




**JUDGE'S CHAMBERS  
TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
LYCOMING COUNTY**

**NANCY L. BUTTS**  
JUDGE  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

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**MEMO**

**TO:** Lycoming County Bar Association  
**FROM:** Nancy L. Butts, President Judge   
**RE:** Medical Malpractice Statistics  
**DATE:** January 28, 2010

The 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial District is required to report yearly the number of medical malpractice cases filed in the district. In accordance with this requirement, the Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 1042.16 requires that in all actions of professional liability the caption on all legal papers shall read Civil Action – Medical/Professional Liability Action. We have created a data entry system that will count every case filed that has this information in its caption.

We are finding out through reviews that attorneys are forgetting to place this information in the caption on the cover sheets or in any major legal pleadings. Without the caption present, the Prothonotary's Office will not capture the case as a medical/professional liability case and our count will not be accurate. The staff will have to manually review each civil case filing for the year to determine whether they might be appropriate medical malpractice cases to report to the state.

I request that in all future medical malpractice or professional liability filings you would comply with Rule of Civil Procedure 1042.16 and list the appropriate language in the caption, Civil Action – Medical/Professional Liability Action.

Thank you for your help.