

**Orphans'**

**Court**

**Procedural**

**Rules**

**Committee**

**2000 Membership:**

Honorable Jane Cutler Greenspan, *Chair\**  
Honorable John M. Cascio, *Chair\*\**  
Mark S. Blaskey, Esq.  
Lawrence Barth, Esq.  
Kenneth E. Lewis, Esq.  
Edward S. McKenna, Esq.  
Honorable Joseph D. O'Keefe+  
Honorable Eunice L. Ross  
Carolyn Crandall Thompson, Esq., *ex officio*

**Staff:**

Dean R. Phillips, Esq., *Counsel*  
Tricia W. Nagel

\* Resigned 12-00

\*\* Appointed chair 1-9-01

+ Appointed 1-9-01

**Legal Authorization:**

Pa. Constitution, Article V, § 10(c)  
42 Pa. C.S., § 1722

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## History/Background

The Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee was established under Article V, § 10(c) of the 1968 Pennsylvania Constitution and 42 Pa. C.S., § 1772. It responds to developments in orphans' court procedure and reviews current rules governing statewide practice and procedure in the orphans' court, recommending new rules as necessary. The committee also responds to questions and comments received from the judiciary, lawyers, the public and various agencies.

## 2000 Activities

The committee met once in 2000.

The committee finalized its review and preparation, with the Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee, of a joint recommendation revising Rules 7.1 and 7.2 (pertaining to **"exceptions" practice**) and Pa.R.A.P. 341 (**Final Orders**), which the Supreme Court adopted on December 20, 2000, effective January 1, 2001.

## 2001 Plans

The committee plans to undertake a review of the deposit of estate funds vis-à-vis IOLTA requirements. It is currently investigating avenues to disseminate to the bar the results of its review.

During its comprehensive review of the existing rules and statutes governing adoption, guardianship, standby guardianship and termination of parental rights, several of its subcommittee members met with various bar association officials. During this process, the committee became apprised of newly introduced legislation regarding proposed revisions to the Adoption Code (see Senate Bill 859) and will be studying this bill.

The committee is also undertaking a review of each county's estate forms to determine which forms could possibly be the substance of statewide forms.

## Contact Persons

Questions about the committee and its work may be directed to either of the following individuals:

Honorable John M. Cascio, Chair  
Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County  
Somerset County Courthouse  
111 East Union Street  
Somerset, PA 15501  
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