

**Minutes**  
**Public Service and Trust Commission**  
**Committee on Self-represented Parties**  
**Subcommittee on Support Services**  
**March 27, 2009**

The Subcommittee on Support Services met on March 27, 2009 at 225 Spring Street, Room 204, in Wethersfield, CT.

Those in attendance: Dean Hugh C. Macgill (chair), Ms. Priscilla Arroyo, Ms. Krista Hess, Attorney Norman K. Janes, Family Support Magistrate Christopher F. Oliveira, and Hon. Barry C. Pinkus.

Dean Macgill called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

1. The Subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 24, 2009 Subcommittee meeting.
2. The Subcommittee reviewed their summary of recommendations to determine what additional information was required to finalize the recommendations for presentation to the Committee on Self-represented Parties. Of the five recommendations, the Committee on Self-represented Parties requested that the Subcommittee re-examine the recommendations concerning mediation, advice days and dedicated dockets.

The Subcommittee discussed its recommendation regarding mediation. Dean Macgill received information from Judge Norko regarding the mediation programs at the Community Court in Hartford. He will forward the information to all Subcommittee members for review. Attorney Janes spoke with Mr. Charles Pillsbury of Community Mediation in New Haven. Mr. Pillsbury informed him that there are three mediation centers in Connecticut, and each center has service contracts with the GA court in its area where the court refers minor criminal matters, such as breach of peace. Attorney Janes will forward more information to the Subcommittee regarding his conversation with Mr. Pillsbury. Magistrate Oliveira will forward information about a pilot program that Family Relations in Hartford are currently engaged in.

Regarding the advice day program, the Subcommittee discussed the issues of malpractice and liability as they deemed it equally important to protect the attorney and the client. To accomplish this goal, the Subcommittee came to an understanding that an attorney must have adequate knowledge and experience in the subject matter he/she is providing legal advice for in order to participate in the advice day program. Also, several items will need to be investigated further, such as Proposed Bill no. 724, "An Act Concerning Immunity for Certain Volunteers," and whether the attorney and client will execute a statement of

understanding versus a waiver. Attorney Janes will inquire about the cost of liability insurance for attorneys participating in the advice day program. The members firmly upheld that the advice day program must be piloted using one docket in one court location.

The Subcommittee upheld their recommendation concerning dedicated dockets. They emphasized the creation of a pilot dedicated docket implemented only under optimal staffing conditions in concert with the Court Service Centers and Family Relations staff.

The Subcommittee will schedule another meeting to continue the discussion of advice days and mediation services.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.