

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Self-represented Parties Workgroup
November 17, 2009

The Self-represented Parties Workgroup met on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 225 Spring Street in Wethersfield, CT.

Those in attendance: Hon. Raymond R. Norko (Chair), Hon. Elizabeth A. Bozzuto, Hon. Henry S. Cohn and Ms. Krista Hess.

The meeting was called to order at 3:55 p.m.

1. The Workgroup approved the minutes from the November 3, 2009 meeting.
2. The Workgroup discussed the status of the foreclosure unbundling recommendation. While gathering information on the proposed pilot project, the Workgroup received several diverging opinions about when it would be most beneficial for defendants in a foreclosure action to retain counsel. After a brief discussion, the Workgroup unanimously agreed to draft a proposal for a foreclosure unbundling pilot project which would allow the scope of the representation to be determined by the attorney and the self-represented party.

The proposal will include proposed changes to specifically identified Practice Book sections, as well as a recommendation for the development of additional forms, such as the appearance form. The Workgroup agreed the development of an appearance form which allowed the attorneys to specifically identify the scope of their representation was critically important to the success of the pilot project.

3. The Workgroup will draft a proposal for submission and consideration by the Chief Court Administrator's Office.
4. The Workgroup discussed the proposed topics for videos for self-represented parties to be posted on the Judicial Branch website and available in the Court Service Centers. All present agreed that it was best to concentrate on videos for family matters as family cases have the largest concentration of self-represented parties. It was agreed that the following topics would be recommended by the Workgroup to be made into videos for self-represented parties:
 - a. Filing a dissolution action
 - b. The Uncontested Divorce
 - c. How to file for a Temporary Restraining Order
 - d. How to file a Motion for Contempt

- e. How to file a post-judgment motion to modify
- f. Service of Process

Judge Norko will contact Chief Administrative Judge for family matters, Linda Munro to seek input on the proposed video topics. In addition, the Workgroup will work in conjunction with Judge Munro and Court Service Center staff on the development of the scripts and the content of the videos.

- 5. Judge Bozzuto asked that the Workgroup's Implementation Plan be circulated to the members for review and consideration for the prioritization of the remaining recommendations.
- 6. The Workgroup agreed that it would be beneficial to have time to review the Implementation Plan before scheduling its next meeting.
- 7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.