



# The Briefing De Jure

Brought to you by the Law Office of Natalie Burston  
Where Clients Come First!

AUGUST 2020

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## Welcome to the Law Office of Natalie Burston

What sets me apart from other attorneys is Clients Come First! I will return your phone call within 12 hours. I also engage in multiple methods of communications, including traditional mail services, phone, and email, as well as use a robust online software that allows you to upload documentation pertinent to your case and a messaging system to communicate back and forth.

I decided to start a monthly newsletter to provide you with information on areas of law that I practice, as well as hot topics in law and general tips to help guide you through the judicial process. Keep in mind the 67 counties of Pennsylvania have rules and procedures that may be different from one another. It is important for you to choose an attorney who is familiar with the jurisdiction where your case (both criminal and civil) is located.

As a brief introduction to me, I am an attorney whose area of expertise includes 3 main areas of law:

- Criminal Law—including:
  - Felony offenses
  - Misdemeanor offenses
  - Summary offenses
  - DUI
  - Traffic violations
  - Juveniles/Minors
  - ARD
  - Expungements
- Family Law—including:
  - Divorce
  - Spousal Support/Alimony
  - Property Division
  - Protection from Abuse Orders (PFAs) - Plaintiffs & Defendants
  - All aspects pertaining to Child Custody & Visitation Issues
  - Custody Enforcement and Modification
  - Adoptions
  - Motions to Intervene
- Real Estate Law—including:
  - Landlord/Tenant Matters

Visit my website to learn more about me ([www.burstonlaw.com](http://www.burstonlaw.com)). Contact me if you need assistance in any of these areas. Also, if there is an area that I do not practice, I can refer to you colleagues, if need be.

## TIP CORNER

1.

Some items to consider when searching for an attorney:

- ⇒ Areas of practice
- ⇒ Size of law firm
- ⇒ Geographical area of practice
- ⇒ Costs of services (Flat fee, Retainer fee, or Contingency fee)
- ⇒ Reputation of attorney/law firm (search AVVO)
- ⇒ Method & frequency of communication



Getting a speeding ticket can be expensive when you add up the fines and fees. But did you know you may also get points on your license?

2.

PennDOT has a point system and if you get too many points from a variety of traffic violations, including speeding tickets, you may have your license suspended. Below is a list of the points you may receive for speeding...it all depends on how fast you were going:

1. 6–10 mph over = 2 Points
2. 11–15 mph over = 3 Points
3. 16–25 mph over = 4 Points
4. 26–30 mph over = 5 Points
5. 31 mph or more over = 5 points

Be warned, once you get 6 points you are in danger of losing your driving privileges in PA. Suspension also depends upon your age. You may lose your license for 15 days up to 1 year, or even face immediate suspension. It all depends on a variety of factors.

You will want to contact an attorney to help guide you through the process and try to get the charges reduced to avoid points or a license suspension.

Source: <https://www.dmv.org/pa-pennsylvania/point-system.php>



## TIP CORNER (continued)

**3.** Involved in a Custody case? The law requires the Court to consider 16 factors (23 Pa.C.S.A. 5328) when deciding how to award custody. At some point in your case, your attorney may ask you to provide proof and documentation for the 16 factors listed below. It is important for you to answer these questions thoroughly and provide documentation (pictures, report cards, text messages, doctor's notes, etc.) in order for your attorney to give you the best representation possible.

1. Which party is more likely to encourage and permit frequent and continuing contact between the child and another party.
2. The present and past abuse committed by a party or member of the party's household, whether there is a continued risk of harm to the child or an abused party and which party can better provide adequate physical safeguards and supervision of the child.
3. The parental duties performed by each party on behalf of the child.
4. The need for stability and continuity in the child's education, family life and community life.
5. The availability of extended family.
6. The child's sibling relationships.
7. The well-reasoned preference of the child, based on the child's maturity and judgment.
8. The attempts of a parent to turn the child against the other parent, except in cases of domestic violence where reasonable safety measures are necessary to protect the child from harm.
9. Which party is more likely to maintain a loving, stable, consistent and nurturing relationship with the child adequate for the child's emotional needs.
10. Which party is more likely to attend to the daily physical, emotional, developmental, educational and special needs of the child.
11. The proximity of the residences of the parties.
12. Each party's availability to care for the child or ability to make appropriate child-care arrangements.
13. The level of conflict between the parties and the willingness and ability of the parties to cooperate with one another. A party's effort to protect a child from abuse by another party is not evidence of unwillingness or inability to cooperate with that party.
14. The history of drug or alcohol abuse of a party or member of a party's household.
15. The mental and physical condition of a party or member of a party's household.
16. Any other relevant factor(s).