



FISHER'S LAW OFFICE, P.A.

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January 25, 2023

Supreme Court of Florida
Tallahassee, FL

RE: Proposed Change to Rule 12.285 and forms

Hon. Justices:

I am strongly opposed to waiving Financial Affidavit disclosure in divorce cases in Florida.

I have practiced law in Florida since 1983 and over the last 39 years it is apparent to me after representing hundred of divorcing parties, that fairness in divorce proceedings is enhanced by open and honest and forthright financial disclosures, including the mandatory filing under oath of Financial Affidavits in all divorce cases.

Many spouses are unaware of the wealth, pensions and income of their partners and if we allow a waiver of disclosures of such wealth, it will perpetuate unfairness and injustice among many in the lower rungs of society.

It is hard enough to get accurate information from parties, even with the current regime of mandatory financial disclosures, including the requirement that parties file a Financial Affidavit when getting divorced.

If we change the rules and allow waiver of such filings, I fear for women and children who will potentially be robbed of the rights and benefits of marriage they deserve.

Continuing to require disclosure of Financial Affidavits, will also decrease dependency on taxpayers for Medicaid and other social support services if divorcing parties are allowed to know the true wealth of their spouses.

575 Cypress Lane, Lutz Florida USA 33548

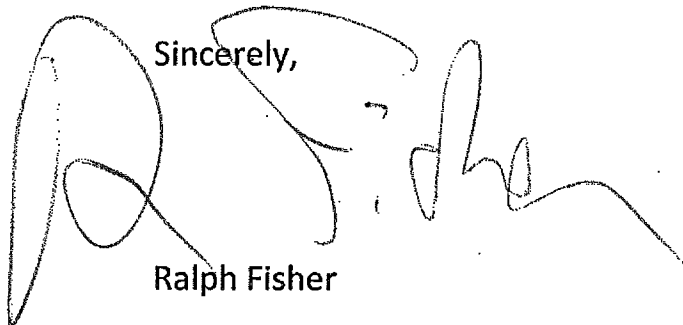
Tel +1 (813) 949-2749 / Cell +1 (813) 528-0520 / E-mail ralphfisher@yahoo.com

RECEIVED, 01/25/2023 01:30:22 PM, Clerk, Supreme Court

I humbly request that you Justices reject this proposal and continue to require full disclosure of finances by divorcing parties, including the filing of Financial Affidavits under the current rules.

I certify I sent a copy of this letter to attorney Michael L. Dear, mandriano@dearlaw.com and Kelly Smith at Ksmith@floridabar.org. I do not request oral argument of my objection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Fisher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Ralph Fisher