

**SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
JUVENILE COURT PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE**

REPORT

Proposed Amendment of Pa.R.J.C.P. 407

The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee recently surveyed judicial districts as to the use of the admission form. Responses included specific suggestions for further simplifying the language of the form and the inclusion of questions when 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 6358 (Assessment of Delinquent Children by the State Sexual Offenders Assessment Board) and 6403 (Court-Ordered Involuntary Treatment) may be applicable. Accordingly, the Committee proposes to amend Rule 407 to further simplify the admission form and to require an addendum when the juvenile is admitting to an act of sexual violence.

Admission Form

The Committee recognizes the challenge of creating a more “child-friendly” form while retaining the form’s purpose as a vehicle to convey important information to juveniles. To that end, the proposed amendments are modest and intended to simplify the form, increase readability, and incorporate more age-appropriate language. Further, the restatements (*i.e.*, “which means”) within the form have been eliminated. Rather, the necessity, means, and extent of any restatements to ensure the juvenile’s comprehension is left to the juvenile’s attorney who is best suited to identify and address those needs.

Act of Sexual Violence

The Committee proposes new paragraph (D) to require colloquy of the juvenile when admitting to an act of sexual violence. See 42 Pa.C.S. § 6358(a) (enumerating offenses). The purpose of this colloquy is to ensure that the juvenile is aware that he or she may be subject to court-ordered involuntary treatment upon attaining 20 years of age pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. § 6403. The new paragraph would require amendment of the admission form to include the form set forth in paragraph (D).

A version of this new form was previously published at 42 Pa.B. 7248 (December 1, 2012).

The Committee invites all comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding this rulemaking proposal.