

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL ATTORNEYS IN YOUR FIRM.**


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

*Joy Reynolds McCoy*  
JUDGE  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

LYCOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
48 WEST THIRD STREET  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701  
(570) 327-2340

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** *All Attorneys*

**FROM:** *Joy Reynolds McCoy, Judge* 

**RE:** *PFA Final Orders/Men Against Abuse Program*

**DATE:** *October 22, 2010*

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The Court has implemented a new procedure in regard to Protection from Abuse Orders and the Men Against Abuse Program. The following standard language will appear in every final Protection from Abuse Order:

The Defendant shall complete a free screening at West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission to determine whether the male Defendant shall attend the Men Against Abuse Program at Crossroads Counseling or a woman Defendant shall attend an equivalent program. The Defendant shall contact West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission at 570-326-8543 within seven (7) days of the date of this order to schedule the screening. The Defendant shall complete the Men Against Abuse Program, or any equivalent program for women, if referred to the program by West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission.

The Defendant shall immediately sign a release of confidential information to allow West Branch Drug and Alcohol Commission to disclose whether or not the Defendant is or is not in treatment and/or whether the Defendant has or has not complied with the Protection From Abuse Order.

Unless the provision is removed from the Order by the Court, every Defendant must complete the free screening at West Branch Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission in regard to the Men Against Abuse Program or an equivalent program for a woman Defendant. Even in Final Orders which were agreed to by both parties, this requirement cannot be removed unless the Court authorizes the provision to be removed. If the parties and/or counsel for the parties wish to have the

provision concerning the screening removed, they must bring the issue before the Judge. It will be up to each Judge's discretion whether or not to require the screening based on the facts of each case. If the language remains in the Final Order concerning the Defendant completing the screening and/or the Defendant undergoing a drug and alcohol evaluation, the language concerning the signing of the Release of Confidential Information for West Branch Drug & Alcohol must remain in the final Order. All of the Court Reporters will have copies of the West Branch Drug & Alcohol Releases, as well as the Judges' law clerks. The Court should obtain the Defendant's signature on the release at the time the Final Protection from Abuse Order is entered and forward the Release to West Branch Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission and provide a copy to the Defendant.

JRM

- c. The Honorable Nancy Butts  
The Honorable Dudley Anderson  
The Honorable Richard Gray  
The Honorable Marc Lovecchio  
Amanda Browning, Law Clerk  
Stacy Bower, Law Clerk  
Laurel Fox, Law Clerk  
Terra Koernig, Law Clerk  
Karen Stapp, Law Clerk  
Eileen Dgien, Deputy Court Administrator  
Paula Confer