



SUPREME COURT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Rules of the Supreme Court, 1986

PRACTICE NOTE
P.N. No. 2026-01

DATE ISSUED: June 26, 2026

RULES AFFECTED: Rule 4A

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 10, 2026

PREVIOUS PRACTICE
NOTES REVISED: P.N. No. 2024-01

The following Practice Note is published pursuant to Rule 4.04 of the *Rules of the Supreme Court, 1986*.

COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS UNDER PSEUDONYM

Background and Purpose

1. The Court issues the following Practice Note to provide guidance for parties seeking to commence civil proceedings under a pseudonym.
2. The Court may make an order permitting a litigant to bring proceedings using initials or a pseudonym in exceptional circumstances where the public interest in open courts is displaced by a serious risk to a competing interest of public importance.

Practice Note:

3. A party who files an Originating Application or a Statement of Claim using initials or a pseudonym must, at the same time, file an Interlocutory Application for a Confidentiality Order in accordance with Rule 4A, unless there is a pre-existing order permitting or requiring the party to proceed anonymously.

4. The applicant must file any Affidavit evidence that will be relied on in support of the Application. The applicant may redact their name or other identifying information from the Affidavit evidence.
5. The applicant must additionally file alongside their documents a sealed letter containing their true name and the unredacted evidence, if redactions have been made.
6. All documents filed with the Court, including a copy of the sealed letter containing the applicant's true name and unredacted evidence, must be served on the defendant(s) and/or respondent(s) in accordance with Rules 6 and 29.
7. An Application for a Confidentiality Order permitting the applicant to commence a proceeding under initials or a pseudonym will be set for a hearing at the earliest possible opportunity.

If the confidentiality order is granted

8. If the Confidentiality Order is granted following the hearing of the Application, the applicant must file the order with the Registry unless the Court orders otherwise. The judge at the hearing of the Application may order that the letter and unredacted evidence containing the applicant's true name or identifying information continue to be sealed.

If the confidentiality order is refused

9. If the Application for a Confidentiality Order is refused following the hearing, the applicant must file an amended pleading to include their true name before any further steps are taken in the proceeding.

Application for an anonymity order by a defendant or respondent

10. For clarity, nothing in this Practice Note prevents a defendant or respondent from seeking a Confidentiality Order in accordance with Rule 4A.

Authorized by:

**Raymond P. Whalen
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