

Draft Minutes  
Uniformity Subcommittee on Family  
June 5, 2009  
8:30 AM

Those present: Atty. Barry F. Armata, Hon. Bernadette Conway, Atty. Leo V. Diana, Atty. Thomas Esposito, Mr. David M. Iaccarino, Hon. Lynda B. Munro, Atty. Norman A. Roberts, and Hon. Marylouise Schofield (chair).

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM.

1. Review and approval of Minutes of Meeting of April 7, 2009 – Upon motion and second, the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved. Upon motion and second, the minutes of the Family Subcommittee work group of May 8, 2009 were also unanimously approved.
2. Report from Work Group on Trial Management/Pretrials – The subcommittee members reviewed the proposed orders for family cases that were drafted by the work group. Discussion ensued regarding various aspects of the three orders, including the signing of case management orders, implementing a trial management/status conference and pre-marking exhibits. Members of the committee will talk to members of the Bar regarding status conferences and about the amount of ownership interest that would trigger a requirement for filing of business tax returns and K-1s.
3. Discussion on calendar call and access to family relations – In accordance with the prior discussions of the family subcommittee, the recommendation of the group is to leave the decision on whether or not to have a calendar call to the discretion of the presiding judge in a location with the understanding that information regarding the call will be posted for each location to be certain that everyone knows what to expect in each district. No changes with respect to access to family relations will be made immediately because of concerns about budget issues and the impact those issues may have on the staff.
4. Discussion on uniformity in matters on the court's docket and simultaneously on the magistrate's docket – The Committee on Problem-Solving in Family Courts is exploring ways to more efficiently and effectively deal with the issues faced by people who come to the magistrate court. A part of that discussion touches on the overlap between cases in Superior Court and in magistrate court. The Problem-Solving Committee is working on dealing with family issues in a global and more cohesive way. Research indicates that a more global approach enhances the collection of child support.

The subcommittee will recommend that this issue be referred to the Committee on Problem-Solving in Family Courts for further consideration and to seek input from the bar.

5. Future meetings – No further meetings will be needed. The revised drafts of the orders will be circulated for comments and then referred to the full Committee on Uniformity of Court Procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.