

Minutes
Family Commission
April 3, 2013

The Family Commission met in courtroom 5A at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on April 3, 2013.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Abery-Wetstone, Hon. John Boland (arrived late), Attorney Steven Dembo (arrived late), Attorney Gaetano Ferro, Attorney Constance Frontis, Johanna Greenfield, David Iaccarino, Hon. Maureen Murphy (arrived late), Attorney Thomas Parrino (left early), Hon. Barry Pinkus, Hon. Elliott Solomon.

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 PM by Judge Munro, a quorum was present at 2:09. No votes were taken prior to the presence of a quorum.

I. Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on February 20, 2013 were approved by the members of the Commission who were in attendance.

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

After discussion of the Limited Scope proposal before the Rules Committee, it was indicated that the draft that was developed for self-represented parties filing appearances in lieu of attorneys would at least need to be re-worked. It was decided to postpone further discussion of this topic to a later date.

III. Limited Scope Representation – Status & Appearance Issues

Judge Munro reported that the Rules Committee voted unanimously in favor of a rule proposal and a pilot for limited scope representation. The pilot would be in two Judicial Districts chosen by the Chief Court Administrator. She described the rule proposal including the certificate of completion process. She indicated that the

Massachusetts experience was presented as very positive. The public hearing is scheduled for May 20, 2013.

IV. Revisions to Financial Affidavit form

David Iaccarino introduced Bob Pansius and Carl Von Hassel who were present to demonstrate the functionality of electronic forms that have expanding and contracting text capability for possible use in the development of the financial affidavit.

Some of the functionality includes the ability to carry information over from page to page (such as case name and docket number), expansion of a text field to accommodate any amount of text typed in, use of different text colors, adding pages, page numbering, printing only completed sections, along with many more features.

Legal Services would prefer that there be one paper form that contains a complete version of all of the fields with the electronic version contracting depending upon which fields have been completed.

It could be problematic for there to be solely an electronic form right from the beginning that the parties had to complete, but it may end up that way eventually.

Discussion regarding the short form included whether there was still a need for it if the electronic long form could truncate. The general consensus was yes so long as people did not have to use the electronic version, but the current short form is still 6 pages long. The workgroup indicated that they will re-examine the short form to see what sections can be further shortened.

The Commission members in attendance voted unanimously that the short form would be for individuals with under \$75,000 gross income and under \$75,000 net

assets, and that it will reflect the format and the language of the long form, but use the categories of the current Financial Affidavit JD-FM-6 form.

The long form will continue to follow the track it has been following and has been approved by the Commission members.

The short form would be paper only. The long form would be paper and electronic.

V. Discussion re P.B. Sections 10-50 and 61-11

This topic was not reached.

VI. Family Standing Orders - Compliance

This topic was not reached.

VII. Automatic orders in custody/visitation cases

This topic was not reached.

VIII. Fee waiver form – dependents or size of family unit (Federal Poverty Level Chart)

This topic was not reached

IX. Such other matters that may come before the Commission

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

X. Next Meeting

This was not discussed (though it is posted for May 15, 2013).

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 4:08 PM.