

Minutes

Family Subcommittee Work Group on Trial Management Orders/Pretrials

First and Last Tavern
220 Main Street
Middletown, CT

May 8, 2009
12:00 noon

Those in attendance: Atty. Leo Diana, Atty. Thomas Esposito, Atty. Lisa Faccadio, Atty. Michael Fasano, and Hon. Lynda B. Munro.

1. Welcome and Discussion of Work Group Task – The group briefly discussed the task of developing uniform procedures for trial management, pretrials and case management orders.
2. Trial Management Orders/Case Management Orders – The unanimous consensus of the group is that developing a uniform trial management order would be helpful. The group looked at the trial management order from the Middletown Regional Family Trial Docket and decided to build on that order. Discussion ensued over what changes or additions would be helpful, including making the compliance date earlier, listing pending motions (including motions in limine), providing more complete information on the value of assets and liabilities, indicating disputes as to these values, and possibly suggesting the inclusion of some documents as “aids to the court.” Based on the discussion, a draft trial management order will be prepared and circulated among the work group members.
3. Pretrials – The work group then discussed pretrials, including the scheduling of pretrials, the contents of pretrial memos, and the documents that should be required at pretrials. The work group agreed that what is required at that pretrial should remain the same statewide although when, in the process, a pretrial is scheduled or who conducts the pretrial (i.e., judge or special master) may vary from district to district. Based upon the discussion, a draft pretrial order will be prepared and circulated among the work group members.
4. Consider questions of docket management and uniformity – The work group next discussed case management orders and dates. Discussion included whether clients and counsel should sign the orders, whether a distinction should be made between cases in which custody is in dispute and cases where custody is not an issue, and when the case management date should be scheduled. Based upon the discussion, a draft pretrial order will be prepared and circulated among the work group members.
5. Future Meetings – No date has been set for the next meeting. Once the drafts are drafted and circulated, another meeting date may be set.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.