

Minutes  
Family Commission  
August 12, 2009

The Family Commission met in room 607L at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on August 12, 2009.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Aberly-Wetstone, Hon. Jon Alander, Hon. Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis, Attorney Gaetano Ferro, Hon. Stephen Frazzini, Hon. Elaine Gordon, Johanna Greenfield, David Iaccarino, Attorney Maureen Murphy, Attorney Thomas Parrino.

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 2:09 PM by Judge Munro.

I. Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the held on July 1, 2009 were approved by the members of the Commission who were in attendance.

II. Status of proposed Family Support Magistrate Rules

The Commission was informed that the proposed rules are in the process of being drafted in their final form. Judge Munro indicated that the Commission will be copied on their transmittal for consideration. A suggested revision for the proposed rules was raised to make reference to providing a certified copy of an acknowledgment of paternity document when a challenge thereto is being made in court. The concern was that the way the draft reads it might be construed as requiring the original, which would most often not be available. The members of the Commission were unanimously agreeable. It was noted that this concept was discussed at the Family Support Magistrate Rules Subcommittee.

III. Continue review of family rules/discussion of rule 13-4

The Commission continued its discussion of rule 13-4 as it applies to family matters. Judge Munro indicated that the Commission was invited to draft a proposal more specific to family matters. Attorney Parrino's document breaking down the components of the existing rule was reviewed and changes were discussed. The Commission had a number of questions regarding the existing rule. Judge Munro will

discuss these questions with Judge Sheldon and perhaps invite him to the next meeting.

There was a brief discussion about subpoenas for Family Relations Officers. It was decided that this was an educational issue and an issue of notice. Judge Munro will consult Stephen Grant regarding the concept of giving notice at the beginning of their process. Daniel Horwitch will also be consulted.

#### IV. Continue discussion of administrative divorce and collaborative divorce

This agenda item was not reached at this meeting.

#### V. Such other matters that may come before the Commission

The Case Management Agreement form was distributed. The members of the Commission were asked to review it before the next meeting and mark up the form with the changes each thinks are needed. The Commission Members were also asked to review Federal Rule 26f for the next meeting.

The idea of their being sanctions for parties not prepared to go forward or not having exchanged affidavits and claims for relief for an appointment with the Special Masters was raised. Judge Munro indicated that the committee on uniformity had standing orders dealing with some of the issues raised. She will send the approved standing orders to the Commission and indicated that the plan is for it them to be rolled out at the judges' fall program.

#### VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Attorney Roberta Friedman will be joining the next meeting, the language of 13-4 will continue to be discussed, the family support magistrate rules that are being submitted will be available and the standing orders from the committee on uniformity will be discussed.

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.