

Minutes
Workgroup on Family Rules
October 29, 2008

The Workgroup on Family Rules met in room 607L at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on October 29, 2008.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Abery-Wetstone, Hon. Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Hon. John Boland, Attorney Steven Dembo, Hon. Anne Dranginis, Attorney Gaetano Ferro, Hon. Steven Frazzini, Attorney Constance Frontis, Hon. Elaine Gordon, Attorney Johanna Greenfield, Attorney Maureen Murphy, Attorney Thomas Parrino.

Also in attendance were Attorneys Joseph Del Ciampo and Nancy Porter from the Judicial Branch's Legal Services Unit and Judge Munro's clerk, Jason.

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 workgroup held on October 8, 2008 were approved unanimously by the members of the workgroup who were in attendance.

II. Continue review of automatic orders

For discussion, a draft reorganizing the automatic orders by Judge Boland was distributed to the group along with a draft of proposed language changes/additions for section 25-5(a)(1) by Attorney Ferro. The draft containing the format changes was unanimously adopted by the group.

Attorney Del Ciampo reported that he and Attorney Porter, after research, concluded that the automatic orders terminate when judgment enters.

Attorney Ferro walked the group through the draft language of the 25-5(a)(1) document. After much discussion of various issues, such as sale of assets, nonappearing parties, and items to perhaps include in the commentary, the following decisions were made:

- The sense of the group was considered regarding credit lines and the by an overwhelming majority consensus it was decided that credit lines will not be specifically addressed by this group in the rule.

- It was unanimously decided not to specifically add language regarding the liquidity of property.
- It was unanimously decided to include language in the draft regarding encumbering property. Attorney Daniel Horwitch from the Branch's Legal Services Unit will be consulted regarding more "plain language" terminology to use in place of "encumber" so that it can be more easily understood.

Members of the group will review the balance of the automatic orders for the next meeting. Judge Munro asked the group to consider including a provision to include requiring Parental Responsibility Plans to be filed by or on the case management date.

III. Continue review of family rules

The entire meeting was focused on 25-5 and review of other rules will continue once 25-5 has been fully considered.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in room 607L at Middlesex Superior Court, 1 Court Street Middletown, CT.

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.