

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

KRISTINE M. ROBINSON,	: NO. 00-21,268
Plaintiff	:
	:
vs.	: Protection from Abuse
	:
NORMAN E. JOHNSON,	:
Defendant	:

OPINION IN SUPPORT OF ORDER DATED
NOVEMBER 1, 2000 IN COMPLIANCE
WITH RULE 1925(A) OF
THE RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

Defendant has appealed this Court's final Protection from Abuse Order entered November 1, 2000, contending the finding of abuse is against the weight of the evidence and that the Court abused its discretion in allowing the assistant District Attorney to aid Plaintiff in presentation of her case, including cross examining him when he chose to testify.

As to the issue concerning weight of the evidence, the Court finds as follows:

- A. Plaintiff testified that she was kidnaped, driven to a secluded spot and forcibly raped.
- B. The Court finds her testimony credible.
- C. The Court did not find Defendant's testimony credible.

As to permitting the assistant District Attorney to assist the victim in the cross examination of Defendant when he chose to testify, the Court finds as follows:

- A. Plaintiff was unrepresented.
- B. Plaintiff asked the assistant District Attorney to assist her and the assistant District Attorney granted her request.
- C. Plaintiff under the circumstances was uncomfortable confronting Defendant.

- D. The Court could find no authority which prevented assistance by the District Attorney's office.
- E. Under the circumstances where there are allegations of egregious abuse, the Court did not feel that it abused its discretion by permitting assistance in such a manner.

Dated: _____

By The Court,

Dudley N. Anderson, Judge

cc: Kristine Robinson, 710 Poplar Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
Norman Johnson, c/o Lycoming County Prison
District Attorney
Gary L. Weber, Esq.
Hon. Dudley N. Anderson