

Minutes
Friend of the Court Bureau
Advisory Committee Meeting
State Court Administrative Office, Lansing, MI
Friday, August 22, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Howard, Anita Bilek, Lisa Trustcott, Zenell Brown, Karyn Ferrick, and Peter Dever

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelly Walters, Shawn Perry, Suzanne Hoseth, Lynn Ann Bullard

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Bauer, Steve Capps

EX-OFFICIO: Jules Hanslovsky

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting came to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Administrative Matters

a. Approval of the May 9, 2008 Minutes

Approval of the February 22, minutes. A motion made by Doug Howard to approve the Minutes as submitted seconded by Karyn Ferrick. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment –

- a. Jules Hanslovsky spoke briefly on a few issues on behalf of the Family Law Council, State Bar of Michigan.

4. Correspondence – E-mail

- a. Dan Bauer spoke of four e-mails that were received in the FOCB Advisory mailbox.
1. Miller (Phone service and inconsistent answers from certain FOC office)
The e-mail was forwarded to the FOC and a response was sent on behalf of the advisory committee stating that the committee couldn't handle personal issues and the matter had been forwarded onto the FOC.
 2. Ragnoni (MCSF computation changes)
The e-mail complains that the new formula is unfair. Numerous e-mails were exchanged with the outcome being that the formula is what it is and the comments would be kept for the next time the formula is revised.
 3. Hoover (Policy on timely responses from FOC office)
An e-mail regarding the length of time that phone calls, letters, and/or other inquiries are responded to by the FOC. The e-mail was forwarded onto the FOC. Recommendation is that response time be left to the local FOCs.
 4. Mullins (Timely disbursement)
An e-mail regarding disbursement of payments was forwarded to MISDU and County FOC office. This e-mail is outside the purview of the committee and the FOCB office.

A question was asked of Mr. Bauer if these types of service complaints are integrated into the count that the FOCB tracks. Mr. Bauer indicated that these types of complaints are not forwarded to the clerks to count but are processed in the same manner as counted complaints.

Mr. Hanslovsky thanks Mr. Bauer for responding to these complaints and asks if documentation is kept regarding the out-come of issues that are forwarded to the FOC to handle as they relate to the advisory committee. The concern being that this being a public body the committee needs to show that issues were handled appropriately.

5. Old Business

a. Divorce Orientation video.

A recommendation was made to move forward in creating a DVD and/or web based training to address common FOC issues. The committee identified four points for the training to focus on 1) The purpose and role of the FOC, 2) What the FOC can do. 3) Time frames/order of events, and 4) Litigants rights and responsibilities.

6. New Business Proposed Amendment to MCR 3.207

- ### a. The committee president will respond to the Michigan Supreme Court's request that the committee likes the concept of a state approved form that courts may use or may not use at their discretion. The committee neither approves or disapproves of the actual form presented by the Family Law Council. Specific discussion included concerns of how specific language in the form may be interpreted by opposing counsel to the detriment of one or both the litigants in abusive situations or other situations.

7. Closing

- ### a. Members Closing comments – none
- ### b. Final public comment – none.
- ### c. Adjourn - meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.
- ### d. Next meeting is November 14, 2008

Meeting adjourned