



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular meeting of the Legislative Committee

**December 1, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Trumbull Probate Court
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611-5416

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Legislative Committee was held on December 1, 2023 at the Trumbull Probate Court. Attending were Co-Chairs Judges Fox and Rowe and members Judges DaSilva, Gardner Riordan, and Maxham. Also, in attendance were Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas and Cindy Wolfe Boynton, Manager of Communications.

1. Convene Meeting:

The meeting was convened by Judge Fox at approximately 9:15 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of May 12, 2023:

A motion was made by Judge Gardner Riordan, seconded by Judge DaSilva and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2023 meeting as presented.

3. Discuss 2024 Legislative Concepts:

Judge Fox reported that the upcoming short legislative session will begin in February 2024.

The Chairs reviewed a number of legislative concepts with the committee.

PCA will advocate for an increase in the General Fund appropriation to match that of the biennial proposal from last session. Additional priorities are restoring the name change filing fee and retaining the suspension of the annual sweep.

The following proposals to the Probate Court Operations bill were discussed:

- a. Adding that mutual distribution agreements in testate estates to list of documents that may not be notarized remotely in Public Act 23-28 Sec. 1(i)(8). The committee supported this proposal.
- b. Amending CGS § 45a-112 to allow federal agencies to be billed for petitions similar to state agencies. Judge Streit-Kefalas will reach out to the Attorney General's office to ensure that such a change is not inconsistent with addressing state issues

and federal agencies. Conceptually, the committee supported this proposal.

- c. Allowing courts in which a conservatorship or guardianship was established to have ongoing jurisdiction in order to handle decedents estate or custody of the remains even if the decedent was domiciled in another district. The committee did not support this concept at this time.
- d. Amend CGS § 45a-112 to merge Band 1 into Band 2 of probate judges' compensation. The committee did not support this proposal at this time.
- e. Amend CGS § 45a-754b to clarify that adult adoptions may be public. The committee supported this proposal.
- f. Amend PA 23-113, Sec. 5 to reconcile the termination of parental rights notice provisions and timing requirements for hearing. The committee supported this proposal.
- g. Modify conservatorship requirements regarding personal service requirements on non-petitioning spouse. The committee supported this proposal.

Provide compensation to non-family guardians of adults with ID. The committee did not support this proposal due to lack of available funding.

- h. The Committee discussed bills proposed by other stakeholders that PCA is monitoring. They include:
 - a. Revise estate and gift tax law to mirror federal law;
 - b. Establish financial guardianship of an adult with intellectual disability as a standalone petition from DDS;
 - c. DPH delayed birth certificate statute amendment;
 - d. DPH list of individuals who can obtain a birth certificate;
 - e. Removal of witness requirements for MOLST;
 - f. Resubmission of Identified Adoption Act;
 - g. Uniform Trust Decanting;
 - h. Revocation of non-probate transfers by dissolution of marriage.

Judge DaSilva moved and Judge Gardner Riordan seconded a motion to approve the supported proposals for the Probate Operations Bill for the upcoming legislative session. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Next Meeting Dates:

The Chairs set the following meeting dates for 2024: February 23, 2024; April 5, 2024; November 7, 2024. All meetings will take place at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court.

5. Other Business:

None.

6. Adjournment

Judge Gardner Riordan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Judge Maxham which unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham