



Northern Mariana Islands Supreme Court Rules

Effective January 12, 2010

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION..... 5

TITLE I. APPLICABILITY OF RULES 5

Rule 1. Scope of Rules; Authority; Title; Definitions..... 5

(a) Scope of Rules..... 5

(b) [Reserved] 5

(c) Title. 5

Rule 1-1. Authority; Forms; Definitions 5

(a) Authority. 5

(c) Definitions..... 6

Rule 2. Suspension of Rules..... 6

TITLE II. APPEALS FROM JUDGMENTS AND ORDERS OF THE SUPERIOR COURT..... 6

Rule 3. Appeal – How Taken 6

Rule 3-1. Docketing Statement; Response; Notice of Appearance; Notice of Potential Conflicts 8

(a) Docketing Statement. 8

(b) Opposing Parties Must Respond or File Appearance. 9

Rule 4. Appeals: When Taken 10

Rule 4-1. Counsel in Criminal Appeals..... 14

Rule 5. [Reserved]..... 14

Rule 6. [Reserved]..... 14

Rule 7. Bond for Costs on Appeal in Civil Cases 14

Rule 8. Relief Pending Appeal..... 14

Rule 9. Release in Criminal Cases 16

Rule 10. The Record on Appeal..... 16

Rule 11. Assembling the Record..... 18

Rule 11-1. Transcripts..... 18

Rule 12. Docketing the Appeal; Filing a Representation Statement 24

TITLE III. CERTIFIED QUESTIONS 24

Rule 13. Certified Questions: From Federal Court 24

(a) When Appropriate. 24

(b) How Brought. 24

(c) Procedure in This Court..... 25

(d) Costs. 25

Rule 14. Certified Questions: From Commonwealth Officials 26

(a) When Appropriate. 26

(b) How Brought. 26

(c) Procedure in This Court..... 27

TITLE IV. REVIEW OR ENFORCEMENT OF AN ORDER OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, OR OFFICER 27

Rule 15. [Reserved]..... 27

Rule 16. [Reserved]..... 27

Rule 17. [Reserved]..... 28

Rule 18. [Reserved]..... 28

Rule 19. [Reserved]..... 28

Rule 20. [Reserved]..... 28

TITLE V. EXTRAORDINARY WRITS 28

Rule 21. Writs of Mandamus and Prohibition, and Other Extraordinary Writs 28

Rule 21-1. Original Actions 29

TITLE VI. HABEAS CORPUS; PROCEEDINGS IN FORMA PAUPERIS 30

Rule 22. Habeas Corpus Proceedings 30

Rule 23. Custody or Release of a Prisoner in Habeas Corpus Proceedings 30

Rule 24. Proceeding in Forma Pauperis 31

(a) Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis. 31

(b) [Reserved] 31

(c) Leave to Use Original Record. 32

TITLE VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS 32

Rule 25. Filing and Service 32

Rule 26. Computation and Extension of Time 34

Rule 26.1 Corporate Disclosure Statement 35

Rule 27. Motions..... 35

Rule 27-1. Motions: Additional Requirements..... 37

Rule 27-2. Emergency Motions..... 38

Rule 27-3. Emergency Criminal Interlocutory Appeals 39

Rule 27-4. Motions: Disposition 39

Rule 28. Briefs 40

Rule 28.1. Cross-Appeals..... 42

Rule 29. Brief of Amicus Curiae..... 44

Rule 30. Appendix to the Briefs..... 45

Rule 31. Serving and Filing Briefs..... 46

Rule 31-1. Extensions of Time for Filing Briefs; Late Filing of Briefs 47

Rule 31-2. Briefs Not in Conformity with Rules..... 49

Rule 32. Form of Briefs, Appendices, and Other Papers 49

Rule 32.1 Citing Judicial Dispositions..... 50

Rule 33. Appeal Conferences..... 51

Rule 33-1. Appeal Conference Procedure..... 51

(a) Purpose. 51

(b) Appeal Conference Officer..... 51

(c) Confidentiality..... 52

(d) Appeal Conference Report. 52

Rule 34. Oral Argument..... 53

Rule 35. [Reserved]..... 54

Rule 36. Entry of Judgment; Notice..... 54

Rule 37. Interest on Judgment..... 54

Rule 38. Frivolous Appeal-Damages and Costs..... 54

Rule 39. Costs 55

Rule 39-1. Request for Attorney Fees; Opposition 55

Rule 40. Petition for Rehearing..... 56

Rule 41. Mandate: Contents; Issuance and Effective Date; Stay 57

Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal 58

Rule 42-1. Dismissal and Sanctions for Failure to Prosecute..... 58

Rule 43. Substitution of Parties..... 59

Rule 44. Case Involving a Constitutional Question When the United States or the Relevant State is Not a Party 60

Rule 45. Clerk’s Duties 60

Rule 45-1. Clerk’s Authority 61

Rule 46. [Reserved]..... 62
Rule 47. Court Rules..... 62
Rule 48. Masters 62
Rule 49. [Reserved]..... 62
Rule 50. [Reserved]..... 62
Rule 51. [Reserved]..... 62

TITLE VIII. THE RULES OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL 62
Rule 52. Judicial Council 63