

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
January 24, 2020

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 24, 2020.

Those in attendance: Judge Michael Albis (chair); Judge Edward Graziani; Attorney Susan Hamilton (designated by Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo); Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly; Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Attorney Mark Korber; Attorney Bryan Cafferelli

Absent: Attorney Danielle S. Rado; Mr. Stephen B. Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, Department of Public Health

Also in attendance was Attorney Damon Goldstein 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 Liza Andrews, and seconded by Justine Rakich-Kelly, to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 6, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0 with Susan Hamilton abstaining and 2 Committee members absent. The minutes were approved.

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

a. Attorney Margaret Bozek

Attorney Margaret Bozek was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 16, 2018. Attorney Bozek emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list as of January 1, 2019 on December 31, 2019. Attorney Bozek meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Mark Korber moved, and Bryan Cafferelli seconded, that Attorney Bozek be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement as of January 1, 2019 by a 6-0 vote with Justine Rakich-Kelly abstaining and 2 Committee members absent.

b. Attorney Susan Carr

Attorney Susan Carr was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 17, 2017. Attorney Carr emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on January 9, 2020. Attorney Carr meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Carr be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 7-0 vote with 2 Committee members absent.

At 2:09 PM in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(a), Susan Hamilton moved, and Mark Korber seconded, to enter executive session to discuss a complaint for removal of a guardian ad litem. The Committee approved going into executive session by a 7-0 vote with 2 Committee members absent. Damon Goldstein was asked by the Committee to remain present for the executive session.

The executive session concluded and the Committee reconvened in open session at 2:15 PM.

A motion was made by Liza Andrews, and seconded by Mark Korber, to accept the Probable Cause Panel's recommendation of dismissing the complaint in question. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote with 2 Committee members absent. The complaint was dismissed.

III. 2019 Request for Updated Information from Individuals on the List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

Damon Goldstein reported the deadline to respond to the email sent on November 15, 2019 requesting active persons on the GAL/AMC list to certify that they are in compliance with Connecticut Practice Book Sections 25-62(c) and 25-62A(c) passed on December 20, 2019. The email stated that those individuals who did not respond by the December 20, 2019 deadline may have their names removed from the list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC.

After a brief discussion, Bryan Cafferelli moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that any individual who failed to respond to the Committee's request for updated information dated November 15, 2019 be removed from the active list. The Committee ordered the removal of anyone not in compliance by a 7-0 vote with 2 Committee members absent.

IV. Pre-service Training

There was a discussion among the members present to try and offer a training for new GALs/AMCs, hopefully during the late-spring or early-summer time frame. The members of the Training Subcommittee that arranged for the faculty for the training offered in June 2018 will begin reaching out to individuals to see if they are interested and available to conduct a training later this year. Once a faculty can be tentatively assembled, additional logistics will be worked out. If the Training Subcommittee needs to meet prior to the next scheduled Committee meeting, a meeting date and time will be arranged. This item will remain on the agenda for the Committee's next meeting.

V. 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 March 6, 2020 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.

VI. Such Other Matters as may Properly Come Before the Standing Committee

There were no matters for this agenda item.

Susan Hamilton moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved the motion by a 7-0 vote with 2 Committee members absent. Judge Albis adjourned the meeting at 3:18 PM