

**SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JUVENILE COURT PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE**

**ADOPTION REPORT**

**Amendment of Pa.R.J.C.P. 1241, 1242, 1501, 1514, 1601, and 1608**

On December 1, 2025, the Supreme Court amended Pennsylvania Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure 1241, 1242, 1501, 1514, 1601, and 1608 to implement the Act of December 14, 2023, P.L. 412, No. 48, concerning “potential kinship care resources.” The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee has prepared this Adoption Report describing the rulemaking process. An Adoption Report should not be confused with Comments to the rules. See Pa.R.J.A. 103, cmt. The statements contained herein are those of the Committee, not the Court.

Effective February 12, 2024, the Act added a definition of “potential kinship care resource” to the Juvenile Act, 42 Pa.C.S. § 6302. The Act also amended 42 Pa.C.S. § 6336.1(a) to require county agencies to provide notice of permanency hearings to potential kinship care resources. The potential resource then has the right to be heard at the hearing as to the resource’s qualifications to provide kinship care. Thereafter, the court must decide whether the resource may receive notice of, or participate in, future hearings.

The Committee published a proposal to amend Pa.R.J.C.P. 1601 and 1608 for comment. See 54 Pa.B. 2065 (April 20, 2024). Pa.R.J.C.P. 1601(a)(5) was proposed to be amended to include “potential kinship care resource” as a person to receive notice of the permanency hearing. Additionally, a new subdivision (d)(1)(xviii) was proposed to be added to Pa.R.J.C.P. 1608 to require a finding on whether the potential kinship care resource should receive notices of future hearings.

One comment was received. The commenter supported the proposed amendments and suggested adding specific references to the Act and 55 Pa. Code § 3700.70 (Temporary and Provisional Approvals of Foster Families) to indicate the intent of the Act and to provide definitional guidance. The Committee appreciated the comment but believed the statutes and regulations should speak for themselves.

Post-publication, the Committee revised the proposed amendment of Pa.R.J.C.P. 1601 to move the notice requirement to a potential kinship care resource from subdivision (a)(5), where it was included in the notice requirement to the parents, child’s foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child, to subdivision (a)(8), as a standalone notice requirement. Given that a child may not always be removed from home as part of a disposition, the Committee further revised Pa.R.J.C.P. 1601(a)(8) to make

notice to a potential kinship care resource of the permanency hearing conditional on whether the child has been removed from home or removal has been requested.

Moreover, the Committee expanded the notice requirement to potential kinship care resources to include the shelter care hearing, Pa.R.J.C.P. 1241(a)(7), and the dispositional hearing, Pa.R.J.C.P. 1501(h). Additionally, the proposed commentary accompanying Pa.R.J.C.P. 1601 was carried over to these rules. The Committee also included the Pa.R.J.C.P. 1608(d)(1)(xviii) finding requirement in Pa.R.J.C.P. 1242(c)(7) and 1514(a)(7). This expansion was predicated on the requirements of the Act being applied if a child has been removed from home under a voluntary placement agreement or is in the legal custody of the county agency. See 42 Pa.C.S. § 6336.1(a) (citing 67 Pa.C.S. § 7507(c)).

Aside from stylistic revisions, the following commentary has been removed:

#### **Pa.R.J.C.P. 1241**

Official Note: Rule 1241 adopted August 21, 2006, effective February 1, 2007.

*Committee Explanatory Reports:* Final Report explaining the provisions of Rule 1241 published with the Court's Order at 36 Pa.B. 5571 (September 2, 2006).

#### **Pa.R.J.C.P. 1242**

See 42 Pa.C.S. § 6339 for orders of physical and mental examinations and treatment.

#### **Pa.R.J.C.P. 1501**

Official Note: Rule 1501 adopted August 21, 2006, effective February 1, 2007. Amended April 29, 2011, effective July 1, 2011.

*Committee Explanatory Reports:* Final Report explaining the provisions of Rule 1501 published with the Court's Order at 36 Pa.B. 5571 (September 2, 2006). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1501 published with the Court's Order at 41 Pa.B. 2413 (May 14, 2011).

## **Pa.R.J.C.P. 1601**

Official Note: Rule 1601 adopted August 21, 2006, effective February 1, 2007. Amended April 29, 2011, effective July 1, 2011. Amended May 17, 2018, effective October 1, 2018.

*Committee Explanatory Reports:* Final Report explaining the provisions of Rule 1601 published with the Court's Order at 36 Pa.B. 5571 (September 2, 2006). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1601 published with the Court's Order at 41 Pa.B. 2413 (May 14, 2011). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1601 published with the Court's Order at 48 Pa.B. 3321 (June 2, 2018).

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The amendments become effective July 1, 2026.