

2022-005

From: Paula Werme <pwerme@comcast.net>

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To: "Justice Patrick E. Donovan" <PDonovan@courts.state.nh.us>, Abigail Albee <aalbee@courts.state.nh.us>, "Hon. William Delker" <WDelker@courts.state.nh.us>, "Hon. Michael H. Garner" <MGarner@courts.state.nh.us>, sean.gill@doj.nh.gov

Subject: I got tired of copying email addresses - TO: ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RULES

Send it to the rest of the members. . . .

I just got an email from one pro se litigant to another about 10 day deadlines and postal delays in the FD. Ten days is no longer enough with postal delays.

"Quite frankly, I think it's absolutely shameful that, in 2022, the New Hampshire Judicial Branch still doesn't support e-file for family law cases in the trial courts!

Worse, Clerk [redacted] has been instructed by [redacted] "to not respond to emails sent to her by any citizen or lawyers," so we're all (regular citizens and professional lawyers) really all at the mercy of the U.S. Postal Service to learn what's going on in our cases. . . . Often, by the time anyone first learns, via snail mail, what the trial court has done in a Family Division case, there's often no time to respond appropriately, and sometimes not even enough time just to comply. It's especially an issue for *pro se* litigants such as myself, who often need more time than professional attorneys.

It is a huge problem - especially for pro-se litigants, whose legal research skills might not be the best.

I would appreciate it you folks would consider changing the rule - at least until e-filing in the FD becomes a reality for pro se litigants.