

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
July 17, 2009

The Domestic Relations Committee conducted a conference call from the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, July 17, 2009, from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1. Members present. Craig J. Bobay, David C. Chapleau, Francis G. Hill, Sheryl L. Lynch, Nanette K. Raduenz, and William C. Fee, Chair, were present.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, and Jen Weber, Indiana Judicial Center provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Lindsey Borschel, Web Coordinator, and Daryl Stites, Web Developer, JTAC; Amber Njau, Project Analyst; Cynthia Longest, Deputy Director, Child Support Bureau; Karla Mantia, Prosecuting Attorney's Council, were also present.
4. Draft child support guidelines. Committee members agreed to place the final draft of the child support guidelines on the website, and distribute Judge Fee's transmittal letter to committee members.
5. Parenting Coordinators.
 - a. Jen Weber, staff attorney for the ADR Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana, reported their committee had considered the development of rules for parenting coordinators and agreed to ask this committee if they were available for assistance. Committee members discussed development of rules and regulations for parenting coordinators. They discussed whether: (1) a parenting coordinator would fall under the ADR rules; (2) a parenting coordinator could testify in court and whether matters discussed were confidential; (3) a parenting coordinator needs some kind of qualified immunity and whether that immunity should be granted by statute or rule; or (4) family court or other monies could be used for parenting coordinators.
 - b. Members of the committee agreed to form a joint task force with the ADR Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana for the development of new parenting coordinator rules. Judge Fee, Magistrate Bobay, Commissioner Lynch and Magistrate Raduenz agreed to serve on joint task force.
6. Child Support Calculators. Lindsey Borschel reported she wanted to develop new child support calculators in house for the revised child support guidelines and would need six (6) months to do so. She also asked for some leeway on the forms if needed when placed in the new calculator. The committee had no concerns about a leeway in form development. She also agreed to let the committee know if she spotted any typographical errors in the revised child support guidelines.

7. Paternity Affidavit. Committee members agreed paternity affidavits should be filed as JP cases, not DR cases. Judge Hill agreed to prepare a memorandum on this issue for presentation to the Division of State Court Administration by the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law