

Minutes  
Family Commission  
February 9, 2011

The Family Commission met in courtroom 5A at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on February 9, 2011.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda B. Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Aberly-Wetstone, Hon. John D. Boland, Hon. Sandra Sasnoff Baird, Attorney Steven Dembo, Attorney Anne C. Dranginis, Hon. Stephen F. Frazzini, Attorney Constance Frontis, Hon. Elaine Gordon, David Iaccarino, Attorney Maureen Murphy, Attorney Thomas Parrino.

Also in attendance were Attorney Joseph Del Ciampo and Attorney Nancy Porter from the Judicial Branch's Legal Services Unit.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:10 PM by Judge Munro.

I. Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on January 5, 2011 were approved by the members of the Commission who were in attendance. Hon. Sandra Sasnoff Baird and Hon. Stephen F. Frazzini did not attend the January 5, 2011 meeting and, therefore, abstained from the vote.

II. Revisions to the Financial Affidavit form

This topic was not reached.

III. Appellate Court and automatic orders

Attorney Anne Dranginis led the discussion. She explained that the Appellate Advocacy committee approved and sent to the Appellate Rules Committee revisions to Practice Book Section 61-11 that included revisions to subsection (b) and a new subsection (c) of the rule. The amendment to subsection (b) provides for, among other things, that there is no automatic stay of an order for exclusive possession of a residence. New subsection (c) provides that an automatic stay shall apply to automatic orders set forth in section 25-5(a)(1),(2) and (8). It also sets forth a non-exclusive list of factors that should be considered when deciding stay issues in family cases.

Attorney Dranginis and Judge Munro discussed the Appellate Advocacy Committee's decision to continue to include periodic alimony among the orders listed in section 61-11(b) to which no automatic stay shall apply.

Judge Munro explained that she will transmit to the Rules Committee section 25-5 as amended and approved by the Commission at its January 5, 2011 meeting. The transmittal letter will explain that the Rules Committee's

approval of the revised section should be conditioned upon the Appellate Court Rules Committee's approval of revised section 61-11.

IV. GAL protocol to bring matters to the court's attention and the duration of the GAL's appointment

This topic was not reached. Judge Munro stated that she will draft the GAL protocol. The members had a general discussion of GAL matters. Subsequently, the members discussed, reviewed and revised a draft Order Appointing Guardian *Ad Litem* for Minor Child(ren) drafted by Attorney Steven Dembo. Attorney Dembo explained that many of the duties listed on the draft form are set forth in case law. The Commission considered the various proposed duties of the GAL and whether there is authority for a GAL to file an appearance. The Commission also recommended removing the request for identifying information such as a parent's address and telephone number. For further background, Judge Munro agreed to discuss the role of the GAL in juvenile matters with Judge Keller.

V. Self-represented parties filing appearances "in lieu of" attorneys

This topic was not reached.

VI. *Ex parte* motions for custody

This topic was not reached.

VII. Such other matters that may come before the Commission

No other matters were raised before the Commission at this meeting.

VIII. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2011.

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.