SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE

ADOPTION REPORT

Amendment of Pa.R.Civ.P. 1931

On August 4, 2026, the Supreme Court amended Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 1931 to remove requirements for "family court rules" applicable to four judicial districts. The Domestic Relations 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.

The Court adopted Pa.R.Civ.P. 1931 on December 17, 2002. *See* 33 Pa.B. 13 (January 4, 2003). The rule, considered a "pilot project," was suspended in all judicial districts except for the 1st Judicial District (Philadelphia), the 5th Judicial District (Allegheny), the 23rd Judicial District (Berks), and the 45th Judicial District (Lackawanna). Aside from amendment in 2021 as part of a global change from "master" to "hearing officer," see 51 Pa.B. 6764 (October 30, 2021), the rule has remained static.

Pa.R.Civ.P. 1931 served as the catalyst for further local refinements to improve efficiency, capitalize on available resources, and increase responsiveness to family court proceedings in the four judicial districts. Moreover, during the more than two decades since Pa.R.Civ.P. 1931 was adopted, the statewide rules applicable to family court proceedings in all judicial districts have become more comprehensive. In essence, the "pilot project" concluded and Pa.R.Civ.P. 1931 became an artifact.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended that subdivisions (b)-(d) of the rule be rescinded, together with the addition of commentary explaining the rulemaking. Concerning subdivision (a), the Committee recommended amending subdivision (a)(2)(iii) to remove "visitation" and adding "protection of victims of sexual violence or intimidation," "mediation," and "arbitration" as separate categories under subdivision (a).

The amendment becomes effective immediately.