

Statement of Written Testimony to Amend 5505

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(I am a residence in the State of Connecticut and own residence in Massachusetts- my divorce and custody was domicile in Ct. courts).

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I advocate amendments to HB 5505 to reduce conflict by giving each parent an incentive to support the other parents. This implements CT's 2005 law-other states (MA, MD and others) are implementing shared parenting. Here are the proposed amendments:

Sec. 4. Section 46b-56 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (j) as follows (Effective October 1, 2014):

(new) (j) In cases involving an existing Parental Responsibility Plan (PRP), or any existing custodial order, statutory factors (6) and (7) of Conn. Gen. Sats 46b-56(c) shall determine the resolution of any dispute. A pattern of noncompliance with existing custodial orders, or with an existing PRP provides evidence of unwillingness to foster a good parent-child relationship (violation of factor 6) and/or manipulative or coercive behavior (factor 7). Such pattern of noncompliance will result in a finding in favor of the other parent.

Note: the relevant factors:

(6) the willingness and ability of each parent to facilitate and encourage such continuing parent-child relationship between the child and the other parent as is appropriate, including compliance with any court orders;

(7) any manipulation by or coercive behavior of the parents in an effort to involve the child in the parents' dispute.

Rationale: to reduce litigation by establishing the primary role of behavior fostering a good relationship with the other parent.

What happened: (personal) As a result of numerous failures of the Ct. Family Court system, Norwich court house and the associated Guardian Ad Litem program in the courts, I have been estranged from my 2 children for 10 + more years without a single open word of communication. My son for the first time last week finally made contact with me ..his bio-logical father since being estranged in 2006. I had joint legal custody awarded by the court, but the courts failed to enforce the provisions of the custodial order because of legal malpractice of the GAL.

I have engaged in public “on air” campaigns to hi-light legislative member failures concerning their respective voting records which votes do not tend to improve the above amendments.

Sincerely,

Jim Cassidy
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