

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
October 23, 2023

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met on October 23, 2023. The meeting was convened by the chair in Courtroom 2 at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Those in attendance: Judge Leo Diana (chair); Judge Jennifer Macierowski; Attorney TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Chief Public Defender; 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; Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly

Absent: Attorney Bryan Cafferelli; Attorney Nisa Khan

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Judge Diana.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

Attorney Ben Daigle pointed out a typographical error in the job title of Attorney Susan Hamilton as it was listed in the minutes. The error will be corrected in the final version of the minutes.

A motion was made by Liza Andrews and seconded by Stephen Carragher to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 22, 2023 as amended. The motion passed by a vote of 2-0 with Judge Diana, Judge Macierowski, Justine Rakich-Kelly, Tashun Bowden-Lewis abstaining, and three members absent.

II. Possible Removal of Individuals from the List of Qualified to Serve as GAL/AMC

At 2:02 PM, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6), Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, to enter executive session to discuss complaints for removal of guardians ad litem. The Committee approved of going into executive session by a 7-0 vote with two members absent. The executive session concluded, and the Committee reconvened in open session at 2:10 PM.

a. Complaint #23-0003

A motion was made by Liza Andrews and seconded by Justine Rakich-Kelly to accept the Probable Cause Panel's finding of no probable cause and recommendation of

dismissing the complaint. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote with two members absent. The complaint was dismissed.

b. Complaint #23-0005

A motion was made by Judge Macierowski and seconded by Edward Bryan to accept the Probable Cause Panel's findings of no probable cause and recommendation of dismissing the complaint. The motion was passed by a 7-0 vote with two members absent. The complaint was dismissed.

c. Complaint #23-0006

A motion was made by Judge Diana and seconded by Edward Bryan to accept the Probable Cause Panel's finding of no probable cause and recommendation of dismissing the complaint. The motion passed 6-0 vote with Justine Rakich-Kelly abstaining and two members absent. The complaint was dismissed.

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 Ben Daigle reported that 260 individuals have registered for the pre-service training and 27 of those individuals have completed the training.

Attorney Daigle also indicated that for 2024, there has been discussion for the pre-service training to be conducted in-person instead of being conducted virtually. Further discussion regarding in-person training will take place among the members of the Training Subcommittee and a meeting of the Subcommittee will be scheduled if necessary.

V. 2023 Request for Updated Information from Individuals on the List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

Damon Goldstein reminded everyone that the annual email to individuals who are on the list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC asking them to recertify their compliance with Practice Book Sections 25-62 and 25-62A will be sent out in mid-November.

VI. 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

After a discussion among Committee members regarding the proposed revisions to the procedures by which an individual may be removed from the GAL/AMC list that were identified at the January 9th meeting, the Committee members requested that Attorney

Jennifer Gagosz prepare an updated draft of the revisions for consideration at the next scheduled meeting.

VII. Schedule of Future Matters

The next meeting of the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters will be held January 29, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

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

With new members on the Committee, everyone took a moment to introduce themselves.

Liza Andrews moved, and Judge Macierowski seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting, The Committee approved the motion by 7-0 vote with two members absent. Judge Diana adjourned the meeting at 3:08 PM.