



Connecticut Probate Assembly

Legislative Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
11:30 a.m.

Judges in attendance: Brian Mahon (chair), Andre Dorval, Sydney Elkin, Paul Ganim, Mathew Greene, Martin Landgrebe, Beverly Streit-Kefalas.

Also in attendance: Judge Paul Knierim and Vincent Russo

Judge Mahon called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Budget

The committee discussed the Probate Court budget proposal for the 2016 legislative session. There was consensus that the Assembly's top priority is to restore general fund support for the courts. The probate administrator's budget proposal next year will request funding in three specific areas:

- Indigent costs
- Kinship and Respite Funds
- Regional Children's Probate Courts

If the Assembly is successful in restoring state funding, a cap on decedent's estate fees can be reinstated. The cap amount will be determined based on the amount of funding.

Concepts to Draft

The committee selected the following concepts to draft into legislative language.

- Eliminate weighted workload as a factor for judicial compensation.
- Amend C.G.S. section 45a-656b (g) to allow a person under voluntary representation to waive a hearing on change of residence or placement in an institution of long-term care.
- Amend C.G.S. section 45a-288 to eliminate the requirement to give notice of an ancillary proceeding to DRS.
- Amend guardian statutes to substitute "successor" for "standby."
- Expand GID eligibility to persons on the autism spectrum with IQ over 69.

- Repeal C.G.S. section 45a-684, which refers to probate fees in GID matters, because the topic is adequately addressed in the revised fee statutes.
- Address additional activities requiring filing fees (e.g. DSS access to an elderly person's home).
- Expand jurisdiction provision in removals and terminations to permit filing in court where child is domiciled or is currently located (in addition to court where child resides).
- Authorize Probate Court to transfer proceeding on a petition to another Probate Court in this state if the court finds that the court lacks jurisdiction but that another court has jurisdiction.

The committee will review the language at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next legislative committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. (Immediately following the Executive Committee meeting.)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.