

FAMILY LAW COMMISSION MINUTES MAY 12, 2005

The Family Law Commission met in Legislative Hall in the Senate Hearing Room on Thursday, May 12, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. This Commission will continue to hold its monthly meetings at this location for future meetings. Members of the Family Law Commission present at this time were as follows: Senator Lianne Sorenson, Chair of the FLC, Curtis Bounds, Esq., Dr. Rhoslyn J. Bischoff, Judson Bennett, Harriet Ainbinder, Harry Gordon, Diane Harrington Connor, Esq., Representative Pam Maier, Representative Terry Schooley, Judge William Walls, and James Morning. Also in attendance were Nicole Kennedy from Family Court and Katherine Jester, Adm. Asst. for the Commission, and Jean Ardis, Secretary.

Senator Sorenson began the meeting at 9:45 a.m. She asked that the members present introduce themselves, after which Katherine Jester asked to address members and guests.

Katherine began by saying that she was in the Legislature when the Family Law Commission began, and Vince Meconi was the founder of the bill with her. After she left the legislature, Jane Maroney asked Katherine to return, since she had been in on the ground floor when it was started. She said she thought that the Commission has gotten off the track of what they are trying to do. She said with the planning committee that meets in either November or December, she said she thinks that the Commission needs to consider speakers that are not directly involved in Family Court, such as the Director of Health and Social Services, and departments that are related to the children that are involved with Family Court.

She said she thought it might be a better idea to consider having the public hearing on a different day, and also they should consider having the hearing earlier in the year, which would give the Commission more time to plan on meetings for the following year.

She stated that there has been a complete misunderstanding regarding the minutes. When the Commission was first started, Paula Laird took care of all the minutes and things that should have been done. Katherine said she was unaware that the minutes should have been going to Archives. She stated that when she was cleaning out her office, she had all of her notes in one area on her desk trying to decide what to do with them. Unfortunately, when she returned the next day, they had been removed. Judge James was on the Commission at that time, and he talked with Mike Newell, and Mike Newell had all the minutes. She said she has those minutes now, and she will see that that they are delivered to Archives. She stated that the people who have thought that the Commission didn't want anyone to see the minutes would be able to view

them there. She noted that she thought that next year the Commission should have someone else other than Chief Judge Kuhn, and Tanya Culley, Child Advocate, since they have been speakers for the last two years.

Then she addressed the topic that someone had previously commented on that they thought that some members had served so long. She said she was sure that everyone would agree that there is value in that. It is not that those people have become stagnant, but because of the areas that they are involved in. It always takes a few of the older members she thought to get the newer members initiated. This is not something that is planned. They serve terms, and then are reappointed. Everyone should remember that ultimately Representative Spence and Senator Adams are the two who make the final decision. She said she hoped that the Commission would not get bogged down with any misunderstandings, and she stated that this next year they will be able to get things straightened out. She thanked everyone for listening to her remarks.

Senator Sorenson stated that when addressing the subject of *new blood*, that actually the Commission has five new members this year.

Jud Bennett questioned Katherine as to what she meant that the Commission *is off the track of what they are trying to do?* He questioned what the Commission is trying to do and asked Katherine to direct the answer to him. She said she goes back to the mandate that is in the original legislation. He said he has not seen that, and she replied that she thought she had sent that information on to him. When there is a new member she sends them all that information. She has a copy of that.

Senator Sorenson said we will see that the current minutes and the past years are sent on to Legislative Council, because they are able to post them on the Web along with the other Task Forces.

In addressing the minutes of our last meeting dated April 14th, Senator Sorenson asked if there were any additions or corrections. There being none the minutes were accepted as written.

The Chair asked if there were any other comments from the members. Jud Bennett said he wanted to be sure that he understood correctly that the minutes would now be available. He was assured that this will be done as quickly as we are able.

James Morning then had a question regarding if the Family Court and the Court of Common Pleas becoming a Constitutional Court. He said at the present you can appeal from the Family Court to the Supreme

Court. He said that if Family Court becomes a Constitutional Court that direct appeal – will it stop and that appeal goes back to the original judge to review and determine the fact finding to review the case or does it go to Supreme Court as it has been done in the past. Senator Sorenson replied that it will stay the same.

Next on the agenda for today's meeting was to address the Public Hearing. Senator Sorenson referred everyone to the front page of those minutes where it states what the Commission may do is conduct Public Hearings, invite written comments on Family Law from the public, review and comment on legislation dealing affecting Family Law. The Commission shall not engage in the practice of law, give legal advice of any kind, or intervene directly or indirectly on any case pending before the Court.

Before beginning to go over the testimony of the Public Hearing, James Morning questioned where we were on False Allegations. Where are we? He has been bringing it up the last several years, and it is happening more and more. What are we doing – where are we going? It seems we are not taking that next step. Senator Sorenson said she remembers that what the Chief Judge said if something was proven to be perjury, the next step would be that they would be prosecuted. Nicole Kennedy said that this is something that the person would have to bring those charges to the Attorney General's office – Family Court cannot bring those charges.

Judge Bennett said that there have been allegations that the AG's office will not prosecute any body who has declared or stated that there has been perjury in the Family Court, and he said that he thinks that is wrong. He said he has an appointment with Jane Brady in the future, and he going to talk to her about it.

Senator Sorenson asked if the Attorney General is refusing to bring charges. Jud said he has letters and statements to that effect. Senator Sorenson said that maybe we should write a letter questioning this practice. Katherine Jester said that this has come up many times in the past years. The main issue is how do you prove false allegations, and what kind of sanctions should be written into the legislation. Also, what kind of sanctions would be effective? She said we will probably run into this again, but there is no reason why we should not pursue it.

Jud Bennett said there are State detectives in the AG's office that could investigate these types of complaints, so if there is a complaint in the AG's office, then it is the duty of the AG's office to investigate those complaints. He said if it is not being done, then the Commission should recommend that. Katherine said he agreed with him wholeheartedly, but

what she was saying was that they had gotten up to a certain point, and then it wasn't followed through with it.

The question arose as to how this applies in other courts. Dana Harrington Connor said that there is a rule that applies to this and that is Rule 11 under most courts, and that rule applies in Family Court. There is a sanction for bringing false allegations, or committing perjury which can be raised by any party and also the attorney. Also, if it is the attorney who is the one telling the client to make false allegations, certainly there are sanctions against that attorney that could be brought to the disciplinary council and there is also the Court of Malicious Prosecution. She said she thought that the Commission doesn't need to develop ways to address this, but that there is a need to figure out a way to ensure that the people know that these sanctions are available. The Court is not technically involved in that, but those actions must be made by the Attorney General's office.

Senator Sorenson said there seems to be a need for the Commission to write a letter to the Attorney General's Office to say we are hearing complaints that these charges are not being pursued. Jud then said a letter from this Commission to Jane Brady saying that there is a public perception that perjury is not being investigated in the Family Court. Will you please make it a priority to investigate future allegations? Senator Sorenson said she would send a letter and see what her response is from the AG's Office.

James Morning said that one particular area where false allegations are made is *child abuse*. The court is naturally going to protect the child. They then take action against the other parent. When it comes down to the end, it was a false allegation. This happens especially when someone is going for primary custody. Dana said in a case like this she thought you could use Rule 11, and then it is the Attorney General's Office that is involved.

We can do two things – we can write the Attorney General's office, and we can also let people know on the Family Court web site that there is this Rule 11 and that it is their responsibility to bring these accusations forward. It is not just abuse – it is also about money. People lie about money in Family Court all the time and nobody ever says anything about it. There are a lot of people who take their money and stash it away. They just flat out lie about it and then nobody picks it up.

Senator Sorenson asked Dana what were the two issues she raised. One was Malicious Prosecution which could be in Civil Court and obviously the Rules of Professional Conduct, but that would relate to the Attorney who might give inappropriate advice, but that could be very

hard to prove. They could say the attorney told them to do this, but they really misunderstood.

Harry Gordon said depending on the response that Senator Sorenson receives from the Attorney General, he suggested that their might be a sub-committee formed just to – 1 - inform the Commission about this issue, and 2 recommend an action that they should take. We should also address the Open and Closed Court issue which was mentioned prominently at the hearing. In this regard Harry reminded everyone that a sub-committee had been formed, and they will be doing their best to deal with this issue and bring a report back to the Commission. This will be done after the June 8th meeting due to Harry's schedule.

The other issue that was mentioned referred to the gentlemen who had tried everything to contact the court to let them know he would be late. She was referring to the gentleman who was the first to testify. Senator Sorenson said this was not the first time that this problem had been questioned. Shouldn't there be some kind of emergency system, or some way that people can address this issue.

Nicole Kennedy said that there are in the Rules of Procedure rules you must follow if you need to file for a continuance. You have to file for it in writing, you have to find out how the other party feels about it. In this man's situation he knew that he was going to have problems making it to the Courthouse for that hearing

Curtis said there is a rule that deals with this – it is Rule 60-b which permits a litigant who has been unable to attend the hearing because of mistakes, inadvertence , excusable neglect, someone else's fraud – all sorts of things to file a motion with the court and asked for relief from the order. He said that they may be harmed for a period of time, maybe it was a visitation hearing and until the Court can hear the Visitation they won't have any visitation until their 60-b hearing can be heard, but if they have a legitimate reason then they can file this motion with the Court. The Supreme Court has issued tens of decisions telling the Family Court to re-open cases based upon Default Judgments and the Family Court will almost 99.5% of the time re-open the case based upon the circumstances.

The problem with putting in an emergency call system would be that it would be abused 9 times out of time. He advised that the person should calm down and file a 60-b motion. He said the court is very lenient about receiving motions from pro se litigants.

Senator Sorenson questioned how long they would have to wait for that motion to be heard. Will they have to wait months? Curtis said that a 60-b motion has the usual 10-13 day response and the other side has an opportunity to respond – then depending upon the Judge's calendar it may take them a week or two to rule on the motion and yes it could take six to nine months to get back on the calendar depending on what type of relief they are seeking and how bad their circumstances are. If it is where someone is trying to get visitation, and they were accused two years ago of abusing the child and now they are trying to get back in the door – well that Judge is not going to rule on the papers and allow this person to have visitation. They have to go back and have a hearing. This is information that Family Court hopes to provide by the end of the year.

James said he had one more thing he wanted to bring up, and that was Family Court being opened late one day a week. That was also suggested at the Child Support Sunset Committee.

Jud Bennett said he had one more issue, or concern. He said he has gotten several letters and phone calls and the concern is the length of time it takes some Judges to rule on a case. It is his understanding from the Chief Justice that three months is the basic time period that they recommend. He said that anything beyond that is unreasonable. He said it is his understanding that there are some cases out there that are 18 months old. The thing that impressed him is that some of the complaints that they had at the Public Hearing were that these people are in crisis – what the Judge says affects their lives and they need decisions. Money division, property division, custody cases - these all need timely decisions. He said he thought anything beyond three months is unreasonable. He said he thought it should be legislated. Maybe not three months – maybe six months – give the Judge six months.

Judge Walls said you will find that most of the cases are decided in that time frame. He said it was true that you have some Judges who spend an unreasonable amount of time. Usually when that becomes a reoccurring thing the Chief Judge deals with that issue. He said you could rule directly from the bench – some Judges can do that – others can't. Maybe this is a situation that needs to be dealt with administratively – maybe through the Chief Justice who oversees all of the Courts. He is dealing with a decision that he has in which he has had to recreate the whole record to make a decision as to whether or not the first Judge was right or wrong.

Curtis said he felt he just had to step back a minutes and see the whole picture. In some sense he said that American litigants are spoiled by the speed of our Justice system. We are used to being able to take our affairs to the courts and have it resolved within six months, a year, and a

couple of years. In the affairs of human history, matters which were taken to Judges never got resolved. If you have ever read Dickens *Bleak House*, you have a case that went on for three generations. Anytime you create a system that provides battling litigant s expediency and increase the efficiency of the system you draw more litigants into the system. American's jurisprudence is designed to work in a number of ways and it is designed to produce settlements. Sometimes the delay it forces people to wait (he is not saying that we should sanction Judges taking forever to decide cases, but to mandate or legislate or perhaps criminalize decisions which go beyond 90 days to drive the system to be more efficient may actually make the system more inefficient by discouraging people from resolving their differences outside the Court.

Jud said that when people cannot pay their bills, when children are abused, because some Judge cannot make a decision he felt was absurd. Curtis you would be hard pressed if you couldn't find a Case where a Judge doesn't make a decision in an emergency

Ellen Meyer said that sometimes there may be some reasons for a decision to take more than 90 days. She said she would like to see the numbers – she wondered how many cases are actually over 90 days and how long are they? We should see if a single Judge does this over and over again. Is this just a scattering of cases or are there some cases that just take more than 90 days. Jud said what happens if you are unlucky enough to get that Judge? We could find out which Judge it is and then we could ask Judge Chandlee Kuhn into here again and say 'why haven't you done something about that Judge or those two Judges?' Judge Kuhn appears to be pretty efficient and takes no nonsense. It sounds as if she is moving along to get all of these things in order. Ellen said she thinks the Commission owes her that before we rush to the legislature.

Curtis said that we need to recognize that the Chief Judge is not the boss of the Judges. All the associate Judges are appointed by the Governor.

Senator Sorenson said that this meeting needed to proceed on to the discussion of the March 16th Public Hearing. Harriet began by saying that one of the things the Commission should look at was the issue as to whether there are standards for the people who are Custody Evaluators – are specific items that you need to meet in order to be a qualified Custody Evaluator? She said that she felt that this needed to be looked into. Someone stated that there weren't any, and she said that she thought it important that it be investigated. If not, there should be. It would be interesting to find out just what the criteria is to be a Custody Evaluator. She said she thought in Delaware that you choose someone to

be the Custody Evaluator and you rise or fall by that one person's decision.

Nicole said that she was not aware of any set standards that specifically spell out that this is what a Custody Evaluator needs to do. Nicole said that she did not know in what way the Commission wanted to address this issue. What will be the best way to provide some regulations? Representative Maier said that if it was okay with everyone, she would ask her Legislative Fellow to do some research of this topic, and Senator Sorenson thought this was a good idea. If the Legislative Fellow has questions, they can call Nicole to get some answers.

Senator Sorenson said she felt they had already discussed the first case and the problem the gentlemen had in getting to the Court. Is there anything else they needed to discuss on the first page?

The next case was a custody case. Nicole said the main thought she was hearing was that he thought the Court had abetted a kidnapper. Nicole said that the reason that Delaware had not made a ruling was that because they had not properly registered the South Carolina order here. She said that in the new custody packet that are currently under approval that procedure is explained – *how to register that order*. The Judge said he could make a ruling when the order was registered here in Delaware, but there were modifications that were asked to the original order. James questioned what about the \$11,000 that the father had been required to pay? Nicole did not know about this, since we did not know the particulars.

We then moved on to number 3. There being no additional comments on this case, we moved on to number 4. It was felt that they had already discussed this. Number 5 deals with the Open Court and Senator Sorenson said we will be dealing with this issue when we have a report back from the sub-committee. The Commission can then make a recommendation to the Court.

Moving on to number six, the issue is PFA's. Harriet said that they have dealt with this every single year. If someone does not abide by the order, there is nothing that is done about it. This seems to be another issue to talk to the Attorney General's office about. It is also an enforcement issue. Routinely the victim calls the police, the police say to go to Family Court. This problem is one that just hasn't been able to be solved. Senator Sorenson said that the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council does do police training on this. Curtis stated that you cannot get a PFA unless you are a family member or you have a child in common, or if they are cohabiting. When someone is no longer living with someone and

that person is threatened by that the other party, they then can get a Criminal Contact Order. This is an option that is not widely publicized.

Number 7 also deals with PFA's. Were there any additional comments on this testimony besides the ones they have already discussed? There being none, they moved on to number 8. This person did not testify, so the next testimony to address is number 9.

Number 9 said she did not receive a reply (but has since received a *copy of that reply*) and also dealing with *open and closed court which we have already discussed and will address in a sub-committee*

Number 10 deals with Child Custody Evaluators, and the Commission has made plans to investigate this issue.

Number 11 was Jim Cresson from the Cape Gazette and he did not testify.

Number 12 and 13. This case had unfortunate delays, due to the original Judge's promotion to Chief Judge. The problem compounded itself and the delay became even more extensive due New Castle County Family Court's calendar already being stretched thin. Senator Sorenson noted that this was not something that happens very often.

Number 14 Under paragraph 6 of this testimony, Curtis noted that it mentions that the gentleman had talked to an attorney in Pennsylvania who works in Family Court. He said this state (PA) does have Open Court and that it works well because the litigants witness who goes before them - they recognize the complications of those cases, and they say - "You know what, we are going to settle this case ourselves - Let's get out of here." People have the sense the Court is going to solve my problem - I am going to take my case to the Court and the Judge will solve my problem - he will have a decision in two months and it's going to be over and *I am going to win*. That's another problem. When they see *and they* experience this , then they see how difficult it can be. The attorney is able, but the case is complicated, and NO it will not come out the way you want. They may not be telling the whole truth, but they see things differently, but are not committing perjury. When people understand that and they also have others to help them see this. He can show them that NO, you may not win- they're people having that same experience, they receive an education and they realize that maybe they need to figure out a way to resolve their own differences - maybe Family Court is not the place to resolve their family problems.

Senator Sorenson said was he saying there were some advantages to OPEN COURT. Curtis said YES. We it could also help the Bar too, good

attorneys could see bad attorneys practice and learn what not to do, and bad attorneys could see good attorneys and learn what to do!

He mentioned that he has often wished that he had the opportunity to watch other attorneys in the Court – not just when they are on opposing sides. Rather than having to wait out in the hall, the attorney would be permitted to watch other cases. When a PFA is being discussed they are open.

This speaker talked about education for Judges. There is a whole system for training of Judges. They have 30 hours of training every two years. They attend a Judicial Conference once a year. The Bench and Bar is mandatory. There have been major cuts in the training budget line item in the past several years. That money has not been restored to them. There is national specialized training dealing with subjects such as domestic violence, child abuse, and child development

Next was number 14 – Senator Sorenson said this was another person that did not know about this hearing – and didn't know that the Family Law Commission existed. We did send out a Press Release, and we will work even harder next year to make sure everyone knows about the hearing. This person did address several issues about child Support. James Morning wondered if there were any statistics to show how often changes are made to a child support order – either up or down? He discussed how hard it is when people's jobs change – they end up in arrears and have no way of catching up. Nicole said she didn't think there was a way to track this information, due to the manner the case is entered in the computer, but she promised Senator Sorenson she would inquire.

Number 15 – One of the issues here is the cost of therapeutic visitation at \$125 per hr. Harriet said that cost is not unreasonable. Judge Walls said that what this means is that you have a counselor or psychologist oversee or mediate any problems that might occur during visitation. This visitation was not a court action. It was a Consent Order that was entered into between her and the other party. The parties agree to this visitation schedule. Dana said that she wanted to state that this supervised visitation is very rare – she has only seen it once in 13 years. She has seen it done at the Hudson Center where it is relatively inexpensive for serious domestic violence cases or mental health issue where the court would order it – but that is rare.

16. This deals with Grandparents and their visitation rights. There is a group called Grandparents United. There is a problem because the U.S. Supreme Court has gotten involved in this issue. That case is the Troxel case. This is dealing with whether or not the grandparents will be allowed

to see the grandchildren. Senator Sorenson that is heartbreaking sometimes, because sometimes the grandparent has been the one who has helped raise the child. and suddenly they can't see them. Even with background evidence that shows the parent has problems, the courts will still defer to what the parents want. Judge Walls said you start with the presumption that the parents know what is best for the children; you would have to have overwhelming evidence why you wouldn't want the grandparent to see them. Representative Maier questioned whether or not the grandparent may speak up in court when they can attest to abuse and neglect in the case. Judge Walls said Yes they may.

17. This case also deals with Custody Evaluators. This has already been discussed. Representative Maier questioned whether there are standards for Mediators. She said would it be possible to question their standards. This is a job classification in State Personnel and there are job qualifications you must have in order to apply for this position. The mediator only can give recommendation – and it still has to be approved by the Commissioner. Representative Maier said she would like to see the data on cases that have been seen by a mediator, and have they been able to influence the outcome of the case. Personnel can give us the information on their job qualifications.

18. Goes back to the issue of being open one night a week. It also deals with the cost of the transcript. Nicole said that the Court has to send the tape out to a transcriptionist who has the contract with the state. The cost of the transcript is not set by Family Court – it is the cost that is imposed by the company that does the transcript

19 This deals with making legal resources available. There is a Help Center in Family Court. Nicole said the one thing that the public has a hard time accepting is the fact the Center is unable to give legal advice

20. This case also dealt with perjury, which we have already discussed.

21. This person also was not aware of the Family Law Public Hearing, and she had gotten the wrong information. This has already been discussed, and we will be more aggressive in announcing this hearing next year. This is the case where the ex owed thousands of dollars and was made to pay off in very low installments with no interest on the principal owed. It was suggested that maybe this could be an incentive to pay this off in a timelier manner. Curtis Bounds said there are states who do charge interest. Texas is one. Senator Sorenson said that the Commission should write the Child Enforcement Agency and asked them if they have considered this?

Responses will be prepared for all of these people. Lynn Kokjohn reminded everyone that we had decided not to respond to specific issues. Each person will receive a reply. It was suggested that maybe a summary can be made of the issues that were addressed, and the Commission could respond and advise on how *they* were planning addressing each these problems or concerns.

Before going any further, The Family Law Commission congratulated Nicole Kennedy on the fine job she has done for the FLC, and wanted her to know how much they appreciated all the work she has done.

At this time, a motion was made to have the meeting adjourned. The motion was moved and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Senator Sorenson then asked if there were any public comments. Shelli Esiminger stated that on the Family Court website open court is addressed under Adm. Directive 98.02. You can ask the Judge to have your hearing Open. Also, it addresses Family Court becoming a Constitutional Court and if that happens this subject will no longer be an issue.

One person said she had submitted a packet of data regarding custody evaluator. Nicole Kennedy said that she had a copy and it will be distributed to the Commission.

Raetta McCall said she would like to get back to the subject of transcripts versus C.D.s. They are a court record which would allow litigants to have copies of C.D.s from their hearings as there are many pro se's. They should be able to prepare for their court cases as they come up where they need information from previous hearings. This would be more convenient rather than sitting at the courthouse listening to these tapes. Most states have this and they charge anywhere from \$5 to \$30, which is reasonable. She questioned with the new system that Family Court has, why can't this be done? Another reason this is important is because of the length of some cases that go on many, many years some go for 6 to 8 years and if they had needed a tape that was from the early years, it is gone. They are only kept for two years. Raetta also questioned why the tapes were transcribed out of state. This is where we have the contact, and she said she thought that we should keep the work in Delaware. We certainly have qualified people able to do this.

This person did not identify herself. She questioned how a hearing can go on so long having the other party making false allegations and even the Judge saying he had never heard anything like it. Is their a length of time this can go on? She needed Emergency Financial Assistance, and nothing came about for 3 years. Is that common? When

her husband filed for divorce, her request for Emergency Financial Assistance was combined with the Divorce motion. When she filed for Child Support they advised her to file a PFA.

She asked for all matters concerning her marriage to be here in Delaware because she was destitute. This all began in 1997. She requested the assistance in Delaware in April 1998. When she filed for this, she never received any reply. Concerning transcripts, she requested transcripts two months before (this was in August 1 yr. 8 mos.) She requested transcripts of her hearings. This was 1 yr & 8 mos. after the hearing, and they could not be found. They had probably been destroyed. She stated that she thought that they should never be destroyed especially when the case has not been settled. Nicole said there is a new procedure in the Courts

Nicole said it is her understanding that everything is going to be archived and that should not be a problem in the future.

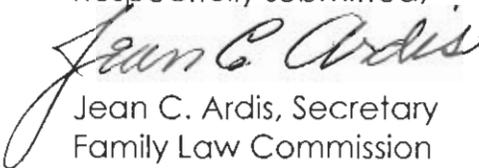
Senator Sorenson asked if anyone else had any comments and Tom Hall asked to speak. He said he keeps hearing over and over how people are lying and everyone knows it, but nothing is done about it. He said he feels this whole topic of false allegations has to be dealt with. Another thing he and his wife were talking about was how when someone commits murder you have a jury to decide your fate, but if you go to Family Court you have one Judge who decides. There should be a panel of therapists and psychologists who decide because they are the ones who deal with children everyday. He doesn't like how the lawyers make deals among themselves. There is a court order saying his daughter has joint custody which no one can interpret it. It was sent back to the Judge and it has not been returned yet. Tom said he thought this was ridiculous and that Family Court was certainly a lucrative business.

Next Senator Sorenson called on Jerry Ledwith. He said that when this meeting first began, it started off about perjury. He said he could understand the previous person's frustration. He said he has been fighting for two ½ years. Perjury is very common. When someone comes into Family Court before a commissioner and states that he makes \$32,000 a year when in fact he makes \$74,000 a year -- that is perjury. There were papers to back this up, but the Court did not want to see them. He said there are many committees and all these councils who meet and they give no answers back. He continued on about how perjury is being committed over and over again in Family Court. People testify to one thing one time and later change their story around. Senator Sorenson advised Mr. Ledwith that she knew of his problem and can be assured that we will write to A.G. Jane Brady advising her of all the complaints we have had pertaining to this issue.

A previous speaker asked one more thing and that had to do with filing a complaint about the opposing attorney. She was told she can never make any complaints against this attorney ever again in ODC. Curtis said that ODC will generally not entertain a complaint, because the relationship or obligation is between the attorney and the client –not the attorney and the other side. ODC receives lots of complaints about the other side's attorney and it has to say look this is not the attorney/client relationship.

Senator said at this time that we needed to conclude this meeting due to the time. The time is now 11:30 a.m. and others will need to meet in this location. She thanked everyone for coming, and reminded everyone the next meeting will be here in Legislative Hall on June 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean C. Ardis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jean C. Ardis, Secretary
Family Law Commission