

Surrogate's Court
of the
County of New York



SURROGATE'S CHAMBERS
31 CHAMBERS STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007
646-386-5100

RITA MELLA
SURROGATE

SHALINI DEO
PRINCIPAL LAW CLERK

EMMA PLETENYCKY
ASSISTANT LAW CLERK

New Rule Applicable to Cases Before Surrogate Rita Mella – Effective June 21, 2021

Length of Papers – Word Count Limits

- (a) Unless otherwise permitted by the court: (i) affidavits, affirmations, briefs and memoranda of law shall be limited to **7,000 words** each; (ii) reply affidavits, affirmations, and memoranda shall be no more than **4,200 words** and shall not contain any arguments that do not respond or relate to those made in the memoranda in chief.
- (b) For purposes of paragraph (a) above, the word count shall exclude the caption, table of contents, table of authorities, and signature block.
- (c) Every brief, memorandum, affirmation, and affidavit shall include on a page attached to the end of the applicable document, a certification by the counsel who has filed the document stating the number of words in the document and certifying that the document complies with the word count limit. The counsel certifying compliance may rely on the word count of the word-processing system used to prepare the document.
- (d) The court may, upon a letter application on notice to all parties permit the submission of affidavits, affirmations, briefs or memoranda which exceed the limitations set forth in paragraph (a) above. In the event that the court grants permission for an oversize submission, the certification required by paragraph (c) above shall set forth the number of words in the document and certify compliance with the limit, if any set forth by the court.