



# Judicial Council of California

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February 20, 2026.

## Subject Text

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**File #:** 15-378, **Version:** 1

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### **Title**

### **Juvenile Law: Proceedings Before a Referee (Action Required)**

### **Summary**

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends amending California Rules of Court, rule 5.538(b)(3), to make the rule consistent with a statutory change to Welfare and Institutions Code section 248, subdivision (b)(1). The amendment would permit a referee's findings and orders to be personally served in court on a party who is present at the hearing rather than exclusively by mail, as currently provided in the rule.

### **Recommendation**

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2016, amend rule 5.538(b)(3), to make the rule consistent with a statutory change to Welfare and Institutions Code section 248(b)(1).