

# Order

Michigan Supreme Court  
Lansing, Michigan

September 18, 2019

Bridget M. McCormack,  
Chief Justice

ADM File No. 2014-46

David F. Viviano,  
Chief Justice Pro Tem

Proposed Amendment of  
Rule 6.508 of the Michigan  
Court Rules

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Stephen J. Markman  
Brian K. Zahra  
Richard H. Bernstein  
Elizabeth T. Clement  
Megan K. Cavanagh,  
Justices

On order of the Court, this is to advise that the Court is considering alternative amendments of Rule 6.508 of the Michigan Court Rules. Before determining whether either proposal should be adopted, changed before adoption, or rejected, this notice is given to afford interested persons the opportunity to comment on the form or the merits of the proposals or to suggest alternatives. The Court welcomes the views of all. This matter also will be considered at a public hearing. The notices and agendas for public hearings are posted at [Administrative Matters & Court Rules page](#).

Publication of this proposal does not mean that the Court will issue an order on the subject, nor does it imply probable adoption of the proposal in its present form.

[Additions to the text are indicated in underlining  
and deleted text is shown by strikeover.]

## Alternative A

Rule 6.508 Procedure; Evidentiary Hearing; Determination

(A)-(C) [Unchanged.]

(D) Entitlement to Relief. The defendant has the burden of establishing entitlement to the relief requested. The court may not grant relief to the defendant if the motion

(1) [Unchanged.]

(2) alleges grounds for relief which were decided against the defendant in a prior appeal or proceeding under this subchapter, unless the defendant establishes that a retroactive change in the law has undermined the prior decision; for purposes of this provision, a court is not precluded from considering previously-decided claims in the context of a new claim for relief, such as in determining whether new evidence would make a different result probable on retrial;

(3) [Unchanged.]

(E) [Unchanged.]

### **Alternative B**

Rule 6.508 Procedure; Evidentiary Hearing; Determination

(A)-(C) [Unchanged.]

(D) Entitlement to Relief. The defendant has the burden of establishing entitlement to the relief requested. The court may not grant relief to the defendant if the motion

(1) [Unchanged.]

(2) alleges grounds for relief which were decided against the defendant in a prior appeal or proceeding under this subchapter, unless the defendant establishes that a retroactive change in the law has undermined the prior decision, or if the previously-decided claims, when considered together, create a strong likelihood of actual innocence;

(3) [Unchanged.]

(E) [Unchanged.]

*Staff Comment:* The proposed alternative amendments of MCR 6.508 would allow a court to consider previously-decided claims in the context of a new claim for relief, consistent with footnote 17 in *People v Johnson*, 502 Mich 541 (2018), as expressed in Alternative A, or under a slightly different formulation in Alternative B.

The staff comment is not an authoritative construction by the Court. In addition, adoption of an amendment in no way reflects a substantive determination by this Court.

A copy of this order will be given to the Secretary of the State Bar and to the State Court Administrator so that they can make the notifications specified in MCR 1.201. Comments on the proposal may be sent to the Supreme Court Clerk in writing or electronically by January 1, 2020, at P.O. Box 30052, Lansing, MI 48909, or [ADMcomment@courts.mi.gov](mailto:ADMcomment@courts.mi.gov). When filing a comment, please refer to ADM File No. 2014-46. Your comments and the comments of others will be posted under the chapter

affected by this proposal at [Proposed & Recently Adopted Orders on Admin Matters page](#).



I, Larry S. Royster, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

September 18, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry S. Royster", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk