

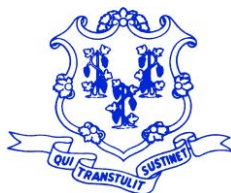
The Connecticut General Assembly

Task Force To Study Legal Disputes Involving the Care and Custody of Minor Children

Co-Chairs:

Sue Cousineau, Esq.

Sharon Wicks Dornfeld, Esq.



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Email: LDCC@cga.ct.gov

DRAFT **Minutes**

Thursday, November 7, 2013
Room 2B

Attendance: Chairperson Sue Cousineau, Esq., Chairperson Sharon Wicks Dornfeld, Esq., Joseph J. DiTunno, Rep. Ed Vargas, Jennifer Verraneault, Thomas Weissmuller, Esq., Linda Allard, Esq., Elizabeth Thayer, PhD., Carolyn Signorelli, Esq.
Absent: Rep. Minnie Gonzalez

Protocol: Meeting was called to order at 10:00am. Chairperson Cousineau advised of the emergency evacuation procedures for hearing room 2B.

Introduction: For the benefit of the members and the public, each member introduced themselves and explained their background.

Minutes of the Oct. 31, 2013 meeting: A motion to accept the minutes was made by Joe DiTunno and seconded by Attorney Allard. Minutes were accepted.

Procedure for Receiving Public Comments: Chairperson Dornfeld explained the protocol for receiving public comments. The email address for the task force is LDCC@cga.ct.gov . The members agreed that it would be helpful to be able to read the comments as they come in to avoid having to catch up with a large number at the time of the hearing. The task force staff will check with the IT department on whether comments sent to LDCC@cga.ct.gov could be automatically forwarded to the members' personal email addresses. Any comments sent directly to a task force member should receive a reply from the task force member advising the sender to send their comments to the task force's email address.

Role of a guardian ad litem and the attorney for a minor child in any action involving parenting responsibilities and the custody and care of a child: Discussion with the task force members included examination of:

- The duties of GALs and AMCs
- The need for GALs to obtain experience and have continuing education
- The benefits of GAL representation during custody proceedings
- Possible task force recommendations to tackle the issue of cost of GALs to the parties
- Whether the task force should look into and suggest that the legislature clarify the statutory role of AMCs and GALs

- The issue of uniform standards for AMC's and GALs
- The minimum standard requirements for appointment and duties of GALs
- The issue of background checks for GALs during appointment process
- The issue of duration of GALs appointments
- Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem forms

Timeline & Scheduling:

- The next meeting of the task force is scheduled to be held on November 26, 2013. The public hearing is going to be held on January 9, 2013. The full schedule of meetings is available on the task force website: <http://cga.ct.gov/jud/ldcc/taskforce.asp> .

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Chairperson Cousineau and seconded by Chairperson Dornfeld. Meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.