

Minutes
Family Commission
April 21, 2010

The Family Commission met in room 607L at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on April 21, 2010.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda B. Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Abery-Wetstone, Hon. Jon M. Alander, Hon. Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Attorney Steven Dembo, Hon. Stephen F. Frazzini, Attorney Constance Frontis, Hon. Elaine Gordon, Johanna Greenfield, David Iaccarino, Attorney Maureen Murphy, Attorney Thomas Parrino, Hon. Elliott N. Solomon.

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:12 PM by Judge Munro.

I. Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 2010 were approved by the members of the Commission who were in attendance.

II. Administrative divorce

Hon. Lloyd Cutsumpas presented an overview of Administrative Divorce to the Commission. The fundamental question he posed to analyze this topic was: When does the state have a compelling interest in the parties' divorce?

The presentation included criteria and procedures of other states, as well as thoughts about options for Connecticut. The members of the Commission discussed some logistics, benefits, drawbacks and concerns of an Administrative Divorce procedure in Connecticut. There was an overall consensus (no vote was taken) that the divorce process needs to be simplified for people involved in less complex and amicable circumstances and that different alternatives should be examined.

III. Appellate rule – automatic orders

Attorney Parrino and others are examining the issue of whether the automatic orders should remain in place during an appeal. They are examining whether changes should be proposed to Practice Book § 61-11 regarding stays. He indicated that the discussion is still in its

formative stages and that there are no concrete recommendations yet. The topic will remain on the agenda for the June Commission meeting.

IV. Continue Review of Family Rules

This matter was not reached. However, it was mentioned that automatic orders on private support petitions (i.e., petitions that are not brought by the state) need to be discussed.

V. Such other matters that may come before the Commission

No other business was brought before the Commission.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting date has been changed from June 21, 2010 to June 23, 2010.

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.