

CONSERVATOR GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING OF 9/15/2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator.

Present were: Judges Mark DeGennaro, Chair; Michael Darby; Diane Blick; Foye Smith; Beverly Streit-Kefalas; Attorneys Jeannine Lewis; Katrina Camera, Heather Lange, Edward Barron; Chief Clerks Monica Gonzalez; Pat Saviano; Probate Court Administrator Paul Knierim and PCA Chief Counsel Thomas Gaffey

Minutes of the meeting from 5/5/17 were approved as circulated.

Judge DeGennaro welcomed several new members to the committee and explained that the ad hoc committee was originally established to revise Regulation 16. As part of those recommended revisions, a system of contract conservators was created. That program has become successful and the number of contract conservators, as well as the number of cases that they will handle, has expanded significantly this year. Although the final numbers are not yet determined, it appears that the revisions have helped stem the growth of the cost of state-funded conservators.

Judge DeGennaro welcomed Judge Knierim who explained that he is now requesting the committee to take on the responsibility of drafting state-wide standards for conservators. New legislation authorizes the Probate Court Administrator to develop such standards for adoption throughout the state. As a starting point, the committee will review and utilize the National Guardianship Association Standards of Practice. Although the document refers to guardianships, the standards apply to the term conservatorships as used in the State of Connecticut.

The committee began by discussing NGA Standards 1 through 4, inclusive. Each section was reviewed with comments and suggestions as to how they should appear with respect to Connecticut law and practice. Attorney Tom Gaffey took notes of the comments and will draft standards for Connecticut using the National Standards as a guide, but incorporating the comments and suggestions made by the committee.

The committee will next meet on October 6, 2017 to continue this review. The committee will review the initial proposal of the first four standards to be compiled by Atty. Gaffey, and will then comment on Standards Nos. 5 – 11.

The committee also agreed to meet on 11/17 & 12/8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.