

Minutes
Family Commission
February 25, 2009

The Family Commission met in room 607L at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on February 25, 2009.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Aberly-Wetstone, Hon. Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Attorney Michael Blanchard, Hon. John Boland, Hon. Anne Dranginis, Attorney Gaetano Ferro, Attorney Constance Frontis, Johanna Greenfield, David Iaccarino, Attorney Maureen Murphy, Attorney Thomas Parrino, Hon. Elliott Solomon.

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

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

I. Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the held on January 14, 2009 were approved by the members of the Commission who were in attendance. Judge Aberly-Wetstone abstained for having not been at the January 14th meeting.

II. Continue review of family rules

- Judge Munro indicated that if there are any rules the Commission would like to pursue for the vote in June, this is the meeting where that has to be decided.

Rule 13-4 regarding experts was reviewed in part, using a document prepared by Attorney Parrino as a guide.

Who is considered an expert was part of the discussion along with what level of specificity is needed in family court. It was decided that the history of subsection (b)(3) would be examined to determine some of the intent behind it. Attorney Ferro and Judge Dranginis will draft a proposed family rule as well.

The members voted unanimously to pursue the following for June:

- Revising the rules so that discovery motions can be nonarguable.
- Submitting a proposal for prenuptial agreements.

- Language regarding a notice of experts.

III. Such other matters as may come before the Commission

An article on summary dissolution by Judge Cutsumpas was circulated to the Commission for discussion at a later meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding family short calendar in Stamford, as well as the family short calendar more generally. Ideas were discussed as to possible solutions along with some of the corresponding issues attendant to those ideas. The current technology was briefly mentioned as well. The members will think about possible ways to alleviate some of the issues raised for further discussion at a later meeting.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in room 607L at Middlesex Superior Court, 1 Court Street Middletown, CT.

Topics will include the Family Support Magistrate rules proposals, guardian ad litem rule consideration, and administrative divorce.

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.