

**SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

The Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee is planning to propose to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania numerous amendments to the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure included with this Notice and for the reasons set forth in the accompanying Publication Report. Pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. No 103(a)(1), the proposal is being published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for comments, suggestions, or objections prior to submission to the Supreme Court.

Any reports, notes, or comments in the proposal have been inserted by the Committee for the convenience of those using the rules. They neither will constitute a part of the rules nor will be officially adopted by the Supreme Court.

Additions to the text of the proposal are bolded and underlined; deletions to the text are bolded and bracketed.

The Committee invites all interested persons to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in writing to:

**Bruce J. Ferguson, Counsel  
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Judicial Center  
PO Box 62635  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2635  
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All communications in reference to the proposal should be received by **September 12, 2017**. E-mail is the preferred method for submitting comments, suggestions, or objections; any e-mailed submission need not be reproduced and resubmitted via mail. The Committee will acknowledge receipt of all submissions.

By the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules  
Committee

David J. Slesnick, Esq.  
Chair

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION 166

**Rule 1901.3. Commencement of Action.**

\* \* \*

(d) The master for emergency relief shall follow the procedures set forth in the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Governing Actions and **[proceedings before magisterial district judges]**Proceedings before Magisterial District Judges for emergency relief under the Protection From Abuse Act.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

**[Explanatory Comment - 2006**

New subdivision (c) reflects the 2005 amendments to the Protection From Abuse Act which prohibits charging fees or costs against the plaintiff. 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 6106(b). The 2005 amendments to 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 6110(e) of the Protection From Abuse Act authorize the use of masters for emergency relief, which is reflected in new subdivision (d).]

**Rule 1901.6. [No responsive pleading required]Responsive Pleading not Required.**

**[No pleading need be filed in response]The defendant is not required to file an answer or other responsive pleading** to the petition or the certified order, and all averments not admitted shall be deemed denied.

*Note:* For procedures as to the time and manner of hearings and issuance of orders, see 23 Pa.C.S.**[A.]** § 6107. For provisions as to the scope of relief available, see 23 Pa.C.S.**[A.]** § 6108. For provisions as to contempt for violation of an order, see 23 Pa.C.S.**[A.]** § 6114.

This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).

**Rule 1905. Forms for Use in PFA Actions. Notice and Hearing. Petition. Temporary Protection Order. Final Protection Order.**

\* \* \*

(b) The petition in an action filed pursuant to the Act shall be substantially in the following form, but the first page (paragraphs 1 through 4), following the Notice of Hearing and Order, **[must]shall** be exactly as set forth in this rule:

\* \* \*

**Note:** This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).

(c) The Temporary Order of Court, or any continued, amended, or modified Temporary Order of Court, entered pursuant to the Act shall be substantially in the following form, but the first page **[must]shall** be exactly as set forth in this rule:

\* \* \*

**Rule 1910.4. Commencement of Action. Fee.**

(a) An action shall be commenced by filing a complaint with the domestic relations section of the court of common pleas.

Note: For the form of the complaint, see **[Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(a)**.

**This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

Section 961 of the Judicial Code, 42 Pa.C.S. § 961, provides that each court of common pleas shall have a domestic relations section.

\* \* \*

**Rule 1910.7. [No ]Pleading by Defendant not Required. Question of Jurisdiction or Venue or Statute of Limitations in Paternity.**

(a) **[No]An answer or other responsive** pleading by the defendant shall **not** be required, but if **the** defendant elects to file a pleading, the domestic relations office conference required by the order of court shall not be delayed.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

\* \* \*

**Rule 1910.11. Office Conference. Subsequent Proceedings. Order.**

\* \* \*

(c) At the conference, the parties shall furnish to the officer true copies of their most recent federal income tax returns, their pay stubs for the preceding six months, verification of child care expenses, and proof of medical coverage **[which]that** they may

have or have available to them. In addition, **[they]the parties** shall provide copies of their Income **Statements** and Expense Statements in the forms required by **[Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(c)[,] and** completed as set forth **[below]in (1) and (2) of this subdivision.**

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

\* \* \*

**Rule 1910.27. Form of Complaint. Order. Income Statements and Expense Statements. Health Insurance Coverage Information Form. Form of Support Order. Form Petition for Modification. Petition for Recovery of Support Overpayment.**

(a) The complaint in an action for support shall be substantially in the following form:

\* \* \*

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

(b) The order to be attached at the front of the complaint **[set forth]** in subdivision (a) shall be **[in]** substantially **in** the following form:

\* \* \*

(c) The Income **Statements** and Expense Statements to be attached to the order **in subdivision (b)** shall be **[in]** substantially **in** the following form:

(1) *Income Statements*. This form must be filled out in all cases.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

\* \* \*

(2) *Expense Statements*. An Expense Statement is not required in cases **[which]that** can be determined pursuant to the guidelines unless a party avers unusual needs and expenses that may warrant a deviation from the guideline amount of support pursuant to **[Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.16-5** or seeks an apportionment of expenses pursuant to **[Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.16-6. [(See Rule]See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.11(c)(1)[)]**. Child support is calculated under the guidelines based upon the **monthly** net incomes of the parties, with additional amounts ordered as necessary to provide for child care expenses, health insurance premiums, unreimbursed medical expenses, mortgage payments, and other needs, contingent upon the obligor's ability to pay. The Expense Statement in subparagraph (A) **[below]** shall be utilized if a party is claiming that he or she has unusual needs and unusual fixed expenses that may warrant deviation or adjustment in a case determined under the guidelines. In child support, spousal support, and alimony **[pendente lite]pendente lite** cases calculated pursuant to **[Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.16-3.1** and in divorce cases involving claims for alimony, **[or]** counsel fees, **or** costs and expenses pursuant to **[Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.31(a)**, the parties must complete the Expense Statement in subparagraph (B) **[below]**.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

\* \* \*

**Rule 1915.3. Commencement of Action. Complaint. Order.**

(a) Except as provided by subdivision (c), an action shall be commenced by filing a verified complaint substantially in the form provided by **[Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.15(a)**.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

\* \* \*

**Rule 1915.4-4. Pre-Trial Procedures.**

\* \* \*

(b) Not later than five days prior to the pre-trial conference, each party shall file a pre-trial statement with the prothonotary's office and serve a copy upon the court and the other party or counsel of record. The pre-trial statement shall include the following matters, together with any additional information required by special order of the court:

\* \* \*

In addition to the above items included in the pre-trial statement, any reports of experts and other proposed exhibits shall be included as part of the pre-trial statement served upon the other party or opposing counsel, but not included with the pre-trial statement served upon the court.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing**

**Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

**Rule 1915.7. Consent Order.**

If an agreement for custody is reached and the parties desire a consent order to be entered, they shall note their agreement upon the record or shall submit to the court a proposed order bearing the written consent of the parties or their counsel.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

**Rule 1915.15. Form of Complaint. Caption. Order. Petition to Modify a Custody Order.**

(a) The complaint in an action for custody shall be **[in]** substantially **in** the following form:

\* \* \*

*Note:* The form of complaint is appropriate **[where]if** there is one plaintiff and one defendant and **[where]if** the custody of one child is sought, or **[where]if** the custody of several children is sought and the information required by paragraphs 3 to 7 is identical for all of the children. **[Where]If** there are multiple parties, the complaint should be appropriately adapted to accommodate them. **[Where]If** the custody of several children is sought and the information required is not identical for all **of the children**, the complaint should contain a separate paragraph for each child.

**This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the**



**document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

(b) A petition to modify a custody order shall be **[in]** substantially **in** the following form:

\* \* \*

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

(c) The order to be attached at the front of the complaint or petition for modification shall be **[in]** substantially **in** the following form:

\* \* \*

**Rule 1915.17. Relocation. Notice and Counter-Affidavit.**

\* \* \*

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

(j) The counter-affidavit that must be served with the relocation notice shall be substantially in the following form as set forth **[at]in** 23 Pa.C.S. § 5337(d):

\* \* \*

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that**

are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).

#### **Rule 1915.18. Form of Order Directing Expert Examination and Report.**

The order of court directing expert evaluation in a custody matter pursuant to [Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.8 shall be [in] substantially in the following form:

\* \* \*

#### **Rule 1920.13. Pleading More Than One Cause of Action. Alternative Pleading.**

\* \* \*

(b) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the[The] plaintiff may:

- (1) join as separate counts in the complaint [in separate counts any other claims which may]the ancillary claims that may be joined [under the Divorce Code be joined] with an action of divorce or for annulment under the Divorce Code; [or, if they have not been so joined, the plaintiff may as of course]
- (2) \_\_\_ amend the complaint to include [such other]the ancillary claims; [or may ]
- (3) \_\_\_ file to the same term and number a separate supplemental complaint or complaints limited to [such other]the ancillary claims; or ([2]4) file to the same term and number a subsequent petition raising [such other]the ancillary claims.

**Note:** This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).

**Rule 1920.15. Counterclaim. Subsequent Petition.**

(a) The defendant may **[set forth]state** in an answer under the heading “Counterclaim” a cause of action of divorce or for annulment **[ and, whether the defendant does so or not, may set forth any other matter which under the Divorce Code may be joined with an action of divorce].**

(b) **Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the[The]** defendant may:

(1) **join as separate counts in the counterclaim the ancillary claims that may be joined with an action of divorce or for annulment under the Divorce Code; or**

(2) file **[to]at** the same term and number a subsequent petition raising **[any claims which under the Divorce Code may be joined with an action of divorce or for annulment. The averments shall be deemed denied unless admitted by an answer]the ancillary claims.**

(c) **The averments in the counterclaim shall be deemed denied unless admitted by an answer.**

*Note:* **[See Rule]See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.31**, which requires the joinder of certain related claims under penalty of waiver. A claim for alimony must be raised before the entry of a final decree of divorce or annulment.

**This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

**Rule 1920.31. Joinder of Related Claims. Child and Spousal Support. Alimony. Alimony Pendente Lite. Counsel Fees. Expenses.**

(a)(1) **[When either]If a** party has raised a claim for alimony, **[or]** counsel fees, **or** costs and expenses, **[each party]the parties** shall file a true copy of the most recent federal income tax return, pay stubs for the preceding six months, a completed Income

Statement in the form required ~~[at Rule]~~by Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(c)(1), and a completed Expense Statement in the form required by ~~[Rule]~~Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(c)(2)(B). A party may not file a motion for the appointment of a master or a request for court action regarding alimony, alimony ~~[pendente lite]~~pendente lite, ~~[or]~~ counsel fees, ~~or costs~~ [cost] and expenses until at least 30 days following the filing of that party's tax returns, Income Statement, and Expense Statement. The other party shall file the tax returns, Income Statement, and Expense Statement within 20 days of service of the moving party's documents. If a claim for child support, spousal support, or alimony ~~[pendente lite]~~pendente lite is raised in a divorce complaint, ~~[no expense form]~~an Expense Statement is not needed in a support action that can be decided pursuant to the support guidelines unless a party claims unusual needs or unusual fixed expenses, ~~[or]~~ seeks deviation pursuant to ~~[Rule]~~Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.16-5, or apportionment of expenses pursuant to ~~[Rule]~~Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.16-6.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

\* \* \*

### **Rule 1920.33. Joinder of Related Claims. Equitable Division. Enforcement.**

(a) If a pleading or petition raises a claim for equitable division of marital property under Section 3502 of the Divorce Code, the parties shall file and serve on the other party an inventory, which shall include the information in subdivisions (1) through (3) and shall be substantially in the form set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.75. Within 20 days of service of the moving party's inventory, the non-moving party shall file an inventory. A party may not file a motion for the appointment of a master or a request for court action regarding equitable division until at least 30 days following the filing of that party's inventory.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing**

**Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

\* \* \*

(b) Within the time required by order of court or written directive of the master or, if none, at least 60 days before the scheduled hearing on the claim for equitable division, the parties shall file and serve upon the other party a pre-trial statement. The pre-trial statement shall include the following matters, together with any additional information required by special order of the court:

\* \* \*

(10) a proposed resolution of the economic issues raised in the pleadings.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

(c) If a party fails to file either an inventory, as required by subdivision (a), or a pre-trial statement, as required by subdivision (b), the court may make an appropriate order under Pa.R.C.P. No. 4019(c) governing sanctions.

\* \* \*

#### **Rule 1920.75. Form of Inventory.**

The inventory required by [Rule]Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.33(a) shall be substantially in the following form:

\* \* \*

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of***

**Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

**Rule 1920.76. Form of Divorce Decree.**

The decree of divorce shall be substantially in the following form:

\* \* \*

**Rule 1930.1. [Form of Pleadings. ]Form of Caption. Confidential Information and Confidential Documents. Certification.**

**(a)** The form of the caption in all domestic relations matters shall be substantially as follows:

In the Court of Common Pleas of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Pennsylvania

A. Litigant,	)	
Plaintiff	)	
vs.	)	No. [of 19 ]( <u>Docket number</u> )
B. Litigant,	)	
Defendant	)	

(Title of Pleading)

*Note:* As domestic relations matters are no longer quasi-criminal, the phrase “Commonwealth ex rel.” shall not be used in the caption of any domestic relations matter.

**(b) Attorneys and unrepresented parties who file documents with the prothonotary’s office or domestic relations office pursuant to these rules, including Protection from Abuse, Support, Custody, Divorce, or Protection of Victims of Sexual Violence and Intimidation, shall comply with Sections 7.0 and 8.0 of the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts (Policy). The Policy has specific requirements for both Confidential Documents and other documents containing Confidential Information, which includes, but are not limited to, the following:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Social Security Numbers;</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Minors' educational records;</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Financial Account Numbers</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Medical/Psychological records;</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Driver License Numbers;</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Children and Youth Services' records;</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>State Identification (SID) Numbers;</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Marital Property Inventory and Pre-Trial Statement as provided in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1920.33;</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Minors' names and dates of birth</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Income and Expense Statement as provided in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910.27(c); and</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Abuse victim's address and other contact information</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Agreements between the parties as used in 23 Pa.C.S. § 3105.</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Financial Source Documents;</u></li> </ul>	

Additionally, the Policy requires the person filing a document to certify in writing:

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

*Note: The Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts (Policy) can be found on the website of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania at <http://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/supreme/out/477jad-attach1.pdf?cb=1&cb=1499874026638>.*

**Rule 1930.6. Paternity Actions. Scope. Venue. Commencement of Action.**

(a) **[Scope.]** This rule shall govern the procedure by which a putative father may initiate a civil action to establish paternity and seek genetic testing. Such an action shall not be permitted if an order already has been entered as to the paternity, custody, or support of the child, or if a support or custody action to which the putative father is a party is pending.

(b) **[Venue.]** An action may be brought only in the county in which the defendant or the child(ren) reside.

(c) **[Commencement of Action.]** An action shall be **[initiated]commenced** by filing a verified complaint to establish paternity and for genetic testing substantially in the form set forth in subdivision (1)**[ below]**. The complaint shall have as its first page the Notice of Hearing and Order set forth in subdivision (2)**[ below]**.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

(1) The complaint filed in a civil action to establish paternity shall be substantially in the following form:

\* \* \*

#### **Rule 1953. Commencement of Action.**

\* \* \*

(c) Any fees associated with this action shall not be charged to the plaintiff.

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

#### **Rule 1959. Forms for Use in Protection of Victims of Sexual Violence or Intimidation Actions. Notice and Hearing. Petition. Temporary Protection Order. Final Protection Order.**



\* \* \*

**Note: This rule may require attorneys or unrepresented parties to file Confidential Documents and documents containing Confidential Information that are subject to the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts*. The policy requires that a person filing Confidential Documents or documents containing Confidential Information attach a Confidential Document Form or a Confidential Information Form to the document before filing or, alternatively, file a redacted version of the document. See Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b).**

(c) The Temporary Order of Court, or any continued, amended or modified Temporary Order of Court, entered pursuant to the Act shall be identical in content to the following form:

\* \* \*

**SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE**

**PUBLICATION REPORT**

**RECOMMENDATION 166**

On January 6, 2017, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania adopted the Public Access Policy: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts (Policy), which will become effective January 6, 2018. Of particular importance are the requirements of Sections 7.0 and 8.0 governing confidential information and confidential documents. In anticipation of the implementation of the Policy, the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee (Committee) is proposing a new subdivision to Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1, which provides that all domestic relations filings must comply with the Policy. Also, the rule notes that all practitioners and unrepresented parties must certify that a filing is compliant with the Policy. In addition to the amendment in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b), the Committee is proposing the addition of an official note referencing the amendment to Pa.R.C.P. No. 1930.1(b) in numerous other rules related to the filing of confidential information and documents.

The Policy will have a significant impact on the family law practice as many of the items outlined in Section 7.0 and Section 8.0 of the Policy identify information and documents routinely included in the family law practice. Compounding the impact of the Policy is the significant number of *pro se* litigants in family law cases, who must understand and comply with the Policy.

Notwithstanding that the domestic relations procedural rules are a subset of the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Committee determined a separate standalone rule was necessary for the domestic rules as many *pro se* parties to domestic relations litigation rarely consult the general rules of civil procedure. The Committee concluded that the general rules relating to domestic relations, Chapter 1930, should include the standalone rule; however, as with the general civil rules, the Committee decided that many *pro se* litigants involved in specific litigation (e.g. support only or custody only) might not consult the Chapter 1930 series of rules on a routine basis. As such, in addition to the standalone rule in the Chapter 1930 series, the Committee included a note referencing the standalone rule in those domestic relations rules that may require an attorney or a party to file a confidential document or a document with confidential information.

The Committee invites comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding this rulemaking proposal.