

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
January 8, 2019

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met in Courtroom 400 of the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, on January 8, 2019.

Those in attendance: Judge Michael Albis (chair); Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Judge Edward Graziani; Attorney Danielle S. Rado; Attorney Susan Hamilton (designated by Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo); Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly; and Mr. Stephen B. Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, Department of Public Health

Absent: Mr. Samuel S. Gray, Jr., President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford

Also in attendance were Attorney Nancy Porter from the Judicial Branch Legal Services Unit, Attorney Johanna Greenfield, Attorney Damon Goldstein and Mr. Samuel Bruder from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Judge Albis.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Judge Graziani and seconded by Ms. Andrews to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 23, 2018. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

II. Changes to the Active List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

Thelma Wendy Epps

Ms. Epps requested the committee to reconsider its October 23, 2018 denial of her request to be reinstated to the active list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC. After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, it was determined she does not meet all of the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62. When Ms. Epps is able to comply with those requirements, she can request to be reinstated to the Active List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC at that time.

III. Annual Approval of List of Individuals Deemed Eligible for Appointment

Pursuant to Connecticut Practice Book Section 25-61A(b)(4) and after a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Attorney Rakich-Kelly moved, and Ms. Andrews seconded, that any individual who failed to respond to the Committee's request for updated

information dated November 15, 2018 regarding their continued compliance with Practice Book Sections 25-62(b)(1-3) and 25-62A(b)(1-3) be removed from the active list. The Committee ordered the removal of anyone not in compliance by a 7-0 vote with one Committee member absent.

IV. Process and Removal of Individuals from List of Persons Qualified to Serve as GAL/AMC

The Committee discussed the Draft Removal Process by Complaint with agreement on the overall process. A revised draft of the removal process will incorporate the changes the committee agreed upon. The revised draft will be circulated in advance of the next meeting in preparation for additional discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

V. Correspondence Sent to the Standing Committee

The Committee discussed correspondence it received from a party to a family matter about how to remove a GAL from the active list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC. The Committee asked that the individual be notified that the committee hopes to finalize its formal procedures in the near future, and that when it does we will apprise him of the procedure.

VI. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting for the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters will be February 26, 2019 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, with the room to be determined.

Judge Albis adjourned the meeting at 3:49 PM