[NEW MATERIAL]

1-071.4. Statutory stream system adjudication suits; *ex parte* contacts; general problems of administration.

Subparagraph (7) of Paragraph B of Rule 21-300 NMRA of the Code of Judicial Conduct applies to stream adjudications, except that judges, special masters and members of their staff in accordance with this rule may communicate with the plaintiff with respect to matters not addressing the merits of any pending adjudication that relate to general problems of administration and management of a pending or impending adjudication or the accurate reporting of water rights claims in the court's records.

Committee Commentary: The unique nature of a stream system adjudication, including its complexity and size, require coordination between the courts and the state to effectively manage the adjudication. At the same time, the courts are regulated by the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against *ex parte* communications concerning pending matters. This rule expressly permits the court to have limited *ex parte* contacts with the plaintiff for the purposes of general administration and management of the adjudication.