

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

In Re: Rule 1915.11-1
Parenting Coordination

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No. 2022-003777

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 25th day of August, 2025, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED that the Administrative Order entered on June 14, 2023, regarding Rule 1915.11-1 is hereby RESCINDED and the attached Rule 1915.11-1 regarding Appointment of Parenting Coordination is hereby adopted and effective immediately upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

IT IS FUTHER ORDERED that in accordance with 201 Pa. Code Rule 103, the Solicitor for Internal Management shall:

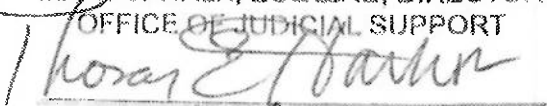
- (a) File one (1) certified copy of this Order with the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts;
- (b) File two (2) certified copies of this Order with the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin;
- (c) Publish a copy of this Order on the website of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas;
- (d) File one (1) certified copy of this Order with the Clerk of Judicial Records Civil Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County; and
- (e) Forward one (1) copy of this Order for publication in the Delaware County Legal Journal.

BY THE COURT:


Linda A. Cartisano
President Judge

CERTIFIED A TRUE AND CORRECT
COPY FROM THE RECORD

THIS 26 DAY OF Aug, A.D. 2025
MARY J. WALK, ESQUIRE, DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF JUDICIAL SUPPORT



Pursuant to Rule 1915.11-1, the Rule is hereby amended as follows:

I. Appointment of a Parenting Coordinator

- A. Parties may make a request to the assigned Family Section Trial Judge for the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator.
- B. Said request may be made by written Petition for Special Relief or by oral motion.
- C. Except in cases involving domestic violence, the parties may submit a written agreement with regard to the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator, including an agreed upon Parenting Coordinator. The agreed upon Parenting Coordinator must be on the roster of approved parent coordinators. The agreement shall include the terms of the form Order for Parenting Coordination as set forth in this rule. Upon agreement, the Family Section Trial Judge may appoint the Parenting Coordinator without a hearing.
- D. The Family Section Liaison Judge shall maintain a roster of approved parent coordinators from which the Family Section Trial Judge shall select the Parenting Coordinator, except in case of agreement between the parties.
 - i. The Roster shall be provided to the Delaware County Bar Association for website publication and should also be made available to members of the bar upon request.
 - ii. An updated roster shall be provided as determined by the Family Section Liaison Judge.
- E. In matters that involve domestic violence, the Family Section Trial Judge shall hold a hearing to determine if the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator is appropriate pursuant to Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.11-1(b)(2) and Section V.C. stated herein.
- F. Upon approval, the Family Section Trial Judge shall issue an Order for Parenting Coordinator pursuant to Pa.R.C.P 1915.22 which shall be distributed to all parties and made an Order of the Court.
- G. The Family Section Liaison Judge shall assign one (1) *pro-bono* appointment to each Parenting Coordinator for every two (2) fee-generating appointments in Delaware County.
- H. The appointment of a Parenting Coordinator shall be for a specified period not to exceed 12 months; however, a party may petition the Family Section Trial Judge for an extension of the appointment, or the Court in its discretion may extend the appointment for an additional period.

II. Approved Parent Coordinators

- A. An attorney or mental health professional seeking to be included on Delaware County Court's roster of qualified individuals to serve as a

Parenting Coordinator shall submit an affidavit to the Family Section Liaison Judge or his/her designee together with the following:

- i. An affidavit attesting the applicant has the qualifications found in Pa.R.C.P. 1915.11-1;
 - ii. An acknowledgment that the applicant has read the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Parenting Coordinator guidelines and the American Psychological Association (APA) Parenting Guidelines respectively found at www.afccnet.org and www.apa.org; and
 - iii. An acknowledgment that for every two (2) fee generating Parenting Coordination assignments, each Parent Coordinator must accept one (1) pro bono assignment, up to 12 hours per *pro bono* case.
- B. An applicant who has been qualified in another Pennsylvania county within the preceding twelve (12) months shall be automatically certified as qualified in Delaware County upon submission of affidavit and supporting documentation from the qualifying county.

III. Parenting Coordinator Recommendations

- A. Parenting Coordinators shall file their Summary and Recommendations pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. 1915.23 with the Office of Judicial Support within two (2) business days after the last communication with the parties on the issues in accordance with Pa.R.C.P. 1915.11-1 (f)(2) and promptly forward a copy of same via regular mail and email to the parties and the Family Section Trial Judge. Service shall be considered complete as of the date the email is sent to the Family Section Trial Judge and the parties.
- B. Parenting Coordinator shall state the manner of service of the Summary and Recommendations to the parties.
- C. Parenting Coordinator shall include the rationale for their Recommendations in the Summary, and the Parenting Coordinator shall indicate whether the Recommendation is based upon an agreement of the parties.
- D. Parenting Coordinator Recommendations, regardless of whether objections are filed, are binding on the parties pending the court's disposition pursuant to Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.11-1(g)(2)(iii).
- E. Objections to Parenting Coordinator's Recommendation(s) and Petition for a Record Hearing
 - i. A party objecting to the Recommendations must file with the Office of Judicial Support an original and copy of their Objections and a Petition for a Record Hearing before the Court within five (5) days of

service of the Summary and Recommendations together with Proof of Service upon all parties and the Parenting Coordinator.

- F. The Office of Judicial Support shall promptly forward the original Objections and Petition to the Court Administrator's Office for assignment to the parties' Family Section Trial Judge to promptly schedule a record hearing.
- G. Court Review of Parenting Coordinator's Recommendations
 - i. If no objections to the Parenting Coordinator's Recommendations are filed with the Office of Judicial Support within five (5) days of service of the Summary and Recommendation, the Family Section Trial Judge assigned to the case shall review the Recommendation in accordance with the time set forth in Pa.R.C.P. 1915.11-1(f)(4) and pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. 1915.23

IV. Fees

- A. Parties who request the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator, or who are identified by the Court as benefiting from the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator, shall pay the Parenting Coordinator as follows:
 - i. His or her hourly rate which may be up to \$300 per hour.
 - ii. Absent good cause, parties shall pay the initial retainer which shall not exceed the equivalent of five (5) hours at the parenting Coordinator's hourly rate.
 - iii. If a party has previously filed and been granted *In Forma Pauperis* status by the Court specifically for the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator, the Parenting Coordinator so appointed shall serve on a *pro bono* (no fee) basis, up to 12 hours.
 - iv. A Parenting Coordinator must accept one *pro bono* appointment for every two fee generating appointments.
 - v. Parent Coordinators are not funded by the County.
 - vi. If one or both parties fail to pay according to the Parenting Coordinator's agreement, the Parenting Coordinator may file a recommendation with the Family Section Trial Judge to order the parties to pay.

V. Miscellaneous

- A. A Parenting Coordinator shall not be required to make a Recommendation to the Court, at their discretion, on every disputed issue raised by the parties.
- B. The appointing Family Section Trial Judge may reject a Recommendation from a Parenting Coordinator without a proceeding, at their discretion, if the disputed issue exceeds the authority set forth in Pa.R.C.P. 1915.11-1(f)(4).

- C. Unless the parties consent and appropriate safety measures are in place to protect the participants, including the parenting coordinator and other third parties, a parenting coordinator shall not be appointed if:
- i. The parties to the custody action have a protection from abuse order in effect;
 - ii. The court makes a finding that a party has been a victim of domestic violence perpetrated by a party to the custody action, either during the pendency of the custody action or within 36 months preceding the filing of the custody action; or
 - iii. The court makes a finding that a party to the custody action has been the victim of a personal injury crime, as defined in 23 Pa.C.S. 3103, which was perpetrated by a party to the custody action.
- D. The Family Section Trial Judge shall have a hearing on the issue and may consider abuse occurring beyond the 36 months provided in subdivision (a)(2)(ii).
- E. Procedures and forms can be found on the County of Delaware and Delaware County Bar Association websites.