

INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has adopted the proposed changes to Rule 512 and a new Rule 520.

EXPLANATORY REPORT MAY 2007

RULE 512 - DISPOSITIONAL HEARING

At the dispositional hearing, the court is to determine on the record if the juvenile has been advised of the right to file a post-dispositional motion, the right to file an appeal, the time limits for a post-dispositional motion and appeal, the right to counsel to prepare the post-dispositional motion and appeal, the time limits within which the post-dispositional motion must be decided, and that issues raised before and during adjudication shall be deemed preserved for appeal whether the juvenile elects to file a post-dispositional motion.

In some counties, the District Attorney advises the juvenile of these rights on the record. In other counties, the juvenile's attorney advises the juvenile of these rights. Under the rule addition, any person can advise the juvenile of these rights. It is the court's duty to ensure that someone has spoken to the juvenile about these rights.

RULE 520 - POST-DISPOSITIONAL MOTIONS

The amended rule gives the parties the option to file a post-dispositional motion. A motion may include, but is not limited to, a motion challenging the validity of an admission pursuant to Rule 407 or a motion to withdraw the admission, a motion for reconsideration of findings, a motion for a new adjudication, a motion to modify disposition, or a motion of ineffective assistance of counsel.

See *In re Brandon Smith*, 393 Pa.Super. 39, 573 A.2d 1077 (1990), for a matter of first impression when the Superior Court sitting *en banc* held that a post-dispositional motion is the appropriate means for alleging ineffective assistance of counsel.

Under paragraph (B)(1), a supplemental motion may be filed but it must be filed within the ten-day limit. Because of the urgency of moving the juvenile case through the system and the judge has only thirty days to respond to the motion pursuant to paragraph (D)(1), no supplemental motions can be filed after the original ten-day time frame. Pursuant to paragraph (A)(2), issues raised before or during the adjudicatory hearing are deemed preserved regardless of whether the party elects to file a post-dispositional motion. See *also* Rule 512 (C)(6).

Paragraph (B)(2) sets forth the time clock for when an appeal must be taken. If a post-dispositional motion is not filed, a notice of appeal must be filed within thirty days of the imposition of disposition. See paragraph (B)(3).

Under paragraph (C), the judge shall determine within ten days of the filing of a post-dispositional motion, if briefs, memoranda of law, or arguments are necessary. If they are deemed necessary, the judge is to set a briefing and argument schedule.

Paragraph (D) sets forth the time limits for the decision on the post-dispositional motion. If the court fails to respond to the motion, the motion is denied by operation of law pursuant to paragraph (D)(3). The clerk of courts shall forthwith enter an order denying the motion on behalf of the judge.