



Press Release

July 25, 2012

TO: Media/Press

FROM: Judicial Conduct Board

**SUBJECT: Rita A. Arnold,
Magisterial District Judge;
Magisterial District 15-2-06;
Chester County
2 JD 2012**

Harrisburg. By Order entered July 24, 2012, the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline sanctioned Chester County Magisterial District Judge Rita A. Arnold for her violations of Article V, § 17(b) and § 18(d)(1) of the Pennsylvania Constitution and Rules 5 and 13 of the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges. In a formal complaint filed on February 15, 2012, the Judicial Conduct Board alleged that Judge Arnold acted improperly regarding both a citation filed in her District Court by the Pennsylvania State Police against her son and the ensuing investigation of that matter by the President Judge of Chester County and the Board. The Court concluded that the evidence of Judge Arnold's conduct alleged in the Board's complaint warranted sanction. The Court's July 24, 2012 sanction order suspended Judge Arnold without pay for one month, commencing on August 1, 2012, and, thereafter, requires Judge Arnold to serve a two-year term of probation to be supervised by the Judicial Conduct Board.

Counsel

Board: James P. Kleman, Jr., Esquire

**Respondent: Heidi F. Eakin, Esquire
Dawson R. Muth, Esquire**

Contact

Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel

Court of Judicial Discipline Sanction Order attached.

For more information about the Judicial Conduct Board, please visit our website at www.jcbpa.org.

END

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2012

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE:

Rita A. Arnold :
Magisterial District Judge : No. 2 JD 12
Magisterial District Court 15-2-06 :
Chester County :

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COURT OF
JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

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ORDER

AND NOW, this 24th day of July, 2012, after hearing on the issue of sanctions, it is hereby ORDERED that Respondent is suspended from her judicial office without pay for a period of one month. Respondent's medical benefits shall not be affected during the period of suspension.

This Order is effective August 1, 2012 on which date the suspension shall commence and thereafter she be placed on probation until August 31, 2014; said probation to be supervised by the Judicial Conduct Board.

PER CURIAM

CERTIFIED FROM THE RECORD

JUL 24 2012

Wanda W. Sweigart
Clerk of Court