

**JUVENILE COURT PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT¹**

**AMENDMENT OF Pa.R.J.C.P. 120, 127, 140, 160, 166, 182, 185, 187, 190, 191, 192,
243, 512, 800, 1120, 1127, 1154, 1166, 1182, 1185, 1187, 1190, 1191, 1243, 1342,
1512, 1608, 1610, 1635, and 1800**

On April 6, 2017, the Court amended the Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure to change the term “master” to “juvenile court hearing officer.”

The term “master” was incorporated into the Rules from the Juvenile Act. See 42 Pa.C.S. § 6301 *et seq.* The continued use of the term “master” had been rejected by several judicial districts because it was considered archaic, subject to misperception, and inconsistent with the use of “hearing officer” in other proceedings. Accordingly, in some judicial districts the title of “master” had been updated to “hearing officer,” which more accurately reflects the authority to preside over delinquency and dependency matters. The Committee deliberated on the merits of this local practice and agreed that “master” should be updated to the more modern phrase of “hearing officer” within the Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure.

A proposal was published for public comment in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* at 42 Pa.B 5480 (August 25, 2012) to replace “master” with “hearing officer.” In response to a comment and to differentiate among the different types of hearing officers in other proceedings, a post-publication modification to the proposal expanded the title from “hearing officer” to “juvenile court hearing officer.”

¹ The Committee’s Final Report should not be confused with the official Committee Comments to the rules. Also note that the Supreme Court does not adopt the Committee’s Comments or the contents of the Committee’s explanatory Final Reports.