

Minutes
Family Commission
July 1, 2009

The Family Commission met in room 607L at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on July 1, 2009.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Aberly-Wetstone, Hon. Jon Alander, Hon. Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Attorney Michael Blanchard, Hon. John Boland, Attorney Steven Dembo, Attorney Gaetano Ferro, Hon. Stephen Frazzini, Attorney Constance Frontis, Johanna Greenfield, Attorney Maureen Murphy, Attorney Thomas Parrino.

Also in attendance were Attorney Joseph Del Ciampo and Attorney Nancy Porter from the Judicial Branch's Legal Services Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Judge Munro.

I. Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the held on April 8, 2009 were approved by the members of the Commission who were in attendance.

II. Continue review of family rules

The Commission members discussed rule 13-4 as it applies to family matters. The question was raised as to whether a separate rule for family matters should be pursued. Judge Munro will attempt to get some of the background regarding the current rule.

III. Proposed rule changes for Family Support Magistrate Court

Judge Munro reviewed the purpose of the Family Support Magistrate Rules Subcommittee of the Family Commission. It was mentioned that certain formatting changes will need to be made to the draft rules and that commentary still needs to be added. The draft document was then reviewed.

Judge Frazzini's comments on the section regarding the opening of judgments of paternity by acknowledgment were discussed and an amendment was made to that draft section.

Attorney Frontis presented a number of comments resulting in the following:

- amendment was made to the draft of section 8-2;
- regarding the draft automatic orders section, Judge Munro will check with David Mulligan about notice to the custodial parent;
- amendment was made to the draft of section 13-9;
- amendment was made to the draft of section 10-13;
- amendment was made to the draft of section 25-26;
- amendment was made to the draft of section 3-9 and it was noted that it needs to appear in the separate family support magistrate section of the draft rules;
- amendment was made to the draft of section 25-67 and;
- amendments were made to the draft provisions of Chapter 15.

The members of the Commission in attendance voted unanimously to approve the proposed rules as amended.

Section 25-62 will be reviewed at a later time per the request of Judge Frazzini.

IV. Correspondence regarding rule changes

Attorney Roberta Friedman's letter to Judge Munro regarding the concept of co-petitioners for dissolution in mediated cases was reviewed. It was decided that Attorney Friedman would be invited to attend the next Commission to obtain more information on this topic.

V. Such other matters that may come before the Commission

Concern was raised regarding the wording of C.G.S. § 46b-9 and whether it may conflict with other sections. More research will be done on this topic.

The topic of administrative divorce was raised and it was agreed that in consultation with other Commission members, Judge Abery-Wetstone gather some information on this topic including how it is used in other states.

The topic of collaborative divorce was also raised and Judge Munro will obtain more information about the Connecticut programs and what rules they use.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12th. The Commission will review a list of the proposed family support magistrate rules that are not currently part of the family chapter to see if any of those proposals should also be made for Chapter 25. Administrative divorce will be further discussed. And the Commission will pick up where it left off in its own review of the Practice Book rules.

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.