

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

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On October 30, 2025, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia made and entered the following order:

In re K.P., A.T.-1, B.T., and A.T.-2

No. 25-234 (Hardy County Case Nos. CC-16-2023-JA-39, CC-16-2023-JA-40, CC-16-2023-JA-41, and CC-16-2023-JA-42)

Joyce E. Stewart, Esq.

Respondent to the Rule to Show Cause

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE IN CONTEMPT

On October 29, 2025, the Court proceeded to consider sanctions for the children's guardian ad litem, Joyce E. Stewart's failure to file a respondent's brief or summary response and comply with orders of this Court.

The August 1, 2025, amended scheduling order entered in this appeal directed the respondents to file a respondent's brief or summary response on or before August 27, 2025. The guardian ad litem did not file a brief. A notice of intent to sanction was entered on September 22, 2025, directing Joyce E. Stewart, Esq. to file a brief or summary response on or before October 6, 2025, and reminding her that failure to file a brief or summary response may result in sanctions being imposed against her. To date, Joyce E. Stewart has not filed a respondent's brief or summary response.

Upon consideration, the Court is of the opinion that a rule to show cause in contempt should be awarded. It is ORDERED that a rule does issue directed against Joyce E. Stewart, Esq., the children's guardian ad litem and respondent to the rule to show cause, returnable before this Court at its courtroom in the City of Charleston, County of Kanawha, on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**, commanding and directing her to show cause, if any she can, why she should not be held in contempt of this Court for her failure to file a respondent's brief or otherwise respond to orders of this Court, unless sooner mooted by filing a respondent's brief, or summary response, that fully

complies with the Rules of Appellate Procedure. The Clerk of Court will, on a later date, provide counsel with a Notice of Argument under Rule 19(b) containing further information on the time of argument.

The Court directs the Clerk of Court to refer the actions of Joyce E. Stewart in failing to file a respondent's brief, or otherwise respond to orders of this Court, to the Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel.

It is further ordered that a copy of this order be sent to the Honorable H. Charles Carl, III, Chief Judge of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Service of an attested copy of this order constitutes sufficient notice of the contents.

Chief Justice Wooton did not participate.

A True Copy

Attest: /s/ C. Casey Forbes
Clerk of Court

