

Minutes
Subcommittee on Family Support Magistrate Rules
October 2, 2008

The Subcommittee on Family Support Magistrate Rules met at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse, 1 Court Street, Room 301, Middletown, CT on October 2, 2008.

Those in attendance were: Hon. Bethany Alvord, Hon. Sandra Sosnoff Baird (co-Chair), Paul Bourdoulous, Jane Grossman, David M. Iaccarino, David Mulligan, Hon. Lynda Munro (co-Chair), Laureen J. Vitale, Hon. Linda Wihbey, Lucia S. Ziobro.

Also in attendance was Attorney Joseph J. Del Ciampo.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Judge Munro.

1. Review of charge

Judge Munro began with an overview of past, present, and future workgroup initiatives to examine and improve practice book rules. This group will be a subcommittee of the Workgroup on Family Rules and will share the product of its efforts with that Workgroup. Magistrate Sosnoff Baird spoke of the Strategic Plan for the Judicial Branch and that this subcommittee will focus primarily on the delivery of services outcome goal. Those in attendance were introduced and spoke briefly of their perspective for the subcommittee. The timeline for this subcommittee is to provide a product for consideration by June 1, 2009. Time standards for various family case types were discussed and the expectation is to have fair, consistent, and expeditious case processing.

2. Other jurisdictions' IV-D court rules

Various other jurisdictions were identified as having an administrative process, a judicial process, or some portion of one and/or the other. The majority of states have a judicial process, including many of Connecticut's neighboring states. Each of these states will be researched to determine if their structure is similar to Connecticut and what rules, if any, they may have that may be relevant to our efforts.

3. Template for work

Legal Services will provide the members of the subcommittee with copies of the relevant practice book sections that will have sufficient space for writing comments and recommendations.

4. Begin rule consideration

Practice book rule 25-65 *Family Support Magistrates; Procedures* was the initial focus of discussion and, in particular, what that rule does and does not provide for

regarding case processing procedures. Additional rules and statutes were identified that specifically include family support magistrate matters as well as others that are unclear whether magistrate matters are applicable or not. Rules discussed included those regarding case management, automatic orders, discovery, expedited modifications, as well as those that specifically indicate that sections in other chapters may apply. The members were asked to review the general, civil, and family (especially sections 25-1 through 25-33) rules as well as the housing court procedures before the next meeting in order to identify their possible interrelation and application to magistrate matters. The members were asked to assess if there are rules that provide the participants and litigants with adequate due process and if not then to develop the means to provide it adequately.

5. Schedule for completion.

The schedule for the subcommittee will be to meet approximately every three weeks, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, at the Middlesex Superior Court, 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT. The next scheduled dates in 2008 include October 27th, November 17th, December 8th, December 22nd, as well as January 12, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM by Judge Munro.