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Dauphin County



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Twelfth Judicial District

Deputy Court Administrators

ROBERT J. SISOCK

Criminal Court

780-6642

TROY A. PETERY

Magisterial District Judge

780-6636

JENNIFER SIMPSON

Human Resources

780-6635

LILI HAGENBUCH

Civil/Orphan's Court

780-6646

NOTICE OF DRAFT PROPOSAL

REESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURTS WITHIN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA- DAUPHIN COUNTY

February 4, 2022

NOTICE is hereby given that the 2022 Reestablishment proposal for the Magisterial Districts within the Twelfth Judicial District (Dauphin County) is now available for examination and review until March 7, 2022 at the following locations:

1. The office of the Deputy Court Administrator, 3rd Floor, Dauphin County Administration Building, 2 South 2nd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
2. On the Dauphin County **website at:** www.dauphincounty.org/mdj_reestablishment

Any written comments or suggestions pertaining to the proposed reestablishment plan may be directed to MDJreestablishment@dauphinc.org or by mailing them to:

Deputy Court Administrator – MDJ's
Dauphin County Administration Building – 3rd Floor
2 South 2nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

All written comments or suggestions must be received **no later than Monday, March 7, 2022.**

Honorable John F. Cherry
President Judge

Details of the Dauphin County Reestablishment plan are explained within the following pages and individual Magisterial District Court Worksheets.

A brief summary of the Magisterial District Courts in Dauphin County are as follows:

- Dauphin County is a Third Class (3rd) county and contains 15 Magisterial Districts.
- Other 3rd class counties average 14 Magisterial Districts.
- Dauphin County Magisterial District Courts' average 5,669 case filings per court. The average for other 3rd class counties is 4,919 cases. Dauphin County's average caseload ranks 3rd out of 10 compared to other 3rd class counties.
- Dauphin County's average Magisterial District Court workload (Calculation based on a weighing caseloads) is 49,859.
- The ideal workload range for Dauphin County Magisterial Courts (15% higher or lower than the average workload) ranges from 42,380 to 57,338.
- The draft proposal recommends that 13 Magisterial District Courts in Dauphin County be Reestablished (No changes to the Magisterial District boundaries).
- The draft proposal recommends that 1 Magisterial District Court in Dauphin County be Realigned (Changes made to the Magisterial District Boundaries) beginning 1-1-24.
- The draft proposal recommends that 1 Magisterial District Court in Dauphin County be Eliminated effective 1-1-24.
- Other caseload/workload adjustments are proposed to be made through administrative methods unrelated to Magisterial District Boundaries.
- The draft proposal recommends that the allotment of Magisterial Districts in Dauphin County be reduced to 14.

Dauphin County Magisterial District Courts Reestablishment Recommendations

Magisterial District Courts to be reestablished (13)

(no changes made to boundaries)

- **Magisterial District Court 12-1-01**
 - Judge Marian Urrutia – Current term expires 12/31/2028
 - Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 7,054
 - Current average workload (2014-2019) is 69,435
 - Caseload and workload data indicate that some changes are needed to achieve equity with other courts within Dauphin County. Case reassignments to be considered without realigning due to the various logistical issues that changing boundaries would create.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-1-02**
 - Judge Barbara Pianka – Current term expires 12/31/2023
 - Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 10,162
 - Current average workload (2014-2019) is 55,594
 - While average caseloads are the highest in Dauphin County, a majority of all cases are Traffic filings from parking in the City of Harrisburg resulting in a workload that falls within the guidelines for reestablishment due to the lower weight that is assigned to Traffic filings.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-1-04**
 - Judge David F. O’Leary – current term expires 12/31/2023
 - Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 10,161
 - Current average workload (2014-2019) is 64,372
 - Although this court is on the higher end in both caseload and workload, due to the nature of the district containing two busy sections of the city, realignment is very difficult and would only create a different office in the city ending up outside of the acceptable parameters.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-1-05**
 - Judge Hanif L. Johnson, Sr. – current term expires 12/31/2023
 - Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 4,542
 - Current average workload (2014 – 2019) is 48,480
 - No action is necessary as both caseload and workload are equitable to other courts within the county.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-1-06**
 - o Judge Joseph S. Lindsey – current term expires 12/31/2023
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 5,765
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 54,544
 - No action is necessary as both caseload and workload are equitable to other courts within the county.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-2-01**
 - o Judge Michael J. Smith – current term expires 12/31/2023
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 7,008
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 92,830
 - This is the busiest office as far as criminal cases are concerned. This district is landlocked with other Magisterial District Courts. Administrative measures will be taken attempting to reach equality with other Magisterial District Courts instead of changing boundaries.
 - All Criminal cases from the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop H, will be administratively directed to be filed in Magisterial District 12-3-05. All Traffic filings from the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop H will be administratively directed to be filed in Magisterial District Court 12-3-03.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-2-02**
 - o Judge Kenneth A. Lenker – current term expires 12/31/2028
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 4209
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 43,227
 - No action is necessary as both caseload and workload are equitable to other courts within the county.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-2-03**
 - o Judge David H. Judy – current term expires 12/31/2023
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 4,515
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 42,655
 - No action is necessary as both caseload and workload are equitable to other courts within the county.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-2-04**
 - o Judge Sonya M. McKnight – current term expires 12/31/2028
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 4,184
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 45,608
 - No action is necessary as both caseload and workload are equitable to other courts within the county.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-2-05**
 - o Judge Paul T. Zozos – current term expires 12/31/2028
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 4,271
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 47,808
 - No action is necessary as both caseload and workload are equitable to other courts within the county.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-3-03**
 - o Judge William C. Wenner – current term expires 12/31/2028
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 5,413
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 40,028
 - Planned Administrative Order directing the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop H, to file all traffic fillings occurring within the jurisdictional boundaries of Magisterial District Court 12-2-01 in this court.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-3-04**
 - o Judge Dominic A. Pelino – current term expires 12/31/2028
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 6,359
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 44,299
 - No action is necessary as both caseload and workload are equitable to other courts within the county.

- **Magisterial District Court 12-3-05**
 - o Judge Dale E. Klein – current term expires 12/31/2028
 - o Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 3,222
 - o Current average workload (2014-2019) is 27,044
 - Planned Administrative Order directing the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop H, to file all Criminal Case filings occurring within the jurisdictional boundaries of Magisterial District Court 12-2-01 in this court.

Magisterial District Courts recommended to be realigned

- **Magisterial District Court 12-3-01**
 - Judge Rebecca Jo Margerum – current term expires 12/31/2023
 - Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 3,566
 - Current average workload (2014-2019) is 30,861
 - Court to be merged with 12-3-02
 - Magisterial District boundaries to be added to the current boundaries include: Dauphin Borough, Halifax Borough, Halifax Township, Jackson Township, Jefferson Township, Middle Paxton Township, Reed Township, Rush Township, and Wayne Township beginning on 1-1-2024.

Magisterial District Courts recommended to be eliminated

- **Magisterial District Court 12-3-02**
 - Judge Gregory D. Johnson – Current term expires 12/31/2023
 - Current average caseload (2014-2019) is 4084
 - Current average workload (2014-2019) is 23,710
 - Current Magisterial District Judge indicated his intention to not run for reelection in 2023. This Magisterial District's jurisdictional boundaries to be merged with the jurisdictions contained within Magisterial District 12-3-01 effective 1-1-2024.