



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
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PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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Regular Meeting of the  
**Probate Court Rules  
Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023  
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Quinnipiac University School of Law  
370 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT 06473**

## **Minutes**

The meeting was convened at 3:42 p.m. by Hon. Beverly Streit-Kefalas, Probate Court Administrator and Chair.

Other members in attendance: Attorney Douglas Brown, Attorney Evan Brunetti, Assistant Attorney General Rebekah Burgio, Professor Jeffrey Cooper, Chief Counsel Heather Dostaler, Attorney James Dougherty, Hon. Brian Mahon (ret.), Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Attorney Janie L. McDermott, Attorney Melissa Nixon, Mr. Stephen Pedneault, Attorney Eric Rothauer, Attorney Greta Solomon, Ms. Suzette Threet, Hon. Steven Zelman (ret.)

Members absent: Attorney Molly Ackerly, Hon. Peter Barrett, Mr. Ned Bixler, Attorney Alice Fitzpatrick, Attorney Gabriella Kiniry, Attorney Andrew Knott, Hon. John McGrath, Attorney Carmine Perri, Hon. Robert Randich.

## **Remarks of the Chair**

Judge Streit-Kefalas thanked the committee members for their attendance and participation. The Probate Court Rules provide an invaluable benefit to the Connecticut Probate Court System and the work of the Advisory Committee in crafting and forming those rules is crucial. Judge Streit-Kefalas also took a moment for introductions of new and continued members for this 2024 revision as well as outlining the meeting schedule for this year.

## **Review of concepts for revision for the 2024 edition**

After accumulation of concepts from various sources, Judge Streit-Kefalas distributed and presented proposed concepts for rules on the following topics:

- Addressing generative artificial intelligence, whether through court submissions, restrictions, or certifications or through evidentiary concerns
- Addressing new statutory procedures under Public Act 23-161 regarding financial holds
- Addressing uniform procedures for administrative closing of non-decedent files
- Incorporating procedural changes for the Probate Courts relating to implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act, such as definitions or new rules on procedures for surrogacy proceedings
- Addressing petitions for restoration of a person under involuntary conservatorship
- Addressing uniform procedures for probate bonds
- Addressing procedural changes to reinstatement of parents or guardians in guardianship of minor proceedings
- Addressing new procedures and laws regarding foreign subpoenas under C.G.S. § 52-657
- Addressing developments in participation in probate hearings by electronic means under Rule 66

The full committee offered feedback on the following topics:

- Regarding generative AI, the full committee discussed the various concerns and potential issues with the advances in technology and the impact those advances may have on court proceedings. Committee members commented on the ever-changing technological landscape impacting the courts. After discussion, the committee will review rules adopted in other states and continue discussion on the topic for this revision.
- Regarding new statutory procedures under Public Act 23-161, the full committee discussed the new legislation and identified the need to have uniform procedures to address these new petitions and jurisdiction. By consensus, the full committee determined language should be drafted for incorporation into the 2024 revisions.
- Regarding uniform procedures for administrative closing of non-decedent files, the full committee discussed statutory, constitutional, substantive, and procedural implications of administrative closing of Probate Court proceedings. The committee will continue discussions with drafted language to be reviewed.
- Regarding adopting uniform procedures for the Probate Courts in implementing the Connecticut Parentage Act, the full committee addressed the need for continued education on the Parentage Act. Some discussion ensued on various definitions and impact on predictability in the courts, on issues such as notice, and estate planning. The consensus of the full committee is to draft language with the intent to create uniform application and predictability in surrogacy proceedings.

Given the passage of time during the meeting, the committee determined to table the remaining issues to be considered and any new concepts until future meetings.

### **Next Meetings (Timeline)**

The next meeting of the full committee will be September 26, 2023 at Quinnipiac University School of Law, 370 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT 06473 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

## **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.