

Judge Samuel McVey
4th Judicial District Court
State of Utah

August 9, 2005

Thank you for this update. I recommend making no change whatsoever to the Model Code or to the comments. Pro se litigants are accommodated with small claims courts, court and bar web sites, free- or reduced- fee lawyer consultations provided by state and local bar associations, Legal Services Corporation and other services.

These are not perfect but do serve pro se litigants and save the taxpayers considerable expense by not requiring additional judicial assets to be used to explain the legal system to an unrepresented party. You are correct that a new "standard" will be construed by pro se parties as a requirement. In our state (Utah) it would give so-called "constitutionalists" and others yet another ground with which to bury courts with more frivolous filings, to occupy further every calendar they can get on with ceaseless, pointless arguments and to otherwise waste the taxpayers' money.

Realizing that if one creates committees and commissions, those committees and commissions begin creating new rules whether they are needed or not, I suggest the Joint Commission not create a new rule or platitude where one is not needed.

Respectfully, sdm

Judge Samuel McVey
smcvey@email.utcourts.gov
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