

**Domestic Relations Committee**  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**  
June 12, 2009

The Domestic Relations Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, June 12, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

1. Members present. Craig J. Bobay, Francis G. Hill, Karen M. Love, Sheryl L. Lynch, Nanette K. Raduenz, Deborah J. Shook, Dean A. Young and William C. Fee, Chair, were present.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz and Anne Jordan provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Amber Njau, Project Analyst; Cynthia Longest, Deputy Director, Child Support Bureau; Karla Mantia, Prosecuting Attorney’s Council, were also present.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the May 15, 2009 meeting were approved.
5. Draft child support guidelines. Committee members reviewed comments submitted by topic area:
  - a. The Health Insurance Premium Worksheet (HIPW) and the Child Support Obligation Worksheet was reviewed. The committee made changes to ease the preparation of the HIPW.
  - b. Members of the committee agreed all commentary should be italicized in the child support guidelines.
  - c. The “Child Multipliers” commentary was revised in the Support Guidelines and the Child Support Obligation Worksheet was revised to encompass eight (8), not just five (5) children in accordance with the amounts from Dr. Venohr.
  - d. Committee members added instructions on completion of the HIPW to the commentary in Support Guideline 7.
  - e. Members of the committee reviewed comments not previously reviewed.
  - f. Members of the committee agreed to place the final draft of the child support guidelines on the website, thanking all those who submitted comments.
  - g. Judge Fee, Chair, thanked all who worked on the revisions to the child support guidelines.
6. Domestic Relations Conference.
  - a. Anne Jordan reported the two-day domestic relations conference in the areas of child development, family dynamics, custody and visitation is scheduled for November 19-20, 2009 in Indianapolis. Committee members suggested the following topics:
    - (1) The economy’s effect on the family, e.g. mortgage foreclosure, high layoff rate, and the court’s ability to respond to a crisis if its staff is reduced.
    - (2) Professor Marcia Klien-Pruitt, Connecticut, to speak on family dynamics.

- (3) Child-Informed Mediation, where a psychologist interviews a child and brings this input into mediation.
- (4) Court ordered investigations in custody disputes. Some courts use a guardian ad litem for this purpose, to investigate mental health issues, substance abuse issues, and criminality.

b. Committee members discussed having the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) hold their fall symposium in Indianapolis in November 2011 and the Judicial Center using the monies they would otherwise have spent on the two-day domestic relations conference on having Indiana judges attend the AFCC fall symposium in Indianapolis. Magistrate Bobay moved to have the Judicial Center contact AFCC about holding their fall symposium in November 2011 in lieu of the two-day domestic relations conference, with the Judicial Center using the monies they would otherwise have spent to have Indiana judges attend. Magistrate Raduenz seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Next meeting. Committee members agreed to meet on Friday, July 17, August 21, and October 16, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. all at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law