

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
December 6, 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 December 6, 2019.

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

Also in attendance were Attorney Nancy Porter, Counsel, Judicial Branch Legal Services; 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 Mark Korber and seconded by Justine Rakich-Kelly to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 10, 2019. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes were approved.

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

a. Attorney Jayme Stamper

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

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Danielle S. Rado moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Stamper be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement as of January 1, 2018 by a 9-0 vote.

b. Attorney Robert Clark

Attorney Robert Clark was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him on November 16, 2018. Attorney Clerk emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on November 21, 2019. Attorney Clerk meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Byran Cafferelli moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, that Attorney Clark be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved his reinstatement by a 9-0 vote.

c. Attorney Tracie Molinaro

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

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Judge Graziani moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Molinaro be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement as of January 1, 2019 by a 9-0 vote.

d. Attorney Robert Zaslow

Attorney Robert Zaslow was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him in June 2015. Attorney Zaslow emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on December 2, 2019. Attorney Zaslow meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Danielle S. Rado moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, that Attorney Zaslow be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved his reinstatement by a 9-0 vote.

III. Removal of Individuals from List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

Damon Goldstein informed the Committee that since the removal process by complaint was instituted on September 3, 2019 that there have been 2 complaints filed.

Christine Perra Rapillo moved and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded to enter executive session to discuss a complaint for removal of a guardian ad litem in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(a). The Committee approved going into executive session by a 9-0 vote, with staff members Mr. Bruder and Mr. Goldstein to join the executive session.

The executive session concluded and the Committee reconvened in open session.

A motion was made by Justine Rakich-Kelly and seconded by Mark Korber to support the Probable Cause Panel's recommendation of dismissing the complaint in question. The motion passed unanimously. The complaint was dismissed.

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

Damon Goldstein reported the email 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), was sent on November 15, 2019.

A second email is planned for December 13, 2019 to serve as a reminder to those who have not yet responded to the Committee's initial email. The deadline to respond is set for December 20, 2019.

V. Pre-service Training Proposal

A brief discussion was had regarding how the Committee could address the need for additional pre-service training. In order to be added to the list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC, an individual must first complete 20 hours of pre-service training as determined by the Committee. Per Practice Book Section 25-61A(b)(2), the Committee has the authority to approve the curriculum for the required training.

The current rule requires the Office of the Chief Public Defenders administer the approved training curriculum. Any changes to this process would need approval by the Rules Committee. Christine Perra Rapillo recommended scheduling a training within the next few months.

Liza Andrews moved and Byran Cafferelli seconded a motion to reconvene the subcommittee on training. The Committee approved the motion by a 9-0 vote. The Chairperson appointed Attorney Rapillo, Attorney Rakich-Kelly, Ms. Andrews and himself as the subcommittee.

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 January 24, 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.

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

There were no matters for this agenda item.

Mark Korber moved and Christine Perra Rapillo seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved the motion by a 9-0 vote. Judge Albis adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM