



# Kansas Courts News Release

## *Office of Judicial Administration*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2017

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### **Supreme Court accepting comment on proposed new and amended rules for specialty courts**

TOPEKA—The Kansas Supreme Court is accepting public comment on a proposed new rule and a proposed amended rule that address how specialty courts are defined and what standards judicial districts follow when creating a specialty court.

Comment on the proposed new rule and proposed amended rule may be made by email to [publiccomments@kscourts.org](mailto:publiccomments@kscourts.org) until 5 p.m. Monday, May 22, 2017. The subject line must read Specialty Court.

A specialty court is one that uses therapeutic or problem-solving procedures to address underlying factors that contribute to a person's involvement in the criminal justice system, whether those underlying factors are mental illness or addiction.

- [Proposed Amended Supreme Court Rule 109A](#) allows a judicial district to create a specialty court to address specific needs within its district. The proposed amendment to this rule simplifies the terminology used to describe these courts.
- [Proposed Supreme Court Rule 109B](#) is new and adopts general standards for judicial districts creating a specialty court. These new standards include having measurable goals and objectives, using evidence-based practices, and having trained, knowledgeable judges overseeing the specialty court.

The proposed rules are available for review on the Kansas judicial branch website at [www.kscourts.org](http://www.kscourts.org) under the heading What's New.

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