

Appeals from Family Division C Appellate Custody and Terminal System (ACTS)

Directive #5-92
Issued by:

October 22, 1992
Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz

On September 20, 1989, I issued Directive #9-89 concerning appeals from the Family Division and the implementation of the Appellate Custody and Termination System (ACTS) program. That Directive was intended to eliminate delays in appeals involving termination of parental rights or child abuse. The procedures outlined in Directive #9-89 did not produce the desired results. Hence, Directive #9-89 is hereby rescinded.

As a result of this rescission, the AOC will no longer pay for the production of transcripts upon filing of the notice of appeal. Indigent appellants will be required to move for free transcripts in termination of parental rights or child abuse appeals. Ordinarily, these motions should be made and decided in the trial court under the guidelines set forth in *In re Guardianship of Dotson*, 72 N.J. 112 (1976).

The goal of this Directive, as was the goal of Directive #9-90, is to expedite the processing and disposition of the categories of Family Division appeals identified above. It is anticipated that this goal can better be achieved with the trial judge addressing the transcript issue at the inception of the appeal. The Appellate Division Clerk's office will continue to identify these appeals and will accelerate their processing.

EDITOR-S NOTE

No change has been made to the original text.