

## INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has adopted the proposed changes to Rule 510. The changes are effective January 1, 2009.

### EXPLANATORY REPORT MAY 2008

#### **Rule 510 - Prompt Dispositional Hearing**

Rule 510 only addressed time limitations for dispositional hearings for juveniles in detention. This rule change adds a time limitation for dispositional hearings for juveniles who are not detained. The dispositional hearing is to be held no later than sixty days after the Court has ruled on the offenses pursuant to Rule 408.

The Committee determined that once a juvenile has committed an offense(s), the disposition should be as timely as possible to effectuate the purposes of the Juvenile Act, including development of competencies, accountability, and protection to the community. See 42 Pa.C.S. § 6301.

The Committee is also deleting the Juvenile Act cite in the Comment because the Juvenile Act requires a hearing for treatment, supervision, and rehabilitation within sixty days of the ruling of the offenses. A hearing for treatment, supervision, and rehabilitation is the adjudication of delinquency covered pursuant to Rule 409. This rule change adds an additional time requirement that provides that the dispositional hearing shall be held within sixty days of the ruling on the offenses.

The Committee determined that six months should be enough time for judicial districts to catch up on any backlog of cases. Thereafter, the judicial districts should schedule dispositional hearings within sixty days of the ruling on the offenses.