SUMMARY OF 2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Below is a summary of the 2025 proposed amendments to the Local Rules for the District of Nebraska. These proposals were approved to be published for public comment by the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska Judicial Counsel on September 19, 2025.

The enclosed proposed amendments were considered and recommended to the Judicial Council by the District of Nebraska Local Rules Committee. The Local Rules Committee consists of law clerks of District and Magistrate Judges in the District of Nebraska, with District Judge Brian Buescher as judicial liaison. The proposed amendments were proposed to the Local Rules Committee by members of the bar, chambers staff, the U.S. Marshals Office, and the District Court Clerk's staff.

The proposed rule changes in items 6, 7, and 8 below arose from proposals made by a Court-appointed subcommittee made up of attorneys from a variety of federal court practice areas, including those who frequently represent plaintiffs and defendants. The Committee was charged with reviewing civil discovery rules, particularly those relating to whether definitions should be allowed or banned with regard to written discovery.

A summary of the proposed amendments to the District of Nebraska local rules is as follows:

1. NEGenR 1.6(e) is amended to add "smart glasses" to the list of prohibited devices in the courthouse and courtrooms.

2. NEGenR 1.7 is amended by striking NEGenR 1.7(i)(2)(C)(ii) and renumbering accordingly to eliminate the requirement of a certificate stating that a law student appearing before the Court has read and agrees to abide by the applicable rules.

3. NECivR 7.1(d) on word limits and generative artificial intelligence (AI) is amended as follows:
   - to move into subsection (1) concerning word limits subsections (D) requiring a certificate of compliance only for word limits (formerly (4)); (E) stating consequences of noncompliance (formerly (5)); and (F) on motions to exceed limits (formerly (2)); and
   - to place requirements on use of generative artificial intelligence in NECivR 7.1(d)(2). Subsection (2) is amended to require parties using generative artificial intelligence to verify the contents of their filings and to state the possible consequences of failure to verify filings.

5. NECivR 9.1 is amended by removing NECivR 9.1(a)(1), which had required disclosure of a claimant's Social Security Number in a separate document in Social Security Cases, and renumbering the remaining subparts of NECivR 9.1(a) accordingly.

6.   Based on proposals of an appointed Subcommittee comprised of interested civil practice attorneys, NECivR 29.1 on discovery stipulations is amended to allow the parties to agree in writing to extend deadlines to respond to requests under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 33, 34, and 36 unless the extension would interfere with court-imposed deadlines.

7.   Based on proposals of an appointed Subcommittee comprised of interested practice attorneys, NECivR 33.1 concerning interrogatories is amended as follows:
- in subsection (b) to provide for standard definitions;
- in subsection (c) to establish rules of construction; and
- in subsection (d) as to counting of the number of interrogatories.

Remaining subsections are renumbered (e) through (g).

8.   Based on proposals of an appointed Subcommittee comprised of interested parties, NECivR 36.1 on requests for admissions is amended by adding new subsection (e) concerning limitations on the number of requests for admission, concerning objections, and designating motions on unresolved objections as "Discovery Motions" subject to the pre-filing requirements of NECivR 7.1(j).

9.   NECivR 55.1(b) is amended to require a clerk's entry of default before seeking a default judgment.

10.   New NECivR 65.1 states how to request preliminary injunctive relief.

11.   NECivR 67.1(b)(2) is amended to clarify that there is no fixed interest on funds invested in the Court's Registry.

12.   NECrimR 12.3(d) concerning generative artificial intelligence is amended, consistent with NECivR 7.1(d), to eliminate heading (1) Obligations of Parties and to require parties using generative artificial intelligence to verify the contents of their filings and to state the possible consequences of failure to verify filings. It is further amended to delete former subsections (2) on certification of compliance and (3) on the consequences of noncompliance.