

Amendment Process for Federal Rules	
Action	Timing
STEP 1	
Suggestion for a change in the rules. <i>(Submitted in writing or e-mail to the Secretary of Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure)</i>	At any time.
Referred by the Secretary to the appropriate Advisory Committee.	Promptly after receipt.
Considered by the Advisory Committee (meets twice a year)	At the next committee meeting.
If approved, the Advisory Committee seeks authority from the Standing Committee to circulate to bench and bar for comment.	Normally at the same meeting or the next committee meeting.
STEP 2	
Public comment period.	6 months.
Public hearings.	During the public comment period.
STEP 3	
Advisory Committee considers the amendment afresh in light of public comments and testimony at the hearings.	About one or two months after the close of the comment period.
Advisory Committee approves amendment in final form and transmits it to the Standing Committee.	About one or two months after the close of the comment period.
STEP 4	
Standing Committee approves amendment, with or without revisions, and recommends approval by the Judicial Conference.	Normally at its June meeting.
STEP 5	
Judicial Conference approves and transmits amendment to Supreme Court.	Normally at its September session.
STEP 6	
The Supreme Court prescribes the amendment.	By May 1.
STEP 7	
Deadline for Congress to enact legislation to reject, modify, or defer the amendment.	By December 1.
Absent Congressional action, the amendment becomes law.	December 1.