

**PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
PENNSYLVANIA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
GOVERNING PARENT COORDINATION**

WHEREAS, Parenting Coordination provides an expeditious means for parties in custody litigation to resolve minor disputes, while using a much lower level of court resources; and

WHEREAS, without a Parenting Coordination program in place, custody litigants (particularly those in high conflict cases) must often litigate even minor issues, such as trading custody time for holidays or vacations, choosing locations for custody exchanges, and choice of extracurricular activities for their children; and

WHEREAS, many of these minor issues are time sensitive issues which often cannot be resolved in a timely manner by the Court system and the lack of resolution often serves to increase the level of conflict between the parties; and

WHEREAS, the pursuit of a court remedy creates family financial hardships, and requires parents to take time off from their jobs, which could be in jeopardy due to absences from the workplace; and

WHEREAS, Parenting Coordination offers litigants access to a process which permits them to quickly air their grievances, and obtain timely resolution to their issues; and

WHEREAS, through the use of a Parenting Coordinator, who will use their mediation skills in helping parties self direct the resolution of their own differences, parents will become more adept at having meaningful resolution oriented discussions, thus alleviating the need for court intervention or further Parenting Coordination in the future; and

WHEREAS, diverting these issues out of the judicial system frees up valuable court time for other litigants so that other family law issues can also be handled by the Court more expeditiously; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Bar Association supports Parenting Coordination and on May 26, 2011, the Board of Governors unanimously adopted a resolution opposing state legislation to ban the appointment of Parenting Coordinators in custody disputes; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee has proposed Recommendation 155, calling for amendments to Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 1915.11-1, allowing for judicial appointment of a Parenting Coordinator to resolve parenting issues in cases involving repeated or intractable conflict between the parties affecting implementation of the final custody order; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation 155 acknowledges the role the judiciary has in the custody process, with proposed amendments to Rule 1915.11-1 mandating that the appointing judge maintain a supervisory role over the recommendations of the Parenting Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation 155 calls for the adoption of a standard form order for appointing a Parenting Coordinator and a standard form for the recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator, providing a uniform practice across the Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Philadelphia Bar Association supports the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee's Recommendation 155, attached hereto, including proposed amendments to Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 1915.11-1, governing Parenting Coordination, and the addition of a standard form order for the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator and a standard form for the recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Philadelphia Bar Association authorizes and directs the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee to communicate the position of the Philadelphia Bar Association to the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee and to take such other steps as may be necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

**PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ADOPTED:**