

Minutes
Committee on Expectations of the Public
Subcommittee on Criminal/Motor Vehicle Matters

Room 206
225 Spring Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109

January 27, 2009
2:00 p.m.

Those in attendance: Atty. Peter McShane, Hon. Robin Pavia (chair), Hon. Richard Rittenband, Atty. Roy Smith, Jr., and Hon. Mark Taylor.

The meeting was called to order at

1. Discussion of information to be provided – A discussion of current materials ensued, including the complaint ticket, frequently asked questions (located on the Judicial Branch website), and the not guilty letter. The subcommittee members agreed that their focus should be in preparing material and information to assist people through the motor vehicle process once they have received a motor vehicle ticket, including the method of payment for a ticket and what a person needs to do and expect at a motor vehicle hearing if a not guilty plea is entered.
2. Discussion of methods of providing information to the public - The subcommittee reviewed the complaint ticket and agreed that the language on the ticket may be confusing for some people; however, the process for revising the complaint ticket is complicated and somewhat problematic.

In addition, members reviewed the not guilty letter, a computer-generated document and was informed that it would be possible to revise the letter, explaining what a person needs to do and can expect at a motor vehicle hearing, if a not guilty plea is sent. After discussion, the members agreed unanimously to have Atty. Stacey Manware revise the not guilty letter. The subcommittee also agreed unanimously to develop a tri fold pamphlet that would provide general information about the motor vehicle court system, including the advisement of rights, the procedure before coming to court, the procedure if you chose to plead not guilty, the procedure once you are in court, the procedure for an appeal (trial de novo) and questions regarding insurance.

3. Assignment tasks – The subcommittee member tasks are: Atty. McShane will draft the advisement of rights, Judge Taylor and Atty. Manware will draft the

procedure before coming to court, Atty. Smith will draft the court procedure, and Judge Pavia will draft the appellate (trial de novo) and the payment process.

The subcommittee will also make recommendations about enhancing interpreter services, changes to the display of information on the Judicial Branch website, and the creation of an informational video that would focus on motor vehicle infractions.

4. Future meetings – The next meeting will be scheduled in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.