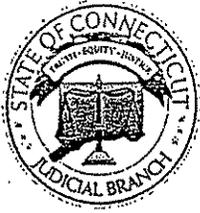


SUPERIOR COURT  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
120 School Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Danielson, CT 06239  
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Judges' Chambers  
Emmet L. Cosgrove, Judge

May 20, 2003

Bruce Clements, President  
The Children's Law Center of Connecticut  
30 Arbor Street South  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Windham County Coverage for AMC or GAL

Dear Mr. Clements:

I spoke last week with one of your staff attorneys, Justine Rakich-Kelly, about the availability of attorneys to serve as attorney for the minor child (AMC) or guardian ad litem (GAL). She indicated that your organization would no longer accept appointments from Windham County. I request that your board reconsider this decision. I would be happy to speak with you to discuss your concerns at your convenience.

Since September of last year, I have served as the Presiding Judge for Family Matters for the Judicial District of Windham County. As such, I have an overall responsibility to ensure that the dissolution cases or custody and visitation matters filed within the county are handled properly and in an expeditious manner. Our goal is that all cases be resolved or be exposed to trial within one year from filing.

One of my greatest concerns is the effect of a protracted dissolution and custody fight on minor children. To that end, we monitor cases that may turn into "hotly contested cases." Once the case is identified as such then pretrial status conferences are scheduled. The purpose of these conferences is to push the parties toward trial preparation as opposed to multiple hearings on pendente lite disputes. Judicial or Special Masters pretrials are scheduled shortly after the Family Relations Office evaluations are completed.

An integral part of this preparation of cases for trial are the appointments of an AMC and/or a GAL for the children involved. Many times the parties do not have the resources to retain a lawyer for themselves, let alone an AMC or GAL. Often times these are the cases where the needs of the children