

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
May 22, 2023

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met on May 22, 2023. The meeting was convened by the chair in Courtroom 1 at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Those in attendance: Judge Michael Albis (chair); Attorney Susan Hamilton (designated by the Chief Public Defender); Attorney Nisa Kahn; Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Mr. Stephen B. Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section; Attorney Edward J. Bryan

Absent: Judge Jennifer Macierowski; Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly; Attorney Bryan Cafferelli

Also in attendance were Attorney Jennifer Gagosz, Assistant Bar Counsel; Attorney Grace Palo, Assistant Bar Counsel; Attorney Damon Goldstein and Ms. Nicole Collins from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Judge Albis.

Judge Albis began the meeting by welcoming a new committee member, Attorney Edward Bryan.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Attorney Susan Hamilton and seconded by Judge Albis to approve the minutes held on March 2, 2023. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0 with Nisa Kahn, Edward Bryan and Liza Andrews abstaining and three members absent.

II. Possible Removal of Individuals from List of Persons qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

No business was brought before the Committee on this agenda item.

III. Changes to the Active List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

No business was brought before the Committee on this agenda item.

IV. GAL Pre-Service Training Update

Attorney Susan Hamilton reported that 160 individuals have registered for the pre-service training. Out of the 160 individuals, 20 have completed the training.

Attorney Susan Hamilton also indicated that there has been discussion about planning an in-person GAL pre-service training for next year.

V. Caseflow Request Form Now Available for GALs to E-file

Effective on 5/2/2023, Guardians ad Litem are now able to file Family Caseflow Requests in cases which they have appeared.

VI. Sliding Fee Scale for GALs/AMCs

The Division of Public Defender Services recently updated their income qualification guidelines. To reflect those changes, Judge Albis sought input from each member for any suggestions that they may have on updating the Judicial Branch's sliding fee scale.

VII. Review and Possible Revisions to the Procedures by Which an Individual May be Removed from the List of Those Deemed Eligible for Appointment as a Guardian Ad Litem or Attorney for the Minor Child in Family Matters

A draft of proposed revisions to the procedures by which an individual may be removed from the active GAL/AMC list was provided for the Committee members to review. The revisions involve discussion items that were identified during the Committee's January 9th meeting. The proposed revisions were discussed among the Committee members present and will be discussed again at the next Committee meeting.

VIII. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters will be held September 18, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

IX. Such Other Matters as may Properly Come Before the Standing Committee

No other matters were brought before the Committee.

Liza Andrews moved, and Susan Hamilton seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved the motion by a 6-0 vote with three members absent. Judge Albis adjourned the meeting at 3:43 PM.