

YCCiv. 1920.31. Joinder of Related Claims. Child and Spousal Support. Alimony. Alimony Pendente Lite. Counsel Fees. Expenses.

(a) Joinder of Related Claims. Child and Spousal Support. Alimony. Alimony Pendente Lite. Counsel fees. Expenses.

(1) Alimony Pendente Lite.

- (i). Form of written demand for hearing. The party raising a claim for alimony pendente lite shall make his or her written demand for a hearing by filing a Motion to Appoint a Master as set forth in YCCiv. 1920.51.
- (ii). APL referred to DRS. A Motion for the Appointment of a Master solely on the issue of alimony pendente lite may be referred by the Divorce Masters Office to the Domestic Relations Section for a conference pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. 1910.11. Any party aggrieved by the order entered as the result of such conference may request a hearing *de novo*, which may be conducted by a judge. However, the court, in its sole discretion, may refer the case back to the Divorce Masters Office for a hearing of record pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. 1920.54. In such a case, the parties may be required to pay an additional fee for the master's time. Please see YCCiv. 1920.51(a)(3)(i)(2), below.
- (iii). Additional documents required. When a Motion for Appointment of a Master is presented to the Divorce Masters Office with respect to a claim for alimony pendente lite alone, the moving party shall also present the following additional documents to the Divorce Masters Office:
 - 1. A time stamped copy of the initial pleading, filed with the Prothonotary, in which the claim for alimony pendente lite was raised;
 - 2. The original and two copies of the "Background for APL" form as prescribed by the Divorce Masters Office;

3. The original and two copies of the "Petition for Alimony Pendente Lite" form as prescribed by the Divorce Masters Office; and
4. The Prothonotary's payment receipt showing that the appointment fee required by YCCiv. 1920.51(a)(3)(i) has been paid.

(2) Claims for alimony, counsel fees, costs, and expenses.

(i). Moving party's filing of Income Statement and Melzer Expense Statement. When a Motion for the Appointment of a Master for any claim set forth in Pa.R.C.P. 1920.31 is presented to the Divorce Masters Office (other than a claim for alimony pendente lite alone), it shall be accompanied by the following:

1. A copy of the moving party's Income Statement that has been filed with the Prothonotary. The Income Statement shall be in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. 1910.27(c)(1);
2. A copy of the moving party's Melzer Expense Statement that has been filed with the Prothonotary. The Melzer Expense Statement shall be in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. 1910.27(c)(2)(B); and
3. The Prothonotary's payment receipt showing that the fee required by YCCiv. 1920.51(a)(3)(i) has been paid.

Each form shall be substantially complete.

(ii). Respondent's Income Statement. Within thirty (30) days after receiving notice that a master has been appointed to hear any claim set forth in Pa.R.C.P. 1920.31, the responding party shall present to the Divorce Masters Office a copy of the following:

1. A copy of the responding party's Income Statement that has been filed with the Prothonotary. The Income Statement shall be in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. 1910.27(c)(1); and

2. A copy of the responding party's Melzer Expense Statement that has been filed with the Prothonotary. The Melzer Expense Statement shall be in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. 1910.27(c)(2)(B);

Each form shall be substantially complete.

- (3) Sanctions for failure to file. Parties failing to comply with the requirements of this subsection shall be subject to Court Ordered sanctions and may be subject to sanctions imposed by the master, *sua sponte*, as permitted by YCCiv. 1920.51(b)(2)(ix), below. In addition, if a party fails to file a Melzer Expense Statement, then that party will not be permitted to testify about his or her expenses. See Pa.R.C.P. 1920.33(b)(6).

Notes:

These provisions moved from former rule 1920.51(d) and (e). Specifically states that "APL Only" cases normally go to DRO. Order of Rule was changed to deal with APL-Only cases first, then all other cases. Also revised to reflect need for separate Income Statement and Melzer Expense Statement.

YCCiv. 1920.33. Joinder of Related Claims. Distribution of Property. Enforcement.

(a) Filing of Inventories.

- (1) General requirements. The Inventory, as required by Pa.R.C.P. 1920.33 shall be in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. 1920.75 and shall be substantially complete. Assets and liabilities shall be listed in the order mandated by Pa.R.C.P. 1920.75. The name of the account holder and the last four digits of the account number shall be used to identify assets such as investment accounts, bank accounts, insurance policies, retirement accounts, and the like.
- (2) Moving party's filing of Inventory. When the Motion for the Appointment of a Master for equitable distribution is presented to the Divorce Masters Office, a copy of the moving party's Inventory that has been filed with the Prothonotary shall be presented with it.
- (3) Respondent's Inventory. Within thirty (30) days after receiving notice that a master has been appointed to hear a claim for equitable distribution, the responding party shall present a copy of that party's Inventory that has been filed with the Prothonotary to the Divorce Masters Office.
- (4) Other cases requiring an Inventory. The master may establish a deadline by which the moving party and responding party shall file an Inventory, when a party has raised the claims of alimony, alimony pendente lite, counsel fees, and expenses. The master's determination of those issues requires consideration of assets and liabilities.

(b) Pretrial Statements.

- (1) General requirements. The Pre-Trial Statement shall be filed with the Prothonotary and shall provide the information required by Pa.R.C.P. 1920.33(b).
 - (i) Assets shall be listed by category. The categories shall be listed in the order required by Pa.R.C.P. 1920.75. Within categories,

the assets shall be listed in the same order as the items are listed in the Master's Memorandum that requires the filing of the Pre-Trial Statement, and shall be in chart form. Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the non-complying party.

- (ii) The Pre-Trial Statement shall list all Exhibits that will be proffered at trial. Each Exhibit shall be described concisely so that it can be easily identified. Copies of Exhibits shall NOT be attached to the Pre-Trial Statement filed with the Prothonotary, but shall be compiled into a three-ring loose-leaf binder for use by the Witnesses at trial. A duplicate binder shall be provided to the master and to opposing counsel, either in paper form or in the form of an electronic file in Portable Document Format (PDF) when the Pre-Trial Statement is filed.
- (2) Copy of Income Statement. If a party has not previously filed an Income Statement in a case involving a claim for equitable distribution only, then that party must attach a complete Income Statement to his or her Pre-Trial Statement. The Income Statement shall be in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. 1910.27(c)(1).
- (3) Melzer Expense Statement. If a party has not previously filed a Melzer Expense Statement in a case involving a claim for equitable distribution only, then that party will not be permitted to testify as to his or her expenses at trial unless a complete Melzer Expense Statement is attached to his or her Pre-Trial Statement. See Pa. R.C.P. 1920.33 (b)(6). The Melzer Expense Statement shall be in the form required by Pa.R.C.P. 1920(c)(2)(B).
- (4) Filing date. The Pre-Trial Statement shall be filed no less than fifteen days prior to the Settlement Conference except as otherwise directed by the master in the master's Preliminary Conference Memorandum or otherwise. Please see YCCiv. 1920.51(b)(2) for additional information concerning conferences with the master.

Note:

Provisions related to Inventories moved from former Rule 1920.51(d). New provisions added regarding content and filing dates for pre-trial statements and to require copy of Income Statement to be attached in cases where Pa.R.C.P. 1920.31 does not require them to be filed.

YCCiv. 1920.51. Appointment of Master. Notice of Hearing

(a) Appointment of Masters.

(1) Qualifications and Duties of Divorce Masters. The Divorce Masters Office shall be responsible for scheduling and conducting all proceedings involving a master appointed pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. 1920.51, *et seq.* The court shall employ permanent salaried masters who shall not engage in any private domestic relation matters and who shall serve at the pleasure of the court. Their qualifications and duties shall be as follows:

- (i) The Director of the Divorce Masters Office. The Director shall be a full-time salaried employee of the County of York and shall serve at the pleasure of court. The Director shall be a member of the Bar of York County and shall have at least five (5) years of experience of practice in the field of Divorce and Family Law. The Director shall be responsible for the operation of the Divorce Masters Office, including supervision of the employees of the office and the other masters employed by the court. The Director shall assign cases to other masters employed by the court and shall conduct proceedings in cases not assigned to other masters. The Director shall report directly to the judge presiding over the Family Court Division.
- (ii) Masters. The court may also employ part-time or full-time masters to work under the supervision of the Director. Such additional masters shall be members of the Bar of York County, shall be employees of the County of York, and shall serve at the pleasure of the court. The part-time masters shall be available at least twenty (20) hours per week to fulfill their assigned duties.
- (iii) Special Masters. In cases where the Divorce Masters Office is not able to conduct proceedings pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. 1920.51, *et seq.* due to a conflict or extraordinary circumstance, the court may appoint a member of the Bar of York County to sit as a special master in any particular case. Such special master shall

serve at the pleasure of the court and shall be an independent contractor of the County of York, with compensation set by the court on a case-by-case basis.

(iv) General Duties. In each case in which a master is appointed, the master shall preside over all conferences and hearings necessary for the preparation of a final or interim report and recommendation, as appropriate. The master may schedule conferences with counsel, with or without the parties present.

(2) Cases in which a Master may be appointed. A Divorce Hearing Master may be appointed only in the following circumstances:

(i) Whether or not grounds for divorce have been established. Either party may move for the appointment of a master to hear any or all of the following claims:

1. Alimony Pendente Lite, including new claims, modifications, and terminations.
2. Interim counsel fees, costs and expenses.
3. Partial distribution of marital property.
4. Mediation of discovery disputes.

(ii) Grounds for divorce not established. If grounds for divorce have not been established, then either party may move for the appointment of a master to determine marital status under Section 3306 of the Divorce Code, or to hear claims for fault divorce under Section 3301(a), claims of institutionalization under Section 3301(b), claims for two year separation or irretrievable breakdown under Section 3301(d).

(iii) Grounds for divorce established. If grounds for divorce have been established, then either party may move for the appointment of a master to hear all economic claims, or for claims of alimony pendente lite, modification of alimony pendente lite, alimony, or interim counsel fees, costs and expenses.

- (iv) Modification or Termination of Alimony. Either party may move for the appointment of a master at any time to hear a claim for modification or termination of alimony.
- (v) Other cases with leave of court. Either party may move for the appointment of a master in any other case with prior leave of court. If the court determines that a motion presented in Current Business Court should be referred to a master, then the court may direct the appointment of a master to hear the motion and resolve the issues presented. In such case, the moving party shall pay the required appointment fee. See YCCiv. 1920.51(a)(3)(i).

In all cases except for the mediation of discovery disputes, the moving party shall certify in the motion to appoint that discovery is substantially complete with respect to the claims being presented to the master. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of the motion or rescission of the appointment.

(3) Procedure to appoint a master.

(i) Filing fees.

1. Fees to appoint a master. With respect to every motion to appoint a master to hear a claim for Divorce or any related claim, the moving party shall pay the required appointment fee as set forth in the Prothonotary's fee schedule that is in effect on the date the Motion to Appoint is first submitted to the Court.
2. Additional master's fees. The Court may limit the number of hours of the master's time that will be provided, and may impose additional fees if the parties exceed the time allotted.

(ii) Award of costs. The fees set forth in this subsection shall be regarded as costs of the case, and the master may recommend that either party bear those costs or reimburse the other party in

full or in part for those costs.

(iii) Request for return of appointment fees. In any action where the appointment of a master is withdrawn after the appointment has been made by the court, the party who paid the fees specified in this subsection may petition the court for the return of part of the fees in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Refund of appointment fees. Only in those cases where no initial conference has been held and written notice of discontinuance or revocation of the appointment of a master has been delivered to the Divorce Masters Office no less than fifteen (15) days in advance of the first originally scheduled proceeding, the fees may be remitted in full, less fifty dollars (\$50.00).
2. Master's consent. The court will not approve the petition for remission of fees unless endorsed by the master appointed to hear the case in question.

(iv) Fee certification. Presentation of Motion.

1. The Motion for the Appointment of a Master for divorce, annulment, or any related economic claim shall be made on the form prescribed by the Divorce Masters Office.
2. The Motion shall be presented first to the Prothonotary, who shall certify thereon that the fees have been paid. The moving party shall serve a copy of the Motion upon the opposing party or counsel.
3. The original Motion and three copies shall then be presented at the Divorce Masters Office for the issuance of an order appointing a master and scheduling such further proceedings as may be necessary.

(b) Scheduling of Preliminary Proceedings and Hearings. Notices.

(1) Scheduling, filing of original motion, and notice.

- (i) Scheduling. The Divorce Masters Office shall schedule an initial conference pursuant to YCCiv. 1920.51(b)(2)(i), and shall cause a Scheduling Order to be issued by the Court.
 - (ii) Filing of motion and notice. The Divorce Masters Office shall file the original Motion and Scheduling Order with the Prothonotary and serve a copy of each to the moving party and to the responding party.
- (2) Preliminary proceedings.
- (i) Initial conference. Upon appointment, the Divorce Masters Office shall schedule a status conference or preliminary conference to be conducted by the master and shall give counsel or the parties not less than ten (10) days written notice of the conference.
 - (ii) Scheduling of additional proceedings. At the close of the initial conference, the master may schedule additional proceedings such as preliminary conferences, status conferences, meetings with counsel, settlement conferences, or hearings to take testimony.
 - (iii) Notice of other conferences and hearings. The Divorce Masters Office shall give counsel or the parties not less than ten (10) days written notice of any subsequent conference or hearing. This requirement may be waived by agreement of counsel or the parties.
 - (iv) Master's conference memoranda. The master shall prepare a written memorandum of each conference, setting forth a concise summary of the events that transpired during the conference and scheduling the next proceeding. The master shall file the memorandum with the Prothonotary and mail a copy to each of the parties or the party's attorney. During the initial conference or any subsequent conference, the master shall determine whether additional discovery is required and, if so, may direct the manner and time schedule for such additional discovery to be completed. This information shall be included in the conference

memorandum. In addition to other matters contained within it, the conference memorandum shall set a date by which all of the identified discovery shall be produced. If the memorandum requires the filing of a pre-trial statement, then the memorandum shall provide a deadline for filing and serving the pre-trial statement.

- (v) Continuance requests. All requests for continuances, including requests for extensions of time for discovery and filing of pre-trial statements, are to be submitted on the Court's "Application for Continuance" form and shall include the response of opposing counsel. Requests for continuances shall be submitted to the Divorce Masters Office. The master shall rule on all requests for continuances. Any party aggrieved by the master's ruling may seek relief by filing a Motion for Continuance in Current Business Court.

- (vi) Attendance at conferences. Both parties and their counsel shall attend all conferences unless excused in advance by the master. Parties may participate by speaker telephone, but only with the prior consent of the master and the adverse party or by order of court. A request for a party to be excused or for a party to participate by speaker telephone must be made in writing and delivered to opposing counsel and to the Divorce Masters Office no less five (5) business days in advance of the scheduled conference. With respect to each party, the attorney who will be responsible for trying the case before the master shall be present at all proceedings held by the master. If an attorney has reason to believe that he/she will not be able to be present for any scheduled proceeding then the attorney shall present a formal request for continuance to the master. Said attorney shall also be responsible for finding an alternate time or date for the scheduled proceeding that is acceptable to opposing counsel and to the master. Failure of any party or counsel to attend a scheduled proceeding before the master may subject the offending party or attorney to appropriate sanctions, which may include a monetary

penalty.

- (vii) Failure to appear. If any party fails to appear at any conference or hearing, either in person or by counsel, the master may proceed with the conference or hearing without the participation of that party provided that written notice of the conference or hearing has been given as set forth above.
- (viii) Good faith effort to settle. The parties, with the aid of their counsel and the appropriate assistance of the master, should make a good faith effort to resolve contested matters, including the marital property division, and shall determine those items which are contested and upon which testimony shall be taken at a scheduled hearing.
- (ix) Sanctions by masters. If either party fails to comply with the discovery deadlines established by the master in the preliminary conference memorandum or otherwise, the master, on motion of the adverse party or *sua sponte*, may impose any or all of the following sanctions:
 1. The matter may be continued until discovery is complete.
 2. The master, in his or her discretion, may apply any of the sanctions set out in Pa.R.C.P. 4019(c)(1), (2), (3), or (5).
 3. The master, in his or her discretion, may apply the sanction set out in Pa.R.C.P. 1920.33(d).
 4. The master may terminate the master's appointment.
- (x) Actions to compel discovery. If either party fails to comply with the discovery deadlines established by the master, the adverse party may elect to file a motion in current business court to compel discovery in accordance with the master's directive. The court may, either on the recommendation of the master or *sua sponte*, impose counsel fees against the non-complying party if the court sustains the master's discovery directive and the

requested information was not provided prior to the presentation of the Motion to Compel.

- (xi) Notice of Master's hearings. When the case is ready to proceed, the master shall establish the time and place for the formal hearing and shall give no less than ten (10) days notice thereof by mail to counsel. If either party does not have counsel, then the ten (10) day notice shall be mailed directly to that party at the address noted on the records of the Prothonotary or such other address as the party may have provided to the Divorce Masters Office, either in writing or verbally in the course of a personal appearance at any proceeding held by the master and noted in the master's memorandum of that proceeding.

Notes:

This rule is substantially unchanged from before, with the following exceptions:

Provisions relating to fees have been removed. Fees will be set from year-to-year as part of the Prothonotary's fee schedule.

The master will hold an "initial conference" rather than a "preliminary conference." This gives us the flexibility to schedule a "status conference" with counsel in cases where it is unclear why we are being appointed. Among other things, this could have the benefit of saving counsel from hearing the dreaded "why the heck are you even here?" speech in the presence of his or her client. It could also let us schedule the first conference less than thirty days out, since we don't have to wait for Income Statements, Expense Statements, and Inventories.

Provides more details for the master's "conference memoranda."

Clarifies that the master can impose the sanction of prohibiting testimony for failure to file an Income Statement or Melzer Expense Statement.

Adds the additional sanction of having the appointment dismissed for failure to comply with discovery (useful against the moving party).

Strengthens the master's ability to impose counsel fees if somebody has to file a formal discovery motion to compel compliance with a discovery directive.

YCCiv. 1920.55-1. Alternative Hearing Procedures for Matters Referred to a Master:

All matters referred to a master for hearing in York County shall proceed as prescribed by Pa.R.C.P.1920.55-2.

Note:

This is a "new rule" in the sense that this election was not codified in the older version of the local rules. It merely reflects the election that the court made twenty-some years ago.

YCCiv. 1920.55-2. Master's Report. Notice. Exceptions. Final Decree:

(a) Stenographic record. Contents of Report.

(1) Stenographic record. All hearings before a master shall be conducted on the record.

(i) Transcripts may be produced by either an official reporter or from electronic recording devices, in the Court's sole discretion.

(ii) Preparation of transcript. At the conclusion of the hearing or any portion thereof, the master may direct that a transcript be prepared for use by the master in preparing the master's report and recommendation. Such transcript may be on paper or may be reproduced electronically by the reporter.

1. Paper transcripts. In the case of paper transcripts or electronic media containing the full text of paper transcripts, the parties or their counsel may obtain copies at their own expense from the court reporter.

2. Electronic transcripts. In the case of electronic transcripts, the master may request a "real time" copy of the court reporter's notes. "Real time" copies of the court reporter's notes are not available to the parties or their counsel, but are only available for use by the court at a reduced cost to the parties. Therefore, if the parties or their counsel wish to have a transcript of the proceedings, they must request a paper transcript or electronic media containing the full text of the paper transcript from the court reporter and must pay the fees imposed by the court reporter.

(iii) Master's report without transcript. The master may elect to prepare a report and recommendation without the benefit of a transcript of the proceedings.

(iv) Parties to pay transcript costs. The master shall direct the manner in which the costs of the transcript shall be paid. If the

master orders the transcript, then both parties shall pay the assessed transcript costs within fifteen (15) days of the notice sent by the court reporter(s) of the amount due.

1. Assessment of costs. The master may direct either party to pay all of the transcript costs, or may apportion the costs between the parties as the master sees fit. The master's decision with respect to the payment or apportionment of transcripts costs shall only be subject to review by the court if the party objecting to the master's decision files a specific exception to the master's decision in a timely manner after the master files a report and recommendation.
2. Sanctions for failure to pay. In the event a party fails to pay the transcript cost, as directed by the master, the compliant party may file a motion with the Court to compel payment. The Court shall order that a judgment be entered against the non-compliant party for the sum of their portion of the transcript cost plus counsel fees in an amount not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

(2) Masters reports and recommendations.

- (i) Effective date for alimony pendente lite and alimony. All reports from the masters recommending an award of alimony pendente lite or alimony shall contain a recommendation for the effective date of that order. All reports from the masters recommending an award of interim counsel fees shall contain a recommendation for a date by which the award must be paid.
- (ii) Draft court orders. In all cases, the master's report and recommendation shall be accompanied by one or more draft orders setting forth the master's recommended resolution of the case.
- (iii) Assessment of costs and expenses. In any case, the master may assess any costs or expense in the case against either party. The master may recommend that the party pay these costs

before the granting of the divorce or the enforcement of any economic decree; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the master must first consider the effects of staying the granting of a divorce or the enforcement of any economic decree upon the other party. The master's recommended assessment of costs and expenses shall be binding on the parties unless specific exceptions are filed with respect to this recommended assessment.

(b) Filing Exceptions.

- (1) Notice to master. Exceptions to the master's report, filed pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 1920.55, shall be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, with copies provided to the Divorce Masters Office and to the opposing party.
- (2) Time for filing exceptions. Regardless of whether a transcript has been filed, a party must file any Exceptions to the master's report and recommendation within the time limit imposed by Pa.R.C.P. 1920.55-2. If no transcript has yet been filed with the Prothonotary, then the first party to file Exceptions in any given case shall also file a certification that said party has ordered a transcript of the proceedings and has made satisfactory arrangements with the court reporter for payment. The court reporter shall then file the transcript with the Prothonotary upon receipt of payment and give notice of filing to all parties.
- (3) Request of transcript. In the event no transcript has been filed by the court reporter prior to the time that a party files Exceptions, the party filing Exceptions shall make a written request to the court reporter for the preparation and filing of the transcript. This request must be made contemporaneously with the filing of exceptions. The original request shall be delivered to the Official Court Report(s) who took the notes of testimony and a copy of the request shall be filed with the Prothonotary as an attachment to the Exceptions. Any party requesting a transcript shall pay the costs of such transcript to the court reporter, within fifteen (15) days of the written notice from the court reporter that the transcript has been transcribed. In the event such party fails to pay the transcript cost within the fifteen (15) days allowed, then that party is deemed to

have waived the right to file amended Exceptions, as set forth in this subsection and that party's briefing schedule commences, as set forth in subsection (c)(1), below.

- (c) Filing and service of briefs. The filing and service of briefs shall be in accordance with YCCiv. 208.3(b)(i-iv).
- (d) Listing and disposition. Listing for disposition shall be in accordance with YCCiv. 208.3(b)(v).
- (e) Briefs to reference transcript. The moving party's brief shall direct the Court to the specific page or pages of the transcript of the notes of testimony that support the moving party's position on all issues raised by the Exceptions. The responding party's brief shall direct the Court to the specific page or pages the transcript of the notes of testimony that support the responding party's position on all issues raised by the Exceptions.
- (f) Cross Exceptions. Where each party files exceptions to the master's report, then each party is considered the "moving party" with respect to that party's exceptions and the "opposing party" with respect to the other party's exceptions for purposes of filing and serving briefs.
- (g) Transmittal of the record. If no Exceptions are filed within the time limit imposed by Pa.R.C.P. 1920.55-2, then either party may move for the entry of a Final Order of Court by filing a "Praeceptum to Transmit Record" with the Prothonotary. If Exceptions are filed, then either party may move for the entry of a Final Order of Court by filing a "Praeceptum to Transmit the Record" at any time after the court has disposed of the Exceptions. In either case, the Divorce Masters Office shall not be responsible for preparing or filing this Praeceptum.

Notes: This rule is substantially unchanged, except as follows:

Time for filing exceptions is not expressly stated, but is cross-referenced to the Pa. Rules of Court. This avoids possibility of confusion.

Transcript must be ordered BEFORE or CONTEMPORANEOUSLY WITH the filing

of exceptions. This is intended to minimize the delays because counsel "didn't know they had to order the transcript." A copy of the transcript request MUST be attached to the exceptions with a copy delivered to the master's office. That will help us police the offenders.

Briefing schedule is being brought into compliance with Rule 208.3(b)(3) of the Proposed Revision to the Civil Rules.

Clarifies that if cross-exceptions are filed, both parties need to file TWO separate briefs. One in support of his/her exceptions and one in opposition to the other party's exceptions. They may also file additional "Reply" briefs as permitted by rules.

Clarifies that if the court rules on exceptions, you still need to file a separate Praecipe to transmit the record for entry of a divorce decree and a final decree on any economic issues that may have been raised. This addresses the problem when only part of the case (i.e., the Y15 file) is subject to exceptions.