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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JENNIFER ECHIKSON

In case you were not aware, Governor Josh Shapiro proclaimed July 24-28, 2023, to be Paralegal Week. I've been part of the MCPA Board for close to four years now, and it's been such a rewarding experience to get to know such knowledgeable, hard-working, and simply fantastic people. In celebration of this year's Paralegal Week, I would like to thank you all for being part of this Association. Happy (belated) Paralegal Week!

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- Motor Vehicle Searches
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- Record Searches/Procurement
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- Skip Tracing
- Insurance Investigations
- Medical Malpractice Investigations
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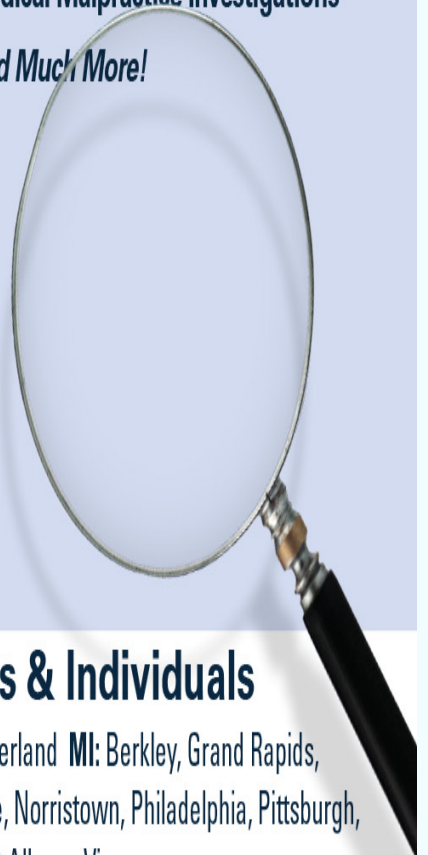


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YOU'VE BEEN SERVED

BY MICHELE M. HARRIS, LPI

Harris Investigations posts ads often about hiring individuals to work with us as private investigators and process servers. Although we may get many applications, in many cases, once they realize what the work entails or that it is not as you see on TV, many turn the job down.

If you were to take the position, often there are no education or licensing requirements. However, one rule in most states is that you must be over 18 with no felonies on your record.

Not all private investigators serve papers, though we recommend you use one instead of just a process server. Why? Laws vary by state, and in most states (including Pennsylvania), individuals must complete a prerequisite training time under another licensed private investigator. Subsequently, you are licensed, bonded, and insured.

In Pennsylvania, only constables have authority and can serve papers from the Magistrate or District Courts. Otherwise, private service requires an appointment.

The situations you must navigate to find and get someone served are not always clear-cut. You can imagine that some people do not want to be located and will go to extremes in avoiding us. Once Harris Investigations receives the paperwork, along with a property search, we check social media to see what the subject looks like. People who do not want to be served will lie about their identity, and having a photo or vehicle information ahead of time is helpful. Most courts require three attempts on a person (one before 8 a.m., one from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and one after 6 p.m., with one being a weekend day).

Simply using "You've been served!" and handing someone an envelope is a myth. Technically, when serving a person, you must know what you are serving and inform the recipient without offering legal advice. There are times when you must also read any particular bullet points, such as, "...there is a hearing on August 17 at 9 a.m. You are ordered to appear." Each state has different requirements for proof of service; some require notarized affidavits. In some states, personal service is required for all legal or court documents, while some only need it for custody, adoption, and divorce.

We at Harris Investigations know the requirements for proper and enforceable service and are here to assist. Please feel free to reach out to us should a need arise.

You've been served!



ATTENTION!!! CREDENTIAL RENEWAL REMINDER

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Sharon Wander,
at EQ Technologic, Inc.,

**MCPA welcomes paralegals from neighboring counties that do not have their own association.
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Do you have an idea or article that could be used or published in an upcoming newsletter? Please get in touch with me at vmolloy@eastburngray.com

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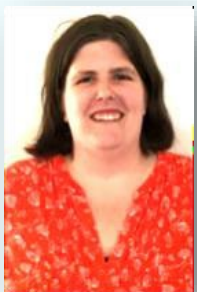


Jennifer L. Echikson, Pa.C.P. — President

Materese Family Law, P.C.

MCPApres@gmail.com

Jenn is a Family Law Paralegal at Materese Family Law, P.C. She graduated from Peirce College in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies and became a certified paralegal through the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Association in 2015. Jenn is co-chair of the MCPA Planning Committee, is MCPA's secondary delegate to the National Federation of Paralegal Association, and serves as Vice President and membership chair of the Family Law Paralegals of Pennsylvania.



Dana Jorna, Pa.C.P. — Vice President

Kane Pugh Knoell Troy & Kramer, LLP

MCPAvp@gmail.com

Dana is a Paralegal at the law firm Kane Pugh Knoell Troy & Kramer, LLP. She has been a member of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association since 2013, and a board member since 2018. More recently, she has become the National Federation of Paralegal Association secondary delegate, and chair of the Community Outreach & Pro Bono committee. Former President 2020-2021.



Trista Davis — Treasurer

Grim, Beihn & Thatcher, P.C.

MCPAbursar@gmail.com

Trista is an Trust and Estate Paralegal at the law firm of Grim, Biehn & Thatcher, P.C. She attended Central Pennsylvania College completing the Paralegal Program and graduated in 2009. In 2014, she received her Pa.C.P. certification through the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Association. Trista lives in Douglassville with her husband and two children.



Jennifer Kozlowski — Secretary

MCPAsteno@gmail.com

Jen earned her Associates Degree in 2011 from LCCC's Paralegal Studies Program. She has experience with estates and real estate law and also previously worked in litigation, municipal law, and juvenile dependency. Jen joined the MCPA in 2020 and has been on the Board since 2022. She has recently taken over the roll of Co-chair of the Planning Committee. Outside of work Jen is the mother of 2 boys, wife and best friend to Andy, and dog-mom to Ruby.



Tracey Barnes, Pa.C.P.

Tracey is a Paralegal at the law firm of Dischell Bartle & Dooley P.C. in its Lansdale office. She has been an active member since the organizations inception in 1999 and has been a Board Member, Secretary, Treasurer, President and Vice President. She is currently the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations Credentialing Chair. In 2017, she was appointed as the CLE-Associations Co-Coordinator for the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA).



Kharissa L. Donahue

Kharissa is a Litigation Paralegal at the law firm Kane Pugh Knoell Troy & Kramer, LLP. She recently graduated from Bryan University with a degree in Paralegal Studies in 2021. Kharissa's experience is in motor vehicle accidents and personal injury law. She lives in Pottstown, with her two cats where she mainly reads and gardens.



Kelly A. Bresadola

Kelly is a paralegal at Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. She does insurance defense work. Kelly has been a member of the Montgomery County Paralegal Assoc. for 4 years and part of the planning committee for the last 3 years. She lives in Montgomeryville with her husband and 2 of her 3 children.



Victoria Molloy, Pa.C.P.

Vic is a paralegal at Eastburn & Gray, PC, in Doylestown, PA. She graduated from Manor College and has spent the last two decades primarily working in Bucks County; however, she has also supported attorneys overseas while living on a military base. Vic's experience has a broad range and is not limited to having supported attorneys who litigate and practice estate planning, employment discrimination, municipal, school, and special education law. She lives in Montgomeryville, with her husband, two sons, and sweet, bowtie-wearing dogs.

-WANT “ADD”S-

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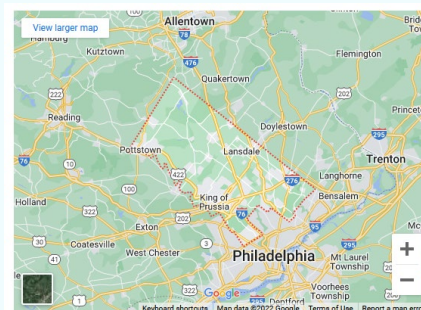
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