

Minutes
Family Commission
November 4, 2009

The Family Commission met in room 607L at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on November 4, 2009.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Aberly-Wetstone, Hon. Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Attorney Michael Blanchard, Hon. John Boland, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis, Hon. Stephen Frazzini, Attorney Constance Frontis, 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 2:06 PM by Judge Munro.

I. Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on September 23, 2009 were approved, with a correction made to a typographical error, by the members of the Commission who were in attendance.

II. Continue review of family rules

Regarding expert disclosure, draft proposals were presented by Judge Boland and Attorney Parrino. It was suggested that perhaps the drafts can be merged. Judge Boland reviewed his draft with the Commission. Attorney Parrino reviewed his draft with the Commission explaining that his approach was from a perspective of docket management.

There was some discussion regarding the different roles that Family Relations, Guardians Ad Litem and Court Appointed Experts have from other kinds of expert witnesses. It was also mentioned that any proposed rule here should allow for the appointing authority to make orders regarding payment of court-appointed experts.

There was further discussion about whether a Guardian Ad Litem should have to disclose at certain points during the pendency of the matter what his or her position is. This was determined not to be an issue with regard to expert disclosure and there will be a separate Commission meeting with regard to possible Guardian Ad Litem rules.

Judge Munro will work on merging the two proposals with another judge from the Commission with a view toward bringing a draft back to the Commission for the December meeting.

III. Such other matters that may come before the Commission

On the subject of administrative divorce, information will be obtained from judges in states that have it, but Judge Abery-Wetstone is having difficulty getting the names of the specific judges to contact in those states. The National Center for State Courts may have some information. Judge Munro will look into that.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 15, 2009. The agenda will include the expert discovery proposal as well as administrative divorce. The Commission will thereafter turn its attention to possible Guardian Ad Litem rules.

The meeting schedule for 2010 will be January 27th, March 10th, April 21st, June 2nd, July 14th, August 25th, October 6th, and November 17th.

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.