

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Self-represented Parties Workgroup
November 3, 2009

The Self-represented Parties Workgroup met on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 225 Spring Street in Wethersfield, CT.

Those in attendance: Hon. Raymond R. Norko (Chair), Hon. Elizabeth A. Bozzuto (Chair), Hon. Henry S. Cohn, Atty. Johanna Greenfield, Ms. Krista Hess, Atty. Bruce Loudon, Ms. Roberta Palmer, Atty. Gary Sklaver, and Atty. Kevin Williams.

Judge Bozzuto called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. The Workgroup agreed to amend the October 13, 2009 minutes by replacing the word plaintiff with the word defendant in paragraph 5. The minutes were approved. The Workgroup approved the October 20, 2009 minutes.
2. Judge Cohn provided the workgroup with an overview of the proposed foreclosure unbundling pilot project.
3. A discussion was held regarding when it would be most beneficial for defendants in a foreclosure action to be represented by counsel. Some felt that representation by counsel is most important for defendants prior to the mediation process to provide assistance with financial forms. Others expressed that defendants should be represented during the mediation process. Additionally, some thought the scope of the representation should be at the discretion of the attorney and the client. Still others believed it was most beneficial for defendants in a foreclosure action to be represented during the motion practice, after the mediation process has concluded.
4. Atty. Williams, a Mediation Specialist for the Foreclosure Mediation Program, provided the Workgroup with a brief overview of the mediation process.
5. Judge Bozzuto reported that the Workgroup received suggestions from all the Judicial Districts regarding the grouping of family forms. The forms were separated into twelve categories. It was suggested that the dissolution packets be separated into two groups: dissolution with children and dissolution without children. Ms. Hess will present the Workgroup's proposal to the Web Board on December 4, 2009.
6. Ms. Hess updated the Workgroup regarding the status of the taping of the family support magistrate advisement of rights. An update was also given to the Workgroup on the proposed video topics for self-represented parties. Ms.

Hess distributed suggestions from Court Service Center staff regarding proposed video topics.

7. Ms. Hess also reported that she spoke with Bill Sadek, Chief Clerk of the New Haven Judicial District and he was amenable to piloting the courthouse Greeter Program in the New Haven JD.
8. A focus group with the family law section of the Hartford County Bar regarding the Advice Days pilot program is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2009 at 5:00pm at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield.
9. The Workgroup will meet on November 17, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. to continue its discussion regarding the details of the foreclosure unbundling pilot project.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.