

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February Session, 2008

R.B. No. 484

An Act Requiring Noncustodial Parents to Provide Emergency Contact Information

Judiciary Committee

REMARKS OF ATTY. MICHAEL H. AGRANOFF

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Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony. I have been a DCF defense lawyer since 1991. At present, ours is the only law firm in the State of Connecticut devoted full-time to defending private-paying adults in DCF matters.

This Bill would give the Juvenile Court the authority to order the noncustodial parent to provide emergency contact information to the custodial parent. The Court may decline for good cause, but in that case shall order that information to be given to DCF and held in confidence.

And obviously, the noncustodial parent is required to update this information in the event of a change in contact information.

I strongly support this Bill for Juvenile Court. The same provisions are made for Family Court, and I support that also.

Custodial parents often have an extremely difficult time communicating with noncustodial parents on essential matters. The parents are often so angry that they will refuse to cooperate, even for the sake of the child. This Bill will probably not force a noncustodial parent to cooperate if he or she does not want to, but it does give the Court the authority to act.

I hope that the Bill will be enacted into law.

Respectfully Submitted,

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