

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

T.M.H., Jr. v. J.L. and K.L. v. L.K.C.

T.M.H. · No. 29 WAP 2024 · Decided April 29, 2025

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania affirmed the Superior Court's order in a custody matter involving the parties' standing and custody petitions. The Court directed the trial court to hold a custody hearing within thirty days, maintain the existing custody arrangement pending a final order, and assess the child's best interests.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Western District
DECIDED	April 29, 2025
DOCKET	29 WAP 2024
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from the Superior Court's order reversing and remanding an order of the Blair County Court of Common Pleas in a custody matter.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	J.L., K.L. v. T.M.H., Jr., L.K.C.

TOPICS

child custody standing appellate procedure family law procedure constitutional law

PRACTICE AREAS

family law appellate procedure civil procedure constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the Superior Court's order reversing and remanding the Blair County Court of Common Pleas order should be affirmed.
- Whether the trial court should be directed to conduct a new custody hearing to reassess standing, resolve outstanding custody petitions, and establish a final custody arrangement.

HOLDINGS

- 1. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania affirmed the order of the Superior Court.
- 2. The trial court was directed to hold a custody hearing within thirty days to make a fresh assessment of standing, resolve outstanding custody petitions, and determine a final custody arrangement serving the child's best interests. The current custody arrangement was to remain in effect pending the final custody order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

- “the trial court is DIRECTED to hold a custody hearing within thirty (30) days from the date of this order to make a fresh assessment of standing, resolve any outstanding custody petitions, and determine a final custody arrangement that will serve the best interests of the child.” (2)*
- “The court shall maintain the status quo of the current custody arrangement pending the issuance of a final custody order.” (2)*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The matter concerns custody of a child and the parties' standing to pursue custody relief. The existing custody arrangement was to remain in place while the trial court reassessed standing, resolved outstanding custody petitions, and determined a final custody arrangement serving the child's best interests.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Blair County Court of Common Pleas entered an order on June 7, 2023. The Superior Court reversed and remanded that order on April 26, 2024. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania affirmed the Superior Court and relinquished jurisdiction, while directing the trial court to conduct a custody hearing within thirty days.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The trial court must hold a custody hearing within thirty days of the order, make a fresh assessment of standing, resolve all outstanding custody petitions, and determine a final custody arrangement serving the child's best interests. The current custody arrangement must remain in place pending issuance of a final custody order. Jurisdiction was relinquished.

OPINION

T.M.H. v. J.&K.L., Aplt. v. L.K.C.
PER CURIAM.
[J-28-2025]
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

WESTERN DISTRICT

T.M.H., JR., : No. 29 WAP 2024

Appellee : Appeal from the Order of the : Superior Court entered April 26, : 2024, at No. 812
WDA 2023, v. : Reversing and Remanding the : Order of the Court of Common : Pleas Blair
County Civil Division J.L. AND K.L., : entered June 7, 2023, at No. 2011 : GN 254. Appellants : :
ARGUED: April 10, 2025 v. : L.K.C., : Appellee :

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 29th day of April, 2025, the order of the Superior Court is AFFIRMED. Pursuant to this Court's powers under PA. CONST. art. V, §10(a) (vesting this Court with "general supervisory and administrative authority over all the courts") and §10(c) (granting this Court "the power to prescribe general rules governing practice, procedure, and the conduct of all courts"), the trial court is DIRECTED to hold a custody hearing within thirty (30) days from the date of this order to make a fresh assessment of standing, resolve any outstanding custody petitions, and determine a final custody arrangement that will serve the best interests of the child. The court shall maintain the status quo of the current custody arrangement pending the issuance of a final custody order. Jurisdiction Relinquished. [J-28-2025] - 2