

# THE COURTS

## Title 231—RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

### PART 1. GENERAL

[ 231 PA. CODE CHS. 1900, 1910, 1915, 1920 AND 1930 ]

Order Amending Rules 1901, 1901.3, 1910.11, 1910.12, 1915.4-2, 1915.4-3, 1920.1, 1920.31, 1920.33, 1920.42, 1920.45, 1920.46, 1920.51, 1920.53, 1920.54, 1920.55-1—1920.55-3, 1920.61, 1920.74, 1920.91, 1930.7 and 1931 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure; No. 721 Civil Procedural Rules Doc.

#### Order

*Per Curiam*

*And Now*, this 19th day of October, 2021, upon the recommendation of the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, the proposal having been published for public comment in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, 51 Pa.B. 1006 (February 27, 2021):

It is Ordered pursuant to Article V, Section 10 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania that Rules 1901, 1901.3, 1910.11, 1910.12, 1915.4-2, 1915.4-3, 1920.1, 1920.31, 1920.33, 1920.42, 1920.45, 1920.46, 1920.51, 1920.53, 1920.54, 1920.55-1, 1920.55-2, 1920.55-3, 1920.61, 1920.74, 1920.91, 1930.7, and 1931 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure are amended in the following form.

This Order shall be processed in accordance with Pa.R.J.A. No. 103(b), and shall be effective on January 1, 2022.

#### Annex A

### TITLE 231. RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

#### PART I. GENERAL

#### CHAPTER 1900. ACTIONS PURSUANT TO THE PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ACT

##### Rule 1901. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \* \* \*

*Fees*—means any costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, service or appeal of a Protection From Abuse matter, including any foreign protection order.

[ *Master for Emergency Relief*—means an attorney, admitted to the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and appointed pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 6110(e), to hear petitions for emergency protection from abuse. ]

*Temporary Order*—An ex parte order entered by the court pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 6107.

#### [ Explanatory Comment—2006

The 2005 amendments to the Protection From Abuse Act, Act 66 of 2005, authorize two methods to secure emergency protection from abuse orders. The first is through a magisterial district judge and the other is through a master for emergency relief. In order for a county to exercise the master for

emergency relief option, the county must assume the costs of the master and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts must approve the master's selection and appointment. 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 6110(e).

The 2005 amendments to the Protection From Abuse Act also prohibit the assessment of fees or costs against the plaintiff or petitioner. This prohibition includes fees related to filing, serving, registering or appealing a protection from abuse petition or order. 23 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 6104(d)(1), 6106(b) and (g.1) and 6113.1(b). ]

##### Rule 1901.3. Commencement of Action.

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), [ **an action shall be commenced** ] a plaintiff shall commence an action by presenting to the court or filing with the prothonotary a petition setting forth the alleged abuse by the defendant. The petition shall be substantially in the form set forth in [ **Rule** ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1905(b) and shall have as its first page the Notice of Hearing and Order set forth in [ **Rule** ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1905(a).

(b) An action may be commenced by filing with the prothonotary a certified copy of an emergency order entered pursuant to 23 [ Pa.C.S.A. ] Pa.C.S. § 6110, including orders issued by [ **masters for emergency relief** ] a hearing officer.

(c) Any fees associated with this action shall not be charged to the plaintiff.

(d) The [ **master for emergency relief** ] hearing officer shall follow the procedures set forth in the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Governing Actions and Proceedings Before Magisterial District Judges for emergency relief under the Protection From Abuse Act.

*Official Note:* See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b). This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file confidential documents and documents containing confidential information that are subject to the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania*.

#### CHAPTER 1910. ACTIONS FOR SUPPORT

##### Rule 1910.11. Office Conference. Subsequent Proceedings. Order.

(a) *Office Conference.*

(1) A conference officer shall conduct the office conference.

(2) A lawyer serving as a conference officer employed by, or under contract with, a judicial district or appointed by the court shall not practice family law before a conference officer, hearing officer [ , **permanent or standing master** ], or judge of the same judicial district.

*Official Note:* Conference officers preside at office conferences under Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.11. Hearing officers preside at hearings under Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.12. The appointment of [ **masters** ] a hearing officer to hear actions in divorce or for annulment of marriage is authorized by Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 1910.12. Office Conference. Hearing. Record. Exceptions. Order.**

(a) **Office Conference.** There shall be an office conference as provided by [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.11(a) through (d). The provisions of [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.11(d)(3) and (4) regarding income information apply in cases proceeding pursuant to [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.12.

(b) **Conference Conclusion.**

(1) At the conclusion of a conference attended by both parties, if an agreement for support has not been reached, and the conference and hearing are not scheduled on the same day, the court, without hearing the parties, shall enter an interim order calculated in accordance with the guidelines and substantially in the form set forth in [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(e), and the parties shall be given notice of the date, time and place of a hearing. A record hearing shall be conducted by a hearing officer who must be a lawyer.

(2) If either party, having been properly served, fails to attend the conference, the court may enter an interim order calculated in accordance with the guidelines and substantially in the form set forth in [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(e). Within [ twenty ] 20 days after the date of receipt or the date of mailing of the interim order, whichever occurs first, either party may demand a hearing before a hearing officer. If no hearing is requested, the order shall become final.

(3) Any lawyer serving as a hearing officer employed by, or under contract with, a judicial district or appointed by the court shall not practice family law before a conference officer, hearing officer[ , permanent or standing master ], or judge of the same judicial district.

**Official Note:** Conference officers preside at office conferences under [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.11. Hearing officers preside at hearings under [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.12. The appointment of [ masters ] a hearing officer to hear actions in divorce or for annulment of marriage is authorized by [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51.

(c) **Separate Listing.**

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2), promptly after **the conference's** conclusion [ of the conference ], a party may move the court for a separate listing of the hearing [ where ] if:

- (i) there are complex questions of law, fact or both; [ or ]
- (ii) the hearing will be protracted; or
- (iii) the orderly administration of justice requires that the hearing be listed separately.

(2) [ Where ] **When** the conference and hearing are scheduled on the same day, all requests for separate listing [ must ] **shall** be presented to the court at least seven days prior to the scheduled court date.

(3) If the motion for separate listing is granted, discovery shall be available in accordance with [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 4001 *et seq.*

**Official Note:** The rule relating to discovery in domestic relations matters generally is [ Rule ] Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.5.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHAPTER 1915. ACTIONS FOR CUSTODY OF MINOR CHILDREN**

**Rule 1915.4-2. Partial Custody. Office Conference. Hearing. Record. Exceptions. Order.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) **Hearing.**

(1) The hearing shall be conducted by a hearing officer who must be a lawyer, and a record shall be made of the testimony. A hearing officer who is a lawyer employed by, or under contract with, a judicial district or appointed by the court shall not practice family law before a conference officer, hearing officer[ , permanent or standing master ], or judge of the same judicial district.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 1915.4-3. Non-Record Proceedings. Trials.**

(a) **Non-Record Proceedings.** In judicial districts utilizing an initial non-record proceeding, *i.e.*, office conference, if an agreement is not finalized by the conclusion of the proceeding, the conference officer shall promptly notify the court that the matter should be listed for trial. A lawyer employed by, or under contract with, a judicial district or appointed by the court to serve as a conference officer to preside over a non-record proceeding shall not practice family law before a conference officer, hearing officer[ , permanent or standing master ], or judge of the same judicial district.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHAPTER 1920. ACTIONS OF DIVORCE OR FOR ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE**

**Rule 1920.1. Definitions. Conformity to Civil Action.**

(a) As used in this chapter [ , ]:

\* \* \* \* \*

“divorce,” divorce from the bonds of matrimony or dissolution of a civil union;

“**hearing officer,**” shall have the same meaning as “**master**” as that term is used in the Divorce Code, 23 Pa.C.S. §§ 3101 *et seq.*

“marital property rights” means those rights created solely by Section 3501 of the Divorce Code; and

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 1920.31. Joinder of Related Claims. Ancillary Claims.** Alimony. Counsel Fees. Costs and Expenses.

(a) **Ancillary Claims.**

(1) If a party has raised a claim for alimony, counsel fees, or costs and expenses, the parties shall file a true copy of the most recent federal income tax return, pay stubs for the preceding six months, a completed Income Statement in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(c)(1), and a completed Expense Statement in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(c)(2)(B).

(i) A party may not file a motion for the appointment of a [ master ] hearing officer or a request for court action regarding alimony, counsel fees, or costs and expenses until at least 30 days following the filing of that party's tax returns, Income Statement, and Expense Statement.

(ii) The other party shall file the tax returns, Income Statement, and Expense Statement within 20 days of service of the moving party's documents.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) **Alimony.**

(1) Orders for alimony may be enforced as provided by the rules governing actions for support and divorce, and in the Divorce Code.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 1920.33. Joinder of Related Claims. Equitable Division. Enforcement.**

(a) If a pleading or petition raises a claim for equitable division of marital property under Section 3502 of the Divorce Code, the parties shall file and serve on the other party an inventory, which shall include the information in subdivisions [ (1) through (3) ] (a)(3)(i)—(iii), and shall be substantially in the form set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.75.

(1) Within 20 days of service of the moving party's inventory, the non-moving party shall file an inventory.

(2) A party may not file a motion for the appointment of a [ master ] hearing officer or a request for court action regarding equitable division until at least 30 days following the filing of that party's inventory.

**Official Note:** See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b). This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file confidential documents and documents containing confidential information that are subject to the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania*.

(3) The inventory shall set forth as of the date of separation:

[ (1) ] (i) a specific description of the marital assets, which either or both parties have a legal or equitable interest, individually or jointly with another person, the name of the co-owners, if applicable, and the marital liabilities, which either party incurred individually or jointly with another person, and the name of any co-debtors, if applicable;

[ (2) ] (ii) a specific description of the assets or liabilities claimed to be non-marital and the basis for such claim; and

[ (3) ] (iii) the estimated value of the marital and non-marital assets and the amount due for each marital and non-marital liability.

**Official Note:** Subdivision (c) provides for sanctions for failure to file an inventory as required by subdivision (a). An inventory may be incomplete if a party lacks comprehensive knowledge of the assets and liabilities involved in the claim for equitable division. Consequently, the rule does not contemplate that a party will be precluded from presenting testimony or offering evidence as to assets or liabilities omitted from the inventory. The omission may be remedied by inclusion of the omitted information in the pre-trial statement required by subdivision (b).

(b) Within the time required by order of court or written directive of the [ master ] hearing officer or, if none, at least 60 days before the scheduled hearing on the claim for equitable division, the parties shall file and serve upon the other party a pre-trial statement. The pre-trial statement shall include the following matters, together with any additional information required by special order of the court:

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 1920.42. Obtaining Divorce Decrees under Section 3301(c) or Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code. Affidavits and Counter-Affidavits. Requirements of the Affidavit of Consent. Ancillary Claims. Orders Approving Grounds for Divorce. Notice of Intention to File the Praecepto to Transmit Record. Praecepto to Transmit Record.**

(a) *Obtaining a divorce decree under Section 3301(c)(1) of the Divorce Code.*

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) After the court enters an order approving grounds for divorce, a party may request, consistent with the judicial district's local rules and procedures, that the court either hears the ancillary claims or appoints a [ master ] hearing officer to hear the ancillary claims as outlined in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51.

**Official Note:** See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.74 for the Motion for Appointment of [ Master ] Hearing Officer.

(4) If the parties resolve the ancillary claims by agreement after the court approves the grounds for the divorce but before the court enters an order disposing of the ancillary claims, the parties shall file a Praecepto to Transmit Record requesting the court enter the appropriate divorce decree. To the extent the agreement does not address all of the parties' claims raised in the pleadings, the party raising the outstanding claims shall withdraw the claims before the court enters a divorce decree.

(b) *Obtaining a divorce decree under Section 3301(c)(2) of the Divorce Code.*

(1) If a party has filed a complaint requesting a divorce on the ground of irretrievable breakdown and a party has been convicted of a personal injury crime against his or her spouse, the court shall enter a decree in divorce after:

\* \* \* \* \*

(iii) the filed affidavits and a blank Counter-Affidavit under Section 3301(c)(2) of the Divorce Code have been served on the other party consistent with Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.4, and the other party has admitted or failed to deny the averments in the Affidavit to Establish Presumption of Consent under Section 3301(c)(2) of the Divorce Code;

(A) If a party files a Counter-Affidavit under Section 3301(c)(2) of the Divorce Code denying an averment in the Affidavit to Establish Presumption of Consent under Section 3301(c)(2) of the Divorce Code, either party may present a motion requesting the court resolve the issue.

(B) After presentation of the motion in subdivision (A), the court may hear the testimony or, consistent with Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51(a)(1)(ii)(D), appoint a [ master ] hearing officer to hear the testimony and to issue a report and recommendation.

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) After the court enters an order approving grounds for divorce, a party may request, consistent with the judicial district's local rules and procedures, that the court either hears the ancillary claims or appoints a [ master ] hearing officer to hear the ancillary claims as outlined in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51.

**Official Note:** See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.74 for the Motion for Appointment of [ Master ] Hearing Officer.

(4) If the parties resolve the ancillary claims by agreement after the court approves the grounds for the divorce but before the court enters an order disposing of the ancillary claims, the parties shall file a Praecepto to



Transmit Record requesting the court enter the appropriate divorce decree. To the extent the agreement does not address all of the parties' claims raised in the pleadings, the party raising the outstanding claims shall withdraw the claims before the court enters a divorce decree.

(c) *Obtaining a divorce decree under Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code.*

(1) If a party has filed a complaint requesting a divorce on the ground of irretrievable breakdown and the requisite separation period has elapsed, the court shall enter a decree in divorce after:

\* \* \* \* \*

(iii) the filed affidavit and a blank Counter-Affidavit under Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code have been served on the other party consistent with Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.4, and the other party has admitted or failed to deny the averments in the Affidavit under Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code;

(A) If a party files a Counter-Affidavit under Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code denying an averment in the Affidavit under Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code, including the date of separation, either party may present a motion requesting the court resolve the issue.

(B) After presentation of the motion in subdivision (A), the court may hear the testimony or, consistent with Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51(a)(1)(ii)(D), appoint a **[ master ] hearing officer** to hear the testimony and to issue a report and recommendation.

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) After the court enters an order approving grounds for divorce, a party may request, consistent with the judicial district's local rules and procedures, that the court either hears the ancillary claims or appoints a **[ master ] hearing officer** to hear the ancillary claims as outlined in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51.

**Official Note:** See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.74 for the Motion for Appointment of **[ Master ] Hearing Officer**.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 1920.45. Counseling.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) If the court has referred a divorce action to a **[ master ] hearing officer** and a party requests counseling pursuant to the Divorce Code, without leave of court, the **[ master ] hearing officer** may require counseling and continue the hearing pending the counselor's report.

**Rule 1920.46. Affidavit of Non-Military Service.**

If the defendant fails to appear in the action, the plaintiff shall file an affidavit regarding military service with the motion for appointment of a **[ master ] hearing officer**, prior to a trial by the court, or with the plaintiff's affidavit required by Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.42(b)(1)(ii) and (c)(1)(ii).

\* \* \* \* \*

Rule 1920.51. Hearing by the Court. Appointment of **[ Master ] Hearing Officer**. Notice of Hearing.

(a) In an action of divorce or annulment:

(1) the court may:

(i) hear the testimony; or

(ii) upon motion of a party or of the court, appoint a **[ master ] hearing officer**:

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) the court shall not appoint a **[ master ] hearing officer**:

\* \* \* \* \*

**Official Note:** Section 3321 of the Divorce Code prohibits the appointment of a **[ master ] hearing officer** as to the claims of custody and paternity. However, as set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.91(3), the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania suspended Section 3321 insofar as that section prohibits the appointment of **[ masters ] a hearing officer** in partial physical custody cases.

(3) The Motion for the Appointment of a **[ Master ] Hearing Officer** and the order shall be substantially in the form prescribed by Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.74. The order appointing the **[ master ] hearing officer** shall specify the issues or ancillary claims that are referred to the **[ master ] hearing officer**.

(4) A permanent or standing **[ master ] hearing officer** employed by or under contract with a judicial district or appointed by the court shall not practice family law before a conference officer, hearing officer, permanent or standing **[ master ] hearing officer**, or judge of the same judicial district.

**Official Note:** Conference officers preside at office conferences under Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.11. Hearing officers preside at hearings under Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.12. The appointment of **[ master ] hearing officer** to hear actions in divorce or annulment is authorized by Section 3321 of the Divorce Code.

(b) Written notice of the hearing shall be given to each attorney of record by the **[ master ] hearing officer**. If a **[ master ] hearing officer** has not been appointed, the prothonotary, clerk, or other officer designated by the court shall give the notice.

(c) If no attorney has appeared of record for a party, notice of the hearing shall be given to the party by the **[ master ] hearing officer**, or if a **[ master ] hearing officer** has not been appointed, by the prothonotary, clerk, or other officer designated by the court, as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

Rule 1920.53. Hearing by **[ Master ] Hearing Officer**. Report.

In an action for divorce or annulment that has been referred to a **[ master ] hearing officer**, the **[ master's ] hearing officer's** report and recommendation shall include findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommended disposition of the case or issue.

(a) The findings of fact shall include, as appropriate for the circumstances and issues before the **[ master ] hearing officer**:

(1) the method and date of service of process;

(2) the manner and date of service of the notice of the **[ master's ] hearing officer's** hearing or the **[ master's ] hearing officer's** efforts to notify the parties;

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) The conclusions of law shall include a discussion of the law as it relates to the facts, as well as the legal conclusions reached by the **[ master ] hearing officer**.

(c) If a divorce or an annulment is recommended, the [ master ] hearing officer shall attach a proposed decree to the report and recommendation.

Rule 1920.54. Hearing by [ Master ] Hearing Officer. Report. Related Claims.

(a) If claims for counsel fees and costs and expenses have been referred to a [ master ] hearing officer pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51(a), the [ master's ] hearing officer's report shall contain a separate section captioned "Counsel Fees and Costs and Expenses[ ].]" The report may be in a narrative form stating the reasons for the recommendation and shall include a proposed order stating:

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) If a claim for alimony has been referred to a [ master ] hearing officer, the report shall contain a separate section captioned "Alimony." The report shall conform to the requirements of subdivision (a) and, in addition, shall set forth:

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) If a claim for the determination and distribution of existing property rights and interests between the parties has been referred to a [ master ] hearing officer, the report shall contain a separate section captioned "Division of Property." The section shall be divided into two parts[ , ]:

\* \* \* \* \*

Rule 1920.55-1. Alternative Hearing Procedures for Matters Referred to a [ Master ] Hearing Officer.

(a) Matters referred to a [ master ] hearing officer for hearing shall proceed as prescribed by Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.55-2 unless the court by local rule adopts the alternative procedure of Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.55-3.

(b) The president judge or the administrative judge of Family Division of each county shall certify that all divorce proceedings which are referred to a [ master ] hearing officer in that county are conducted in accordance with either Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.55-2 or Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.55-3. The certification shall be filed with the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee and shall be substantially in the following form:

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ County conducts its divorce proceedings that are referred to a [ master ] hearing officer in accordance with Pa.R.C.P. No. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PRESIDENT JUDGE)  
(ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE)

\* \* \* \* \*

Rule 1920.55-2. [ Master's ] Hearing Officer's Report. Notice. Exceptions. Final Decree.

(a) After conclusion of the hearing, the [ master ] hearing officer shall:

- (1) file the record and the report within:
(ii) twenty days in uncontested actions; or[ ; ]

(i) thirty days from the last to occur of the receipt of the transcript by the [ master ] hearing officer or close of the record in contested actions; and

(2) immediately serve upon counsel for each party, or, if unrepresented, upon the party, a copy of the report and recommendation and written notice of the right to file exceptions.

(b) Within [ twenty ] 20 days of the date of receipt or the date of mailing of the [ master's ] hearing officer's report and recommendation, whichever occurs first, any party may file exceptions to the report or any part thereof, to rulings on objections to evidence, to statements or findings of fact, to conclusions of law, or to any other matters occurring during the hearing. Each exception shall set forth a separate objection precisely and without discussion. Matters not covered by exceptions are deemed waived unless, prior to entry of the final decree, leave is granted to file exceptions raising those matters.

(c) If exceptions are filed, any other party may file exceptions within [ twenty ] 20 days of the date of service of the original exceptions. The court shall hear argument on the exceptions and enter a final decree.

\* \* \* \* \*

Rule 1920.55-3. [ Master's ] Hearing Officer's Report. Notice. Hearing De Novo. Final Decree.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) After the conclusion of hearing, the [ master ] hearing officer shall:

- (1) file the report within:
(i) twenty days in uncontested actions; or[ ; ]
(ii) thirty days in contested actions; and
(2) immediately serve upon counsel for each party, or, if unrepresented, upon the party, a copy of the report and recommendation, and written notice of the right to demand a hearing de novo.

(c) Within [ twenty ] 20 days of the date the [ master's ] hearing officer's report is mailed or received, whichever occurs first, any party may file a written demand for a hearing de novo. If a demand is filed, the court shall hold a hearing de novo and enter a final decree.

(d) If no demand for de novo hearing is filed within the [ twenty-day ] 20-day period, the court shall review the report and recommendation and, if approved, shall enter a final decree.

\* \* \* \* \*

Rule 1920.61. Testimony Outside the County.

On motion of a party and upon such terms as it may order, the court may authorize and direct the [ master ] hearing officer to take testimony of witnesses within any other county of the Commonwealth or in any other state or territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, or in any foreign country.

Rule 1920.74. Form of Motion for Appointment of [ Master ] Hearing Officer. Order.

(a) The motion for appointment of a [ master ] hearing officer shall be substantially in the following form:

(Caption)

MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF [ MASTER ] HEARING OFFICER

\_\_\_\_\_ (Plaintiff) (Defendant) moves the court to appoint a [ master ] hearing officer with respect to the following claims:

- ( ) Divorce
( ) Annulment
( ) Alimony
( ) Equitable Division of Marital Property
( ) Counsel Fees
( ) Costs and Expenses
( ) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

and in support of the motion states:

- (1) Discovery (is) (is not) complete as to the claim(s) for which the appointment of a [ master ] hearing officer is requested.
(2) The non-moving party (has) (has not) appeared in the action (personally) (by his or her attorney, \_\_\_\_\_, Esquire).
(3) The statutory ground(s) for divorce (is) (are) \_\_\_\_\_.
(4) If the [ master's ] hearing officer's appointment is for resolution of a divorce, an annulment, or ancillary claims, the parties have complied with Pa.R.C.P. Nos. 1920.31, 1920.33, and 1920.46, as applicable.
(5) Check and complete the applicable paragraph(s):
[ ] (a) The action is not contested.
[ ] (b) An agreement has been reached with respect to the following claims:
\_\_\_\_\_.
[ ] (c) The action is contested with respect to the following claims:
\_\_\_\_\_.
(6) The action (involves) (does not involve) complex issues of law or fact.
(7) The hearing is expected to take \_\_\_\_\_ (hours) (days).
(8) Additional information, if any, relevant to the motion: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_
Attorney for [ (PLAINTIFF) (DEFENDANT) ]
(Plaintiff) (Defendant)

(b) The order appointing a [ master ] hearing officer shall be substantially in the following form:
(Caption)

ORDER APPOINTING [ MASTER ] HEARING OFFICER

AND NOW, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Esquire, is appointed [ master ] hearing officer with respect to the following claims: \_\_\_\_\_.

BY THE COURT:
\_\_\_\_\_

MOVING PARTY

NON-MOVING PARTY

Name:

Name:

Attorney's Name:

Attorney's Name:

Attorney's Address:

Attorney's Address:

Attorney's Telephone #:

Attorney's Telephone #:

Attorney's E-Mail:

Attorney's E-Mail:

Party's Address and Telephone

Party's Address and Telephone

# if not represented by counsel:

# if not represented by counsel:

**Official Note:** See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.51(a)(1)(ii) for the issues and claims for which the court may appoint a [ master ] hearing officer. It is within the discretion of the court to determine the point at which a [ master ] hearing officer should be appointed in a case.

**Rule 1920.91. Suspension of Acts of Assembly.**

The following Acts of Assembly are suspended insofar as they apply to the practice and procedure in actions for divorce or annulment of marriage to the extent hereinafter set forth:

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) Section 3321 of the Domestic Relations Code, 23 Pa.C.S. § 3321, insofar as it prohibits the appointment of [ masters ] hearing officers in partial custody or visitation matters.

**Official Note:** Suspended Section 3321 of the Divorce Code states that the court may appoint a [ master ] hearing officer to hear testimony on all issues relating to a divorce except custody or paternity.

(4) And all other Acts or parts of Acts of Assembly inconsistent with these rules to the extent of such inconsistency.

**CHAPTER 1930. RULES RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS MATTERS GENERALLY**

**Rule 1930.7. Status Conference.**

At any time in the proceedings, the court, the court's designee or the [ master ] hearing officer, sua sponte or upon application of any party, may hold a status conference, in person or by any other means permitted by these rules, [ with counsel or with counsel and the parties ] with the parties' counsel, the parties and counsel, or self-represented parties in order to review the case status and expedite the litigation.

**Rule 1931. Family Court Rules.**

(a) *Actions Governed by These Rules* [ : ] .

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Commencement of Action.*

(1) *Unified Family Court Docketing.* All actions under these Family Court Rules which involve identical parties

shall be entered on the court's docket under the same primary case number. Additional letters or numbers may be added parenthetically to specify the type of action, judge assigned or other identifying information.

(2) *Custody Agreements.* If, at a support proceeding, it appears that resolution of custody issues will facilitate compliance with the child support order, the conference officer [ , ] or hearing officer [ or master ] may provide the parties with a form custody complaint and form custody agreement, along with information as to where to file the completed documents, the filing fee, and how to contact the lawyers referral service. The support conference officer [ , ] or hearing officer [ or master ] shall not participate in custody negotiations, preparation of the forms, or provide legal advice.

(c) *Consolidation of Family Court Matters.*

(1) *General Rule.* Two or more actions under these Family Court Rules involving the same parties and common questions of law and/or fact shall be consolidated for hearing or trial unless the court determines that it is inappropriate or impractical to do so.

(2) *Trial Continuity.* Trials before a judge or hearings before a [ master ] hearing officer shall be scheduled to be heard on consecutive days or within a [ ten (10) day ] ten-day period. If not completed within the time allotted, the trial or hearing shall be concluded within [ ninety (90) ] 90 days of the date of the commencement of the trial or hearing, unless a shorter time frame is required by statute or another procedural rule.

(3) *Prompt Decisions.*

(i) Except as provided in subdivision [ (ii) below ] (c)(3)(ii), in any matter brought under these Family Court Rules, a decision by a conference officer, [ master ] hearing officer, or judge shall be entered, filed, and served upon counsel for the parties, or any party not represented by counsel, not later than [ thirty (30) ] 30 days after the conference, hearing, or trial concludes, unless a shorter time frame is required by statute or another procedural rule.



(ii) The time for entering and filing a decision may be extended if, within [ **thirty (30)** ] **30** days of the conclusion of the conference, hearing, or trial, the court extends the date for such decision by order entered of record showing good cause for the extension. In no event shall an extension delay entry of the decision more than [ **sixty (60)** ] **60** days after the conclusion of the conference, hearing, or trial.

(d) *Continuing Education for Family Court Personnel.*

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) *Initial Training.* Within one [ **(1)** ] year of assignment to cases governed by these Family Court Rules, each [ **master,** ] hearing officer, conciliator, mediator, and other court personnel designated by the president or administrative judge of each judicial district shall successfully complete the coursework developed or approved by the AOPC.

(3) *Continuing Education.* Each [ **master,** ] hearing officer, conciliator, mediator, and other court personnel designated by the president or administrative judge who is assigned to cases governed by these Family Court Rules shall successfully complete six [ **(6)** ] hours of continuing education developed or approved by the AOPC each calendar year following the calendar year in which the initial training was completed.

(4) *Compliance.* The AOPC shall monitor compliance with the educational requirements of this rule.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1792. Filed for public inspection October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

**Title 246—MINOR COURT CIVIL RULES**

**PART I. GENERAL**

[ 246 PA. CODE CH. 500 ]

**Order Amending Rule 514 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Governing Actions and Proceedings Before Magisterial District Judges; No. 463 Magisterial Rules Doc.**

**Order**

*Per Curiam*

*And Now*, this 20th day of October, 2021, upon the recommendation of the Minor Court Rules Committee; the proposal having been published for public comment at 50 Pa.B. 4646 (September 12, 2020):

It is Ordered pursuant to Article V, Section 10 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania that Rule 514 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Governing Actions and Proceedings Before Magisterial District Judges is amended in the following form.

This Order shall be processed in accordance with Pa.R.J.A. No. 103(b), and shall be effective on January 1, 2022.

**Annex A**

**TITLE 246. MINOR COURT CIVIL RULES**

**PART I. GENERAL**

**CHAPTER 500. ACTIONS FOR THE RECOVERY OF POSSESSION OF REAL PROPERTY**

**Rule 514. Judgment; Notice of Judgment or Dismissal and the Right to Appeal.**

A. If it appears at the hearing that the complaint has been proven, the magisterial district judge shall enter judgment against the tenant that the real property be delivered up to the landlord and shall enter judgment by separate entries:

(1) for [ **the** ] **any** amount of rent[ , **if any, which** ] **that** remains due[ , ];

(2) for [ **the** ] **any** amount of damages[ , **if any,** ] for unjust detention[ , ];

(3) for [ **the** ] **any** physical damages[ , **if any,** ] to the leasehold premises[ , **and** ];

(4) for the costs of the proceeding; **and**

**(5) for the amount of any security deposit applied as an offset to the judgment, if applicable;**

less any amount found due the tenant on any cross-complaint filed by the tenant.

[ **In addition, the** ] **B. The** magisterial district judge shall make an entry **on the judgment** identifying the sum of money found by the magisterial district judge to constitute the monthly rental for the leasehold premises.

[ **B.** ] **C.** A money judgment may be rendered for the tenant on a cross-complaint filed by the tenant if the amount found due thereon exceeds any amount found due the landlord on the landlord's complaint.

[ **C.** ] **D. Entry of judgment.**

(1) Judgment shall be given at the conclusion of the hearing or within three days thereafter.

(2) Upon the entry of the judgment, the magisterial district court shall promptly give or mail to the parties written notice of judgment or dismissal.

[ **D.** ] **E.** The written notice of judgment or dismissal shall contain:

(1) notice of the right of the parties to appeal, the time within which the appeal must be taken, and that the appeal is to the court of common pleas;

(2) notice that a tenant in a residential lease action who is a victim of domestic violence may appeal the judgment within 30 days of the date of entry of judgment, as well as filing instructions for asserting such an appeal;

(3) notice that, except as otherwise provided in the rules, if the judgment holder elects to enter the judgment in the court of common pleas, all further process must come from the court of common pleas and no further process may be issued by the magisterial district judge; and

(4) notice that unless the judgment is entered in the court of common pleas anyone interested in the judgment may file a request for entry of satisfaction with the magisterial district judge if the debtor pays in full, settles, or otherwise complies with the judgment.

**Official Note:** Subdivision A of this rule requires that the landlord appear and give testimony to prove the



complaint before the magisterial district judge can enter judgment against the tenant, even when the tenant fails to appear for the hearing. The magisterial district judge shall not enter a default judgment in a possessory action, including a judgment for money only. *See* Rule 512A and Note. The various issues that the magisterial district judge must determine at the hearing include: whether notice to quit was given to the tenant in accordance with law or that no notice was required under the terms of the lease; the amount or rent due, if any; damages to the leasehold premises, if any; the amount found to constitute the monthly rental; and, the amount of the security deposit held by the landlord, if any.

As to the notice to quit requirement, *see* Section 501 of the Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951, 68 P.S. § 250.501. *See also* *Patrycia Bros., Inc. v. McKeefrey*, 38 Pa. D. & C.2d 149 (Delaware County C.P. 1966).

The separate entries provided in subdivision A are made necessary as a result of the rental deposit provisions for appeal or *certiorari* contained in Rules 1008B and 1013B, as well as the wage attachment provisions contained in Section 8127 of the Judicial Code, 42 Pa.C.S. § 8127.

**If the magisterial district judge permits a security deposit held by the landlord to be used as an offset against a monetary judgment, the amount of the security deposit so applied must be identified as such on the judgment form. There are limited circumstances when application of the security deposit to offset a monetary judgment is appropriate, such as when the tenant has already left the property, the landlord has had the opportunity to inspect the property, both parties have appeared before the magisterial district judge, and the parties agree that the security deposit should be used to offset the judgment. For additional requirements regarding the return of a security deposit, including the provision of a list of damages and remission of the deposit less the cost of damages within 30 days of termination of the lease or upon surrender and acceptance of the leasehold premises, see Section 512 of the Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951, 68 P.S. § 250.512.**

Subdivision [ B ] C of this rule [ makes provision ] **provides** for a money judgment for the tenant if the tenant prevails in a greater amount on the tenant's cross-complaint.

Subdivision [ D ] E of this rule provides for certain notices the magisterial district court shall include in the written notice of judgment or dismissal.

Subdivision [ D(2) ] E(2) reflects that the appeal period for a victim of domestic violence in a case arising out of a residential lease is 30 days. *See* Rule 1002B(2); *see also* 68 P.S. § 250.513. A tenant who is a victim of domestic violence may file a domestic violence affidavit with the magisterial district court to stay the execution of an order for possession until 30 days after the date of entry of the judgment, the filing of an appeal with the court of common pleas pursuant to Rule 1002, or by order of the court of common pleas, whichever is earlier. *See* Rule 514.1.

As to subdivision [ D(2) ] E(3), *see* Rule 402D and Note. As to subdivision [ D(3) ] E(4), *see* Rule 341.

## ADOPTION REPORT<sup>1</sup>

### Recommendation 2-2021, Minor Court Rules Committee

#### Amendment of Pa.R.Civ.P.M.D.J. 514

#### Application of Security Deposit to Offset Judgment

The Minor Court Rules Committee ("Committee") recommended amendments to Rule 514 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Governing Actions and Proceedings Before Magisterial District Judges ("Rules"). These amendments relate to the use of a security deposit as an offset against a judgment in a landlord-tenant action. The Committee published the proposal for public comment at 50 Pa.B. 4646 (September 12, 2020) and it was posted on the Committee website on August 31, 2020.

The Committee was asked to consider clarifying how the application of a security deposit to a judgment in a landlord-tenant action is reported on the judgment form. Although Rule 514 does not address directly whether the security deposit or an offset is reported on the judgment form, the Note provides that "the amount of the security deposit held by the landlord, if any" is one of a number of issues that the magisterial district judge must determine at the hearing.

There are statutory requirements for return of a security deposit by the landlord at the termination of the lease. *See* 68 P.S. § 250.512. A landlord is required to provide a tenant with a list of damages to the premises within 30 days of the termination of the lease; the list of damages must be accompanied by payment of the difference between the security deposit (plus accrued interest) and the amount of damages to the premises. *Id.* § 250.512(a). If the landlord fails to provide a damages list within 30 days of the termination of the lease, the landlord waives the right to withhold any of the security deposit or interest, while failure to remit timely the security deposit to the tenant within 30 days makes the landlord liable to the tenant for double the amount of the security deposit. *Id.* § 250.512(b)-(c). The statute provides that "[a]ny attempted waiver of this section by contract or otherwise shall be void and unenforceable." *Id.* § 250.512(d).

The Committee believed that there are limited circumstances when application of the security deposit to offset a monetary judgment would be appropriate. Typically, this would occur when the tenant has already left the property, the landlord has had the opportunity to inspect the property, both parties are before the magisterial district judge, and the parties agree that the security deposit should be used to offset the judgment.

Rule 514 is amended to require that the judgment form reflect the amount of any security deposit applied to the judgment as an offset, if applicable. The Note to Rule 514 was also amended to identify the limited circumstances in which applying the security deposit as an offset to the judgment is appropriate. Listing the security deposit offset as an entry on the judgment form will create more transparency and provide greater clarity as to the elements of the judgment.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1793. Filed for public inspection October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

<sup>1</sup>This report was prepared by the Committee. It neither constitutes a part of the rules nor is adopted by the Supreme Court.

## Title 255—LOCAL COURT RULES

### ADAMS COUNTY

#### Rule of Judicial Administration 140; Administrative Order Number 5 of 2021

##### Order of Court

*And Now*, this 18th day of October, 2021, pursuant to the authority granted by Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration 1910 and 1952, and Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 112, it is hereby Ordered that Adams County Rule of Judicial Administration 140 is vacated in its entirety and replaced by the enactment of the following rule:

#### 140. Photography, Recording, Broadcasting, and Electronic Equipment in Judicial Facilities.

A. The activation, operation, or use of any device capable of capturing, recording, transmitting, or broadcasting a photograph, video, motion picture, or audio is prohibited within a judicial facility and the environs of a judicial facility unless otherwise permitted by this rule.

##### B. Definitions.

Activate, Operate, or Use—The terms activate, operate, or use include but are not limited to any electronic device which is being powered or is in the “on” position regardless of whether the device is in silent mode or otherwise disabled unless the device is completely turned off.

Environs—The environs of a judicial facility include the entire floor on which is located a courtroom, hearing room, jury room, prisoner holding room, Security Department station, or any court filing office including the Prothonotary’s Office, the Clerk of Courts Office, the Domestic Relations Office, and the Department of Probation Services Office. The term also includes any elevator and/or stairwell accessing a judicial facility.

Judicial Facilities—The term includes any courtroom, hearing room, or judicial chambers used by the Court, including Magisterial District Courts, to conduct trials, hearings, or any other court related business including rooms made available to interview witnesses including the environs of such a room.

Recording, Broadcasting, or Electronic Equipment—The terms recording, broadcasting, or electronic equipment include but are not limited to cell phones, laptops, electronic tablets, cameras, tape recorders, video recorders, and electronic devices of any type capable of photographing, recording, broadcasting, or digitally preserving information.

C. Exceptions. The prohibitions set forth in this rule shall not apply to the following:

1. Attorney Exception—Licensed attorneys conducting business related to the representation of a client provided the device is in the “silent” or “vibrate only” mode when the attorney is in a courtroom or hearing room unless the device is being actively utilized in a proceeding which the attorney is appearing. The exceptions set forth in this section do not authorize the use or operation of an electronic device to capture, record, transmit,

or broadcast a photograph, video, motion picture, or audio of a proceeding or person within a judicial facility or its environs.

2. Court Administration Exception—The use of advanced communication technology by Court Administration, an official court reporter, or designee for purposes of recording/transcribing the official court record or conducting proceedings with offsite counsel, parties, or witnesses in furtherance of directives from the presiding Judge.

3. Emergency Responder Exception—Emergency medical, fire, law enforcement, or other personnel responding to an emergency call within a judicial facility.

4. Employee/Independent Contractor Exception—Employees or independent contractors of the Adams County Court of Common Pleas or Adams County who clearly display an identification badge issued by the County of Adams or is otherwise pre-approved by the Security Director while the employee is acting as an employee/contractor on court/county business provided the device shall have the power switch “off” when the employee enters a courtroom or hearing room unless the courtroom is closed for repairs.

5. Evidence/Equipment Exception—Devices used for the purpose of presenting evidence, or a device which is actual evidence, in any court proceeding actually being conducted at the time of use of the device with the permission of the presiding Judge.

6. Law Enforcement Exception—Law enforcement officers providing proper identification and are on business related to a matter pending before the court and/or meeting with the Office of District Attorney provided the device shall have the power switch “off” while the law enforcement officer is in a courtroom or hearing room. This rule is also inapplicable to County Security Officers acting within the scope of their authority.

7. Magisterial District Court Exception—In a criminal judicial proceeding before a Magisterial District Judge, the Magisterial District Judge, upon request, shall permit the attorney for the Commonwealth, the affiant, or the defendant to record oral communications made during a judicial proceeding as an aid to the preparation of the written record for subsequent use in a case. Such recording shall not be publicly played or disseminated in any manner unless in a subsequent court proceeding for the litigation in which the recording was made. This exception is limited to the recordation of oral testimony and does not accept or permit the use or operation of an electronic device to capture, record, transmit, or broadcast a photograph, video, motion picture, or audio of a proceeding.

8. Office Exception—The provisions of this rule may be waived by an elected official or department director within the confines of their office space provided the device shall have the power switch “off” when leaving the office and reentering other environs of the judicial facility.

9. Special Permission Exception—The President Judge may, upon request, make exception to the prohibitions contained in this rule under such circumstances and subject to such conditions as the President Judge may prescribe. The presiding Judge in an active court proceeding is authorized

to grant exception to this rule to any party as the interests of justice require. The permission shall be limited to the proceeding being conducted and for the sole purpose of allowing the party access to information from an electronic device. The permission shall not authorize the capturing, recording, or broadcasting of a photograph, video, or audio of the proceeding nor shall extend beyond the confines of the courtroom in which the proceeding is being conducted unless the proceeding is a ceremonial proceeding in which the presiding Judge has expressly authorized such actions.

**10. Special Proceedings Exception**—At the discretion of the presiding Judge, photographing, video or audio recordings, televising, or broadcasting any special proceeding such as a marriage, naturalization, or adoption in a courtroom and subject to directives from the presiding Judge.

**11. Statutory Exception**—The prohibitions in this rule shall not apply in instances where Pennsylvania statutory law permits the recording of executive or legislative branch proceedings conducted in offices or conference rooms other than courtrooms. Where such exception applies, the electronic device shall only be activated upon entry into the room in which the proceeding is occurring and shall be deactivated and have the power switch “off” before reentry into the other environs of a judicial facility.

#### **D. Penalties.**

**1. Any violation of this rule may result in a finding of contempt and imposition of any other sanction authorized by law. Additionally, a violation of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 5103.1 will result in criminal prosecution. The prohibitions set forth in this rule are in addition to all federal, state, and county laws and policies and any rule adopted by the Supreme Court including procedural rules.**

**2. Any person who violates this rule shall immediately surrender the electronic device to the Adams County Security Department, the Adams County Sheriff’s Department, or Court designee for the remainder of their visit. Additionally, the Security Department and/or the Sheriff’s Department is authorized to seize from any person any electronic equipment or device used in violation of this rule as necessary for the preservation of evidence in a subsequent contempt/criminal proceeding.**

**E. The exceptions set forth in this section do not authorize the use or operation of an electronic device to capture, record, transmit, or broadcast a photograph, video, motion picture, or audio of a proceeding or person within a judicial facility or its environs. The exceptions set forth in this section do not shield a person from prosecution under 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 5103.1 for actions in violation of the statutory provision unless authorized by the presiding Judge.**

This rule shall become effective after all the provisions of the Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration 103 are met, to include the following:

a. Two (2) certified copies of this Order together with a computer diskette that complies with the requirement of 1 Pa. Code § 13.11(b), or other compliant format, containing the text of the local rule(s) adopted hereby shall be distributed to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*;

b. One copy of this Order shall be forwarded to the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts via e-mail to adminrules@pacourts.us;

c. A copy of the proposed local rule(s) shall be published on the 51st Judicial District website;

d. This Order shall be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary of Adams County and a copy thereof shall be filed with the Adams County Clerk of Courts and the Adams County Law Library for inspection and copying;

e. The effective date of the local rule(s) shall be 30 days after publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

*By the Court*

MICHAEL A. GEORGE,  
*President Judge*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1794. Filed for public inspection October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

## **Title 255—LOCAL COURT RULES**

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

#### **Adoption of Local Rules of Juvenile Procedure L-120 and L-1120; No. 2021-1**

#### **Administrative Order**

*And Now*, this 15th day of October, 2021, it is hereby *Ordered, Adjudged, and Decreed* that Washington County Local Rules of Juvenile Procedure L-120 and 1120 (following) are hereby adopted, effective thirty (30) days after publication of this *Order* in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

This *Order* shall be processed in accordance with Pa.R.J.A. 103(d). The District Court Administrator is directed to:

1. Distribute copies of the adopted local rules to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*;

2. File one (1) copy with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts;

3. Publish the local rules on the Court’s website within thirty (30) days of the effective date; and

4. Cause a copy hereof to be published in the *Washington County Reports* once a week for two successive weeks at the expense of the County of Washington.

*By the Court*

JOHN F. DiSALLE,  
*President Judge*

*Washington County—Rules of Juvenile Procedure—Delinquency*

#### **Rule L-120. Definitions. Clerk of Courts.**

The Juvenile Probation Office is designated as the Clerk of Courts for juvenile delinquency matters. The Juvenile Probation Office shall have the responsibility and function to maintain the official court record and docket as set forth in Pennsylvania Rule of Juvenile Procedure 166. The Chief Juvenile Probation Officer shall have the authority to certify records of, and affix the seal of, the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County where the same may be required.



*Washington County—Rules of Juvenile Procedure—  
Dependency*

**Rule L-1120. Definitions. Clerk of Courts.**

The Juvenile Probation Office is designated as the Clerk of Courts for juvenile dependency matters. The Juvenile Probation Office shall have the responsibility and function to maintain the official court record and docket as set forth in Pennsylvania Rule of Juvenile Procedure 1166. The Chief Juvenile Probation Officer shall have the authority to certify records of, and affix the seal of, the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County where the same may be required.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1795. Filed for public inspection October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

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**DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF  
THE SUPREME COURT**

**Notice of Disbarment**

Notice is hereby given that Adam Luke Brent, (# 90834), having been disbarred in New Jersey, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania issued an Order on October 14, 2021, disbaring Adam Luke Brent, from the Bar of this Commonwealth, effective November 13, 2021.

In accordance with Rule 217(f), Pa.R.D.E., since this formerly admitted attorney resides outside of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this notice is published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

MARCEE D. SLOAN,  
*Board Prothonotary*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1796. Filed for public inspection October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

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**DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF  
THE SUPREME COURT**

**Notice of Disbarment**

Notice is hereby given that Gerald Hecht, (# 33999), having been disbarred on consent in Connecticut, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania issued an Order October 14, 2021, disbaring Gerald Hecht, from the Bar of this Commonwealth, effective November 13, 2021.

In accordance with Rule 217(f), Pa.R.D.E., since this formerly admitted attorney resides outside of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this notice is published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

MARCEE D. SLOAN,  
*Board Prothonotary*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1797. Filed for public inspection October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]