

**Juvenile  
Court  
Procedural  
Rules  
Committee**

**2002 Membership:**

F. Barry McCarthy, *Chair*  
Honorable Carol K. McGinley, *Vice Chair*  
Bruce L. Castor, Esq.  
Honorable Robert J. Colville  
John P. Delaney, Jr., Esq.  
Honorable Thomas J. Doerr  
James J. Fowkes, *ex officio*  
Jason P. Kutulakis, Esq.  
Honorable Abram Frank Reynolds  
Honorable Patrick R. Tamilia

**Staff:**

A. Christine Riscili, Esq., *Staff Counsel*  
Tricia D. Remmert, Administrative Assistant

**Legal Authorization:**

Pa. Constitution, Article V, § 10(c)  
42 Pa.C.S., § 1722  
Supreme Court Order No. 264 (Docket No. 1, Book No. 2) January 22,  
2001

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## History/Background

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania established the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee in January 2001 to advise the Court concerning its constitutional and statutory responsibility to prescribe general rules governing juvenile delinquency practice and procedure, and the conduct of all courts and proceedings before the minor judiciary within the Unified Judicial System.

The committee is currently drafting a set of procedural rules for juvenile courts throughout the Commonwealth. Upon completion, these proposed rules will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for comment from the bench, bar and general public. After considering all comments and making any revisions, the committee will submit the final proposal to the Supreme Court for consideration and possible adoption.

## Web Site

The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee will publish its rule proposals along with explanatory "Reports," which describe the proposals, and the Supreme Court's orders promulgating juvenile court rules on the Supreme Court's home page. These publications may be found under Supreme Court Committees at [www.courts.state.pa.us](http://www.courts.state.pa.us).

## Membership and Staff

The Supreme Court appointed nine members to the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee. The terms of these first appointments were one year, two years or three years with a two-term limit set. In 2002 membership included a senior Superior Court judge, four Common Pleas Court judges, one law school professor, two prosecutors, one attorney in private practice and a district court administrator.

Committee staff includes a staff attorney and an administrative assistant. The committee maintains its office at the AOPC's Central Site in Mechanicsburg.

## 2002 Activities

The committee held six meetings in 2002, in Philadelphia, Hershey, Mechanicsburg, Harrisburg and Gettysburg. Committee work included developing procedures in the areas of petitions, discovery and motions, transfer, consent decree, summons, preservation of testimony and evidence, general provisions, business of courts, venue and jurisdiction, counsel, records, masters, adjudicatory hearing, dispositional hearing, and post-disposition.

The committee communicated regularly with the AOPC and with the Supreme Court's other committees concerning various procedural matters in an ongoing effort to achieve uniformity and consistency among interrelated procedural and administrative matters.

## Looking Ahead to 2003

The committee plans to finalize its initial set of juvenile court rules. This set will cover delinquency proceedings from commencement of proceedings to post-dispositional procedures. When the rules are finally sent to the Supreme Court for consideration, the committee will consider rules for dependency proceedings.

## Contact Person

Anyone wanting additional information about the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee or who have questions about the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules may contact the committee through its staff counsel, A. Christine Riscili, at (717) 795-2018, or by writing to Mrs. Riscili at 5035 Ritter Road, Suite 700; Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. AOPC