

## 2006 Membership

Mary Jane Barrett, Esq., *Chair*  
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Honorable Paula Francisco Ott  
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## Staff

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## Legal Authorization

Pa. Constitution, Article V, § 10(c)  
42 Pa. C.S., § 1722

## About the Committee

The Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee responds to developments in orphans' court procedure and reviews current rules governing statewide practice and procedure in the orphans' court, recommending new rules and rule changes as necessary.

**Orphans'**

**Court**

**Procedural**

**Rules**

**Committee**

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indexorphctrules.asp](http://www.courts.state.pa.us/Index/SupCtCmtes/orphctrules/indexorphctrules.asp)

## 2006 Activities

### *Recommendation Promulgated by the Supreme Court*

The Supreme Court adopted 17 e-forms for use before the Commonwealth's orphans' court divisions and registers of wills. The forms are intended to promote uniformity and standardize the content of pleadings and forms across the state without supplanting local forms. Adopted 10-16-06, effective 11-15-06.

### *Miscellaneous*

The committee also worked on the following projects in 2006:

- exploration of the relationship between the orphans' court rules, the Rules of Civil Procedure and the Pennsylvania Probate Estates and Fiduciaries Code, with the goal of assuring simple and clear procedures for orphans' court litigation that accounts for the unique nature of such litigation. The committee is researching citation practice and

pleadings that should be permitted in orphans' court.

- orphans' court mediation
- consideration of model physician interrogatories for uncontested incapacity hearings and forms regarding minors and incapacitated persons
- possible rules of procedure governing practice before the registers of wills
- monitoring the statewide e-filing rules and the Philadelphia pilot project
- new model accounting forms which the committee proposes to add to the model forms referenced above.
- review of "readoption" practice and procedure in connection with Act 96 of 2006 dealing with foreign adoptions to determine if a statewide procedure for completing foreign adoptions which are not "full and final" is viable and appropriate.

**AOPC**