

August 26, 2019

Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
Attn: Judicial Operations & Programs
601 Commonwealth Avenue
P.O. Box 61260
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Dear AOPC,

The Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association is disappointed that the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts is considering recommending to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania the adoption of amendments to the Uniform Rules Governing Court Reporting and Transcripts to eliminate the Committee on Court Reporting and Transcripts.

The Committee on Court Reporting and Transcripts was established to provide guidelines for making, preserving, and transcribing official proceedings and the result was the creation of Rule 4000 which has added consistency and professionalism amongst the counties and court reporters working in those counties. It shouldn't end there. Rule 4000 should be reviewed periodically and enforced.

The Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association would like the Committee on Court Reporting and Transcripts to continue and meet once a year to review the Rule and determine whether anything needs to be updated or changed. If there are any issues to be resolved, the Committee on Court Reporting and Transcripts should meet more often and adjust the wording of the Rule if necessary.

Transitioning from Rule 5000 to Rule 4000 required the collective input from the Committee's different disciplines to integrate its concepts and assure that the language being used made sense to all of the stakeholders. Without continued review and input, Rule 4000 will soon become outdated, just as Rule 5000 did.

Please consider appointing a new Committee on Court Reporting and Transcripts to annually review the guidelines for making, preserving, and transcribing official proceedings, since terms have expired for many of the previous committee members. The field of court reporting is changing with technology and the Committee on Court Reporting and Transcripts will enhance the expectation of professionalism of court reporters working in the court system as well as ensure enforcement of Rule 4000 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Linda Larson, President-Elect
Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association