat, 2nd Floor, East Tower, Centre Walk, 266 Pretorius Street, Pretoria; or by email to Ms C Kemp at ChKemp@justice.gov.za; or by Post to P O Box 13106, The Tramshed (0126). Enquiries may also be directed to Ms Kemp 012 326 8014.*

Issued by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

Enquiries

**Mr Chrispin Phiri: Spokesperson: Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services
081 781 2261**

Cphiri@justice.gov.za

ENDS