

Family Law Commission Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2013

Senate Hearing Room

2nd FL – Legislative Hall

Members Present

Lynn Kokjohn, Chair

Senator Bruce Ennis

Representative Stephanie Boulden

Representative Michael Ramone

Judge Bill Walls

Peggy Smith

James Morning

Curtis Bounds

Dr. Twain Gonzales

Eileen Williams

Others Present

Dana Harrington Conner, Widener Law

Charles Hayward, DHSS/DCSE

Gwendolyn Anderson, DHSS/DCSE

Ted Mermigos, DHSS/DCSE

Patricia Dailey Lewis, DOJ

Dr. George Maha, LabCorp

Dr. Louis Bartoshesky, Christiana Care

Six members of the public

Summary of Meeting

The meeting began at 9:30am with the approval of the March 21, 2013 meeting minutes.

Next, Curtis Bounds gave a presentation on the legal ramifications of mandatory DNA testing. This included an overview of current Delaware laws, the Uniform Parentage Act, and a discussion of legitimacy. The terms “presumed father” and “alleged father” were defined as well.

During this presentation, a member of the public asked about DNA testing, and exactly what kind was used at LabCorp. A discussion of accuracy followed.

Open dialogue followed: Representative Ramone firmly believes that each child has the right to know the identity of his or her biological parents. Other members feel that public policy issues need to be considered. Finding out who the father is not, is not the same as finding out who the father is.

There was further discussion of the advances in genetic engineering technology that would allow for a child to be able to undergo testing with his or her own DNA comparable to that of the testing that could be done with a parent’s DNA.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am with plans to address the topic further in the next meeting.