

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Re: Order Adopting New Rule 217 & Amending Rule 803 & Official Notes to Rules 304, 503, 1205 & 1206 of PA Rules of Civil Procedure Before MDJs

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (June 1, 2018)

SUMMARY

This document adopts new Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 217 governing certification and handling of confidential information and confidential documents filed in magisterial district courts. It also amends Rule 803 and the official notes to Rules 304, 503, 1205, and 1206 to reference compliance with the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania Case Records Public Access Policy.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
JURISDICTION	Pennsylvania
DECIDED	June 1, 2018
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania issued a rulemaking order adopting a new Rule 217 and amending Rule 803 and official notes to Rules 304, 503, 1205, and 1206 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure governing proceedings before magisterial district judges.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Binding rulemaking order adopting and amending Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure before magisterial district judges.

TOPICS

[civil procedure](#) [pleadings](#) [domestic violence](#) [family law procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[civil procedure](#) [family law](#) [protection from abuse](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether to adopt new Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 217 governing certification and filing of confidential information and confidential documents in proceedings before magisterial district judges.

2. Whether to amend Rule 803 and the official notes to Rules 304, 503, 1205, and 1206 to conform those provisions to the Case Records Public Access Policy and related statutory requirements.

HOLDINGS

1. Rule 217 is adopted to require attorneys and unrepresented parties filing documents in proceedings before magisterial district courts to comply with Sections 7.0 and 8.0 of the Case Records Public Access Policy, including required certifications and, when applicable, Confidential Information Forms or Confidential Document Forms.
2. In an action before a magisterial district judge to which a minor is a party, the complaint must be entitled in the minor's name without reference to minority or guardianship, and the minor must be designated by the initials of the first and last name.
3. The official notes to Rules 304, 503, 803, 1205, and 1206 are amended to provide that filings under those rules are subject to the Case Records Public Access Policy.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

This is a rulemaking order rather than an adjudication arising from disputed facts. The court identified the need to govern confidential information and confidential documents filed in magisterial district court proceedings and to conform related rules and official notes to the Unified Judicial System's Case Records Public Access Policy. The amendments also address the designation of minors in complaints and filing procedures in landlord-tenant and protection-from-abuse matters.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court exercised its rulemaking authority to adopt and amend procedural rules and accompanying official notes. The order addresses filing requirements, confidential information, complaints involving minors, emergency relief, and protection-from-abuse proceedings before magisterial district judges.

DISPOSITION

other