



# Judicial Council of California

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February 20, 2026.

## Subject Text

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File #: 20-126, Version: 1

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### Title

## Rules and Forms | Appellate Procedure: Technical Revisions to Forms to Use Gender-Neutral Language (Action Required)

### Summary

As requested by the Rules Committee, the Appellate Advisory Committee reviewed the Judicial Council forms within its purview to identify any containing gender identity questions or gender terms. The committee identified several forms containing gender terms and recommends that they be revised to use gender-neutral language. The committee also recommends correcting the numbering and lettering of items on one of these forms to be consistent with standard formatting.

### Recommendation

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2021, revise:

1. *Civil Case Information Statement* (form APP-004), the box at the top of page 4, to replace “a party to the appeal may not perform the mailing or delivery himself or herself” with “the mailing or delivery must be performed by someone who is not a party to the appeal,” and Parts 1 and 2, to correct the numbering and lettering of items to be consistent with standard formatting;
2. *Appellant’s Proposed Settled Statement* (form APP-014), item 3a, to replace “his or her” with “the party’s,” and item 5a, to replace “he or she” with “the judge”;
3. *Order on Court Fee Waiver* (form APP-016-GC/FW-016-GC), item 6b(2), to replace “he or she” with “the (proposed) ward or conservatee”;
4. *Proposed Statement on Appeal* (form APP-104), item 7d, to replace “what that witness said *in his or her testimony*” with “*the witness’s testimony*”;
5. *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO), item 4, to replace “he or she” with “the party”;
6. *Information on Writ Proceedings in Misdemeanor, Infraction, and Limited Civil Cases* (form APP-150-INFO), item 6, to replace “he or she” with “the person” and item 18c, to replace “he or she” with “the petitioner”;
7. *Proposed Statement on Appeal* (form CR-135), item 7e, to replace “what that witness said in his or her testimony” with “the witness’s testimony”;
8. *Proposed Statement on Appeal* (form CR-143), item 6e, to replace “what that witness said in his or her testimony” with “the witness’s testimony”; and
9. *Recommendation for Appointment of Appellate Attorney for Child* (form JV-810) to replace “his or her” with “the child’s” in items 3b, 3c(2), and 3d, and “he or she” with “the child” in item 3c.