



**TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

STEPHEN B. LIBHART  
DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Dauphin County Court House  
101 Market Street, Suite 300  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2012  
Phone (717) 780-6632

FROM: Stephen B. Libhart, District Court Administrator

DATE: May 1, 2026

IN RE: **NOTICE OF PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS 12-2-01, 12-2-02, AND 12-2-03 BOUNDARIES MODIFICATIONS AND PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Unified Judicial System (“UJS”) of Pennsylvania includes all courts of the Commonwealth, with the highest court being the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The UJS Pennsylvania’s Twelfth Judicial District is comprised of the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas and the underlying Magisterial Districts. There are fourteen (14) Magisterial Districts within the Twelfth Judicial District, each of which has a physical Magisterial District Court. A Magisterial District Judge (“MDJ”) presides over proceedings at a Magisterial District Court. MDJs are selected by election to serve a six-year term and may serve consecutive terms until a time of his/her choosing, but not beyond the end of the calendar year in which the MDJ attains the statutorily defined retirement age of seventy-five (75). MDJ vacancies may be filled only by election, or gubernatorial appointment with consent by the state senate.

The Magisterial District Courts are the venue where most individuals interact initially with the court system, and often the only venue. Magisterial District Courts serve to host judicial proceedings for specified traffic, non-traffic, landlord-tenant, and criminal matters within their respective jurisdiction.

Magisterial Districts are composed of underlying political subdivisions (i.e. City, Townships, Boroughs, etc.) which can be further reduced to a ward or precinct in order to achieve distribution of work approximately equitable amongst the Magisterial Districts. Case totals from jurisdictions serves as a prime determinant of work distribution and is evaluated on a decennial basis during the re-establishment process; unique circumstances and/or need may initiate such an evaluation sooner.

Over the course of time and especially during the past 5-7 years, for multiple reasons, the rise of case volume in 12-2-01 has outpaced its neighboring Magisterial Districts, eventually resulting in 12-2-01 consistently experiencing a high average caseload amongst the fourteen magisterial districts annually, criminal case counts especially. In July 2025, the elected Magisterial District Judge of Magisterial District 12-2-01 unexpectedly passed away, creating an immediate vacancy.

Recognizing that any magisterial district confronts difficulty in continuing normal operational pace and output through the use of time-limited Senior Magisterial District Judges and that Magisterial District 12-2-01 has an extremely high average annual criminal caseload (999) which is almost double the county average (521), the President Judge examined available caseload reports to determine an appropriate partial distribution of 12-2-01 caseload by designating temporary filing office designations for specified underlying political subdivision to

contiguous magisterial districts 12-2-02 and 12-2-03. This review resulted in Administrative Order 10 of 2025, *IN RE: Temporary Reassignment of Cases from Magisterial District Court 12-2-01*. The provisions of AO-10-2025 were extended through December 31, 2026 or further order of Court by Administrative Order 17 of 2025.

An examination of the caseload data prior to the effective date of AO-10-2025 and thereafter suggests the intent of the temporary reassignments has yielded the desired outcome of producing a more equitable distribution of caseloads amongst magisterial districts 12-2-01, 12-2-02, and 12-2-03. Accordingly, on or about June 1, 2026, the President Judge intends to petition the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for approval to permanently establish select magisterial districts as follows:

#### **MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT 12-2-01**

**Current:**

- Lower Swatara Township
- Paxtang Borough
- Swatara Township Wards: Two (2), Four (4), Five (5), Six (6), Seven (7), Eight (8) and Nine (9)

**Proposed:**

- Paxtang Borough
- Swatara Township Wards: One (1), Two (2), Four (4), Five (5), Six (6), and Seven (7)

#### **MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT 12-2-02**

**Current:**

- Highspire Borough
- Steelton Borough
- Swatara Township Wards: One (1) and Three (3)

**Proposed:**

- Steelton Borough
- Swatara Township Wards: Three (3), Eight (8), Nine (9), and Ten (10)

#### **MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT 12-2-03**

**Current:**

- Conewago Township
- Londonderry Township
- Middletown Borough
- Royalton Borough

**Proposed:**

- Conewago Township
- Highspire Borough
- Londonderry Township
- Lower Swatara Township
- Middletown Borough
- Royalton Borough

In addition to the statistical considerations for proposing modification of a magisterial district's boundaries, timing of such change is also contemplated. Eligibility for a candidate to seek election as a MDJ includes the permanent address of the candidate – which must be within the magisterial district in which the candidate will serve. Modification of the boundaries as proposed now will provide ample time for would-be candidates to determine their magisterial district prior to 2027, when both 12-2-01 and 12-2-03 will appear on the ballot for 6-year terms. 12-2-03 will appear on the ballot in 2029 for a 6-year term.

Modifications such as presented herein are in response to unique circumstances and cannot be permanently addressed by other means. Your input and perspective is encouraged and welcomed.

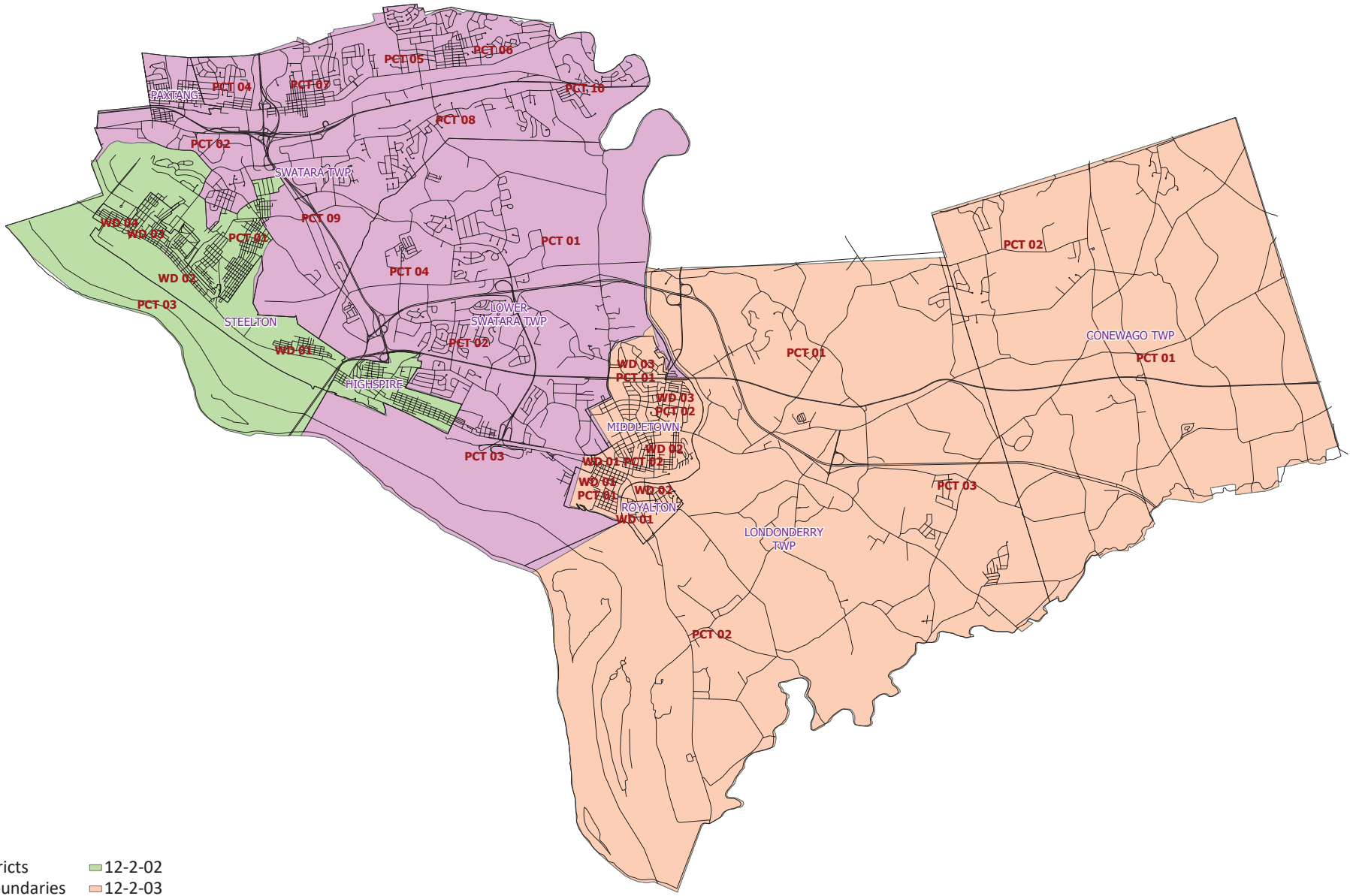
A thirty (30) day period for public comment on any such proposed change is required prior to submission of a petition to permanently modify a magisterial district(s). Public comment concerning the proposed boundaries will be accepted through May 31, 2026. Comment(s) may be submitted to:

Court Administration  
Dauphin County Courthouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
101 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
courtadmin@dauphincounty.gov

Thank you for your consideration and input regarding this important proposal.

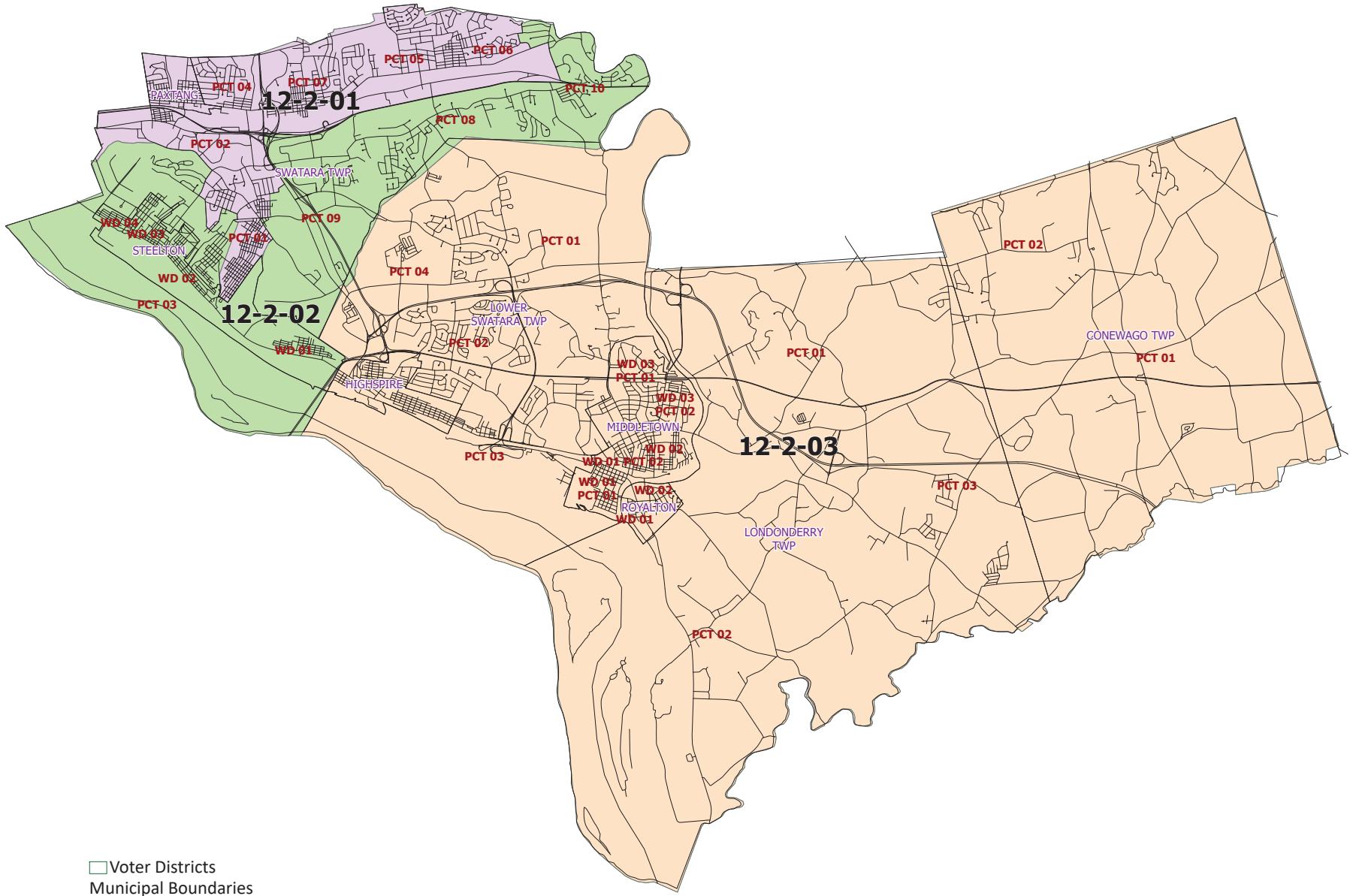
Enclosures: Current Boundaries Map  
Proposed Boundaries Map  
Administrative Order (AO-10-2025)  
Administrative Order (AO-17-2025)

# CURRENT JURISDICTIONS OF SELECT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS



- Voter Districts
- Municipal Boundaries
- Municipal Boundaries
- DIST\_NUM
- 12-2-01
- 12-2-02
- 12-2-03
- <all other values>
- NG Streets

# PROPOSED JURISDICTIONS OF SELECT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS



- DISTRICT
- 12-2-01
- 12-2-02
- 12-2-03
- <all other values>
- Voter Districts
- Municipal Boundaries
- Municipal Boundaries
- NG Streets

IN RE: TEMPORARY REASSIGNMENT OF : IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
CASES FROM MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT : DAUPHIN COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA  
COURT 12-2-01

:  
: NO. 10-10-MD-2025  
: NO. 2025-CV-0316-AO  
: NO. 2225-0001  
:  
: AO-10-2025

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CLERK OF  
PROBATION & PAROLE  
2025 JUL -9 PM 1:18  
DAUPHIN COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA

ORDER

WHEREAS a vacancy has arisen in Magisterial District Court 12-2-01 due to the unexpected and tragic passing of The Honorable Michael J. Smith.

WHEREAS the efficient administration of the entire 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District depends on the efficient administration of cases arising in Magisterial District Court 12-2-01.

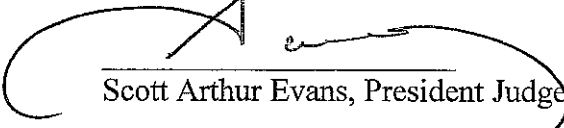
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DECREED that, pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 605(A)(5), certain cases heretofore filed in Magisterial District Court 12-2-01 shall be filed and/or heard in alternate Magisterial District Courts as follows:

- a) Effective July 14, 2025, all new cases emanating from Lower Swatara Township shall be filed in, and heard by, Magisterial District Court 12-2-03, presided over by The Honorable David H. Judy.
- b) Effective July 14, 2025, all new cases emanating from Highspire Borough shall be filed in, and heard by, Magisterial District Court 12-2-03, presided over by The Honorable David H. Judy.
- c) Effective July 14, 2025, all new cases emanating from Swatara Township Precincts Eight (8), Nine (9), and Ten (10) shall be filed in, and heard by, Magisterial District Court 12-2-02, presided over by The Honorable Kenneth A. Lenker.

- d) Effective July 14, 2025, all new criminal and non-traffic cases emanating from events occurring at, or on the grounds of, Dauphin County Prison, shall be filed in, and heard by, Magisterial District Court 12-2-02, presided over by The Honorable Kenneth A. Lenker.
- e) Effective July 14, 2025, all new cases arising from traffic stops on Paxton Street and Route 322 within Swatara Township, excepting the portion of Route 322 between Wister Street and the Eisenhower Interchange, shall be filed in, and heard by, Magisterial District Court 12-2-02, presided over by The Honorable Kenneth A. Lenker. It is the intention of the Court for this provision to apply to criminal and non-traffic cases that occur following a traffic stop regardless of which Precinct the traffic stop is ultimately effectuated in, and the underlying conduct occurs.
- f) Any criminal cases filed in an alternate Magisterial District Court pursuant to this Order that are held for court following a Preliminary Hearing shall be assigned to the Court of Common Pleas judge affiliated with the newly assigned Magisterial District Court.
- g) Nothing in this Order shall impact any existing Magisterial District Court case assignments not expressly detailed herein.
- h) The provisions of this Order shall only apply to cases filed on or after July 14, 2025. Any cases pending as of that date shall remain with the originally designated Magisterial District Court, and pending criminal cases that are held for court following a Preliminary Hearing shall be assigned to the Court of Common Pleas judge affiliated with that Magisterial District Court.
- i) The provisions of this Order shall remain in effect through December 31, 2025, unless continued by a supplemental Order of Court.


This order shall be deemed sufficient to authorize all actions necessary to implement its provisions.

BY THE COURT:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Arthur Evans, President Judge

- Distribution:
- President Judge Scott Arthur Evans
  - Judge Deborah E. Curcillo
  - Judge Andrew H. Dowling
  - Judge William T. Tully
  - Judge Edward M. Marsico, Jr.
  - Judge John Joseph McNally
  - Judge Royce L. Morris
  - Judge Jeffrey B. Engle
  - Judge Courtney K. Powell
  - Stephen B. Libhart, District Court Administrator
  - Magisterial District Judge Dale E. Klein, Esq.
  - Magisterial District Judge David H. Judy, Esq.
  - Magisterial District Judge Dominic A. Pelino
  - Magisterial District Judge Rebecca J. Margerum, Esq.
  - Magisterial District Judge William Wenner
  - Magisterial District Judge Kenneth A. Lenker
  - Magisterial District Judge Marian Urrutia
  - Magisterial District Judge Hanif L. Johnson
  - Magisterial District Judge Paul T. Zozos
  - Magisterial District Judge Mikaela Sloan
  - Magisterial District Judge J. Matthew Pianka
  - Magisterial District Judge Wendy J. F. Grella, Esq.
  - Magisterial District Court 12-2-01
  - Magisterial District Court 12-2-04
  - Magisterial District Court 12-0-00
  - Magisterial District Court 12-0-01
  - Justin Douglas, Commissioner, Chair
  - Mike Pries, Commissioner, Vice-Chair
  - George P. Harwick, III, Commissioner, Secretary
  - Eric Hagarty, Chief Clerk
  - Matthew Owens, Esq., Solicitor
  - Francis Chardo, Esq., District Attorney
  - Patti Sites, Clerk of Courts
  - Mary L. Klatt, Esq., Public Defender
  - Gregory Briggs, Dauphin County Prison

JUL 09 2025

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original filed.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew R. Krepp  
Notary

Troy Petery, Deputy Court Administrator - Criminal  
Jennifer Simpson, Deputy Court Administrator – Human Resources  
Sara Shaffer, Deputy Court Administrator – Civil  
Jamira Williams, Deputy Court Administrator – Magisterial District Judges  
Chief Corey Dickerson, Dauphin County Criminal Investigative Division  
Pennsylvania State Police – Troop H  
Chief Mark Stonbraker, Highspire Police Department  
Chief Thomas Bell, Jr., Lower Swatara Township Police  
Superintendent Thomas Stauffer, Swatara Township Police  
Highspire Borough Manager, 640 Eshelman Street, Highspire, PA 17034  
Lower Swatara Township Manager, 1499 Spring Garden Drive, Middletown, PA 17057  
Swatara Township Chief of Staff, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17111

IN RE: TEMPORARY REASSIGNMENT OF  
CASES FROM MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT  
COURT 12-2-01

: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
: DAUPHIN COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA  
:  
:  
: NO. 10-17-MD-2025  
: NO. 2025-CV-0316-AO  
: NO. 2225-0001  
:  
: AO-17-2025

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2025 DEC 30 PM 2:31

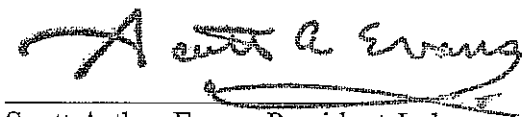
ORDER

WHEREAS, Administrative Order (AO-10-2025) was filed July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, providing for certain cases filed in Magisterial District Court 12-2-01 to be filed and/or heard in alternate Magisterial District Courts pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 605(A)(5).


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DECREED that the provisions of AO-10-2025 shall remain in effect through December 31, 2026, unless modified by a supplemental Order of Court.

This order shall be deemed sufficient to authorize all actions necessary to implement its provisions.

BY THE COURT:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Arthur Evans, President Judge

- Distribution:
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- Judge Deborah E. Curcillo
- Judge Andrew H. Dowling
- Judge William T. Tully
- Judge Edward M. Marsico, Jr.
- Judge John Joseph McNally
- Judge Royce L. Morris
- Judge Jeffrey B. Engle
- Judge Courtney K. Powell
- Stephen B. Libhart, District Court Administrator
- Magisterial District Judge Dale E. Klein, Esq.

2025 DEC 30 2025  
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original filed.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew R. Krupp  
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Magisterial District Court 12-2-04  
Magisterial District Court 12-0-00  
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