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Supreme Court Advisory Committee
Austin, Texas

Re: In Support of Forms for Family Law Cases

Dear Committee Members:

I have been licensed since 1969 and certified as a Family Law Specialist since 1975. I am a member of the subcommittees on Self-Represented Litigants and Limited Scope Representation.

Opponents argue that making forms available will encourage litigants not to hire a lawyer, even if they could afford one.

But even if this occurs, there are ways to mitigate it. Court-approved forms could be linked with lawyer-referral services. It is a simple matter to provide information for lawyer-referral in the same locations as the forms are provided. Such information could even be included in the forms-packet itself. Indeed, information could include a recommendation that hiring a lawyer is preferable in all cases.

At the very least, the foregoing practice would likely increase the number of lawyers hired for consultation regarding the forms and the judicial process.

But regardless of the effect of Court-approved forms on hiring lawyers, the forms are sorely needed by the large number of litigants who could never afford a lawyer in any event.

Sincerely,



Philip C. Friday, Jr.