Researching the Rules

The statewide rules of procedure and rules of evidence are compiled and available in the Pennsylvania Code, which is maintained by the Legislative Reference Bureau. The Code is available online at www.pacode.com. Within the Code, the bodies of rules are arranged under Titles:

Title	Body
210	Appellate Court Procedural Rules
225	Rules of Evidence
231	Civil Procedural Rules (including Domestic Relations and Orphans' Court)
234	Criminal Procedural Rules
237	Juvenile Court Procedural Rules
246	Minor Court Rules

Through this link, you can either browse or search the rules.

On occasion, the Committees propose new rules or amendments to existing rules. These proposals are published for comment in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. See Pa.R.J.A. No. 103(a)(1). The Bulletin, which is published every Saturday, is available online at www.pabulletin.com. This database can also be browsed or searched, and it is archived to 1996.

When the Court adopts a new or amended rule, it does so via order and rule text posted on the Supreme Court Prothonotary's webpage located at www.pacourts.us/courts/supreme-court/court-opinions/. This searchable webpage is updated daily with new orders and opinions. It contains postings back to 1997.

The orders and rule text are also aggregated and published weekly in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. However, there is often a 10-day turnaround between the filing of an order and rule text with the Prothonotary and its publication in the Bulletin. Periodically, the Code is updated to incorporate the new and amended rules. Each rule within the Code is followed with references back to the original Bulletin publication containing the new or amended rule.

As a convenience to the bench, bar and public, proposed and adopted rules, as well as committee appointments, are also posted on the committees' webpages with a link tweeted by @SCOPARules. Online access to all of these sources is available to the public free of charge.

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