

**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 Family Law Practitioners*

FROM: *Joy Reynolds McCoy, Judge*

RE: *Custody Trials*

DATE: *August 3, 2012*

The Court will be implementing a new procedure for scheduling custody trials. Many cases are settling immediately prior to or on the day of the scheduled trial. Settlement is encouraged, even at the last minute. However, due to the number of pending custody cases, the amount of Court time lost to last minute settlements needs to be reduced.

The current custody conference and pre-trial procedure will remain the same. As a general rule, two cases will be assigned to a custody trial date. Both cases must appear on the day of the trial prepared to proceed on that day. This means that all witnesses must be lined up to testify and counsel prepared to proceed on that day. Non-party witnesses do not need to be present before 11:00 a.m. The Court will speak with both cases to determine if settlement is possible on one or both of the cases. If neither case can be resolved, the Court will determine which case will proceed to trial on that date. The remaining case will be given a new trial date. In determining which case will proceed on that day, priority will be given to those cases that were previously scheduled for a trial date and did not proceed. The Court will also take into consideration the issues in each case in determining which case shall proceed on that day.

Attorneys will not be scheduled for both cases on a trial date unless the attorney requests this be done. The pre-trial judge shall have discretion to give a case a date when no second case is scheduled. This will be done only in cases where the issues in the case warrant it.

This new procedure shall take affect immediately. I will be reviewing all of the scheduled custody trials and rescheduling cases pursuant to the new procedure.

JRM

- c. Kevin Way, Court Administrator
The Honorable Judge Anderson
The Honorable Richard Gray
Diane Turner, Family Court Hearing Officer
Dana Jacques, Family Court Hearing Officer