



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

MARC F. LOVECCHIO
JUDGE
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

May 21, 2010

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
48 WEST THIRD STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
(570) 327-2336
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NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

The Lycoming County Underage Drinking Court has recently been restructured. Effective September 1, 2010, placement on the Court will be determined in one of two manners.

First, and similar to present procedure, a law enforcement officer may refer an individual pre-citation. The referral form, presently utilized by law enforcement, must be sent to Rebecca Loner, Secretary to myself. My office will then notify the underage individual of the option of participating in the Court. If the individual chooses not to participate or does not timely respond, the officer will be notified and the citation can be filed. If the underage individual chooses to participate in a timely manner, the officer will be notified accordingly. The individual will undergo an assessment and be staffed accordingly. The officer will subsequently be advised of the individual's status.

The second option is post-citation. Once the citation is filed, the Defendant will be notified by the Magisterial District Court of the option to apply to the Underage Drinking Court. If the individual chooses to apply, the case will be transferred to my jurisdiction. The Defendant will then undergo an assessment and the application will be considered by the Underage Drinking Court Team. The officer may have input into the process of acceptance if the officer so chooses. If the Defendant is accepted, disposition of the case will be deferred. If the Defendant is denied acceptance into the Court, the individual may plead guilty or may choose to have a hearing before myself.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please feel free to contact either myself, Ms. Loner or Chris Deal of West Branch Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc F. Lovecchio".

Marc F. Lovecchio, Judge

MFL/bsl