

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes - January 22, 2021

The Domestic Relations Committee met on Friday, January 22, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. remotely through Teams.

1. Members present. Lisa Berdine, Andrew R. Bloch, Kurt Grimm, Thomas P. Hallett, Ashley Hand, Mark A. Hardwick, Marie L. Kern, Jennifer K. Kinsley, Lori Morgan, Leslie C. Shively and Gregory A. Smith, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Mike Commons and Pam Christenberry, Indiana Office of Court Services and Angela James, Court Technology provided staff assistance.
3. Guests. Dr. Marguerite Rebesco, Clinical Psychologist, also attended the meeting.
4. Minutes approved. The November 20, 2020 minutes of the committee were approved.
5. Parenting Time Guideline revisions.
 - a. Members of the committee reviewed and revised the lead in for shared parenting time and the shared parenting language for the Parenting Time Guidelines. Committee members reviewed shared parenting time questions for parents to use for the appendix. They agreed by consensus to review placement shared parenting as a new Chapter IV at their next meeting.
 - b. Committee members agreed by consensus to revised make up time and opportunity for additional parenting time language. They added new public health emergency language.
6. Other. Committee members:
 - discussed proposed legislation concerning presumptive joint custody (HB 1194, HB 1248, and SB 318) and abusive litigation in domestic relations matters. Judge Hallett moved to have the Chair let the authors and legislative committee chairs know the Domestic Relations Committee is working on new language for shared parenting, which will be available for public comment soon. Mag. Berdine seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 10 Yes, 1 Abstain.
 - discussed the amendment to Trial Rule 64, which requires personal service for a rule to show cause in child support cases. They agreed to see how this amendment has affected service at their next meeting.
 - discussed immunity for parenting coordinators and agreed to discuss whether language for immunity should be in the parenting coordinator guidelines or ADR rules.
7. Next meeting date. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
February 19, 2021

The Domestic Relations Committee met on Friday, February 19, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. remotely through Teams.

1. Members present. Lisa Berdine, Andrew R. Bloch, Thomas P. Hallett, Ashley Hand, Mark A. Hardwick, Marie L. Kern, Jennifer K. Kinsley, Lori Morgan, David K. Najjar and Gregory A. Smith, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Mike Commons and Pam Christenberry, Indiana Office of Court Services and Angela James, Court Technology provided staff assistance.
3. Guests. Dr. Marguerite Rebesco, Clinical Psychologist, and Judge Kelsey Hanlon also attended the meeting.
4. Minutes approved. The January 22, 2021 minutes of the committee were approved.
5. Parenting Time Guideline revisions. Members of the committee approved by consensus public health language, and revised parenting calendar, extracurricular activities, and exchange of children language for the Parenting Time Guidelines. Committee members also agreed by consensus to remove the parallel parenting language and appendix from the guidelines. Members of the committee added immunity language to the parenting coordinator language of the parenting time guidelines.
6. Trial Rule 64. Judge Kelsey Hanlon gave a presentation about Trial Rule 64, which was amended in 2019, to provide for personal service for all cases in which there were judgments. Committee members discussed the applicability of the amendment to child support cases as opposed to money judgments. They agreed by consensus the following language should be added to the rule: Notwithstanding Ind. Code § 31-16-16-2, Trial Rule 64 (A) (2) shall not apply to cases concerning the enforcement of current child support orders.
7. Other. Committee members heard legislation concerning presumptive joint custody (HB 1194, HB 1248, and SB 318) and abusive litigation in domestic relations matters (SB 340) did not receive hearings in committee.
8. Next meeting date. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
March 19, 2021

The Domestic Relations Committee met on Friday, March 19, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. remotely through Teams.

1. Members present. Lisa Berdine, Andrew R. Bloch, Kurt Grimm, Thomas P. Hallett, Ashley Hand, Mark A. Hardwick, Marie L. Kern, Lori Morgan, David K. Najjar, Leslie C. Shively and Gregory A. Smith, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz and Mike Commons, Indiana Office of Court Services, provided staff assistance.
3. Guests. Dr. Marguerite Rebesco, Clinical Psychologist also attended the meeting.
4. Minutes approved. The February 19, 2021 minutes of the committee were approved.
5. Parenting Time Guideline revisions. Members of the committee approved by consensus revised holiday schedule language for the Parenting Time Guidelines. The committee members also approved of various formatting and minor changes and agreed to have Judge Smith, Chair as editor if any last minute changes were needed.

Judge Hallett moved to approve a draft of the guidelines for a 45 day public comment period. Judge Najjar seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The committee agreed by consensus to prepare a press release about seeking comment on the proposed revisions.
6. Stimulus payment. Members of the committee discussed the use of the most recent round of stimulus payments and child support.
7. Next meeting date. Committee members agreed to meet again on Friday, May 21, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and review public comments on the parenting time guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
May 21 & 24, 2021

The Domestic Relations Committee met on Friday, May 21, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Monday, May 24, 2021 from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. remotely through Teams.

1. Members present May 21. Lisa Berdine, Andrew R. Bloch, Thomas P. Hallett, Ashley Hand, Mark A. Hardwick, Marie L. Kern, Jennifer K. Kinsley, Lori Morgan, David K. Najjar, and Gregory A. Smith, Chair.
Members present May 24. Andrew R. Bloch, Thomas P. Hallett, Mark A. Hardwick, Marie L. Kern, Leslie C. Shively, and Gregory A. Smith, Chair
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz and Mike Commons, Indiana Office of Court Services, and Angie James and Jill Russell, Trial Court Technology provided staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. The March 19, 2021 minutes of the committee were approved.
4. Parenting Time Guideline revisions. Members of the committee reviewed all parenting time comments submitted from the March 30, 2021 – May 14, 2021, the public comment period. Comments were received from attorneys, judges, parents, grandparents, and others. The committee members approved revisions based on the comments. Judge Smith, Chair will be editor if any last minute changes were needed.
5. Next meeting date. Committee members agreed to meet again on Friday, July 16, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. via Teams and prepare for a presentation on the revised parenting time guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
July 16, 2021

The Domestic Relations Committee met on Friday, July 16, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.. remotely through Teams.

1. Members present. Lisa Berdine, Andrew R. Bloch, Kurt Grimm, Ashley Hand, Mark A. Hardwick, Marie L. Kern, Jennifer K. Kinsley, Leslie C. Shively, William L. Wilson and Thomas P. Hallett, Chair.
2. Guest present. Judge Gregory A. Smith attended the meeting.
3. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Mike Commons, Angela Reid-Brown, Indiana Office of Court Services; and Jill Russell and ChiQuita Williams, Trial Court Technology provided staff assistance.
4. Minutes approved. The May 21 & 24, 2021 minutes of the committee were approved.
5. Membership. Judge Hallett introduced William L. Wilson as a new member of the committee. He thanked Judge Gregory A. Smith as past chair of the committee for all his work on the Parenting Time Guidelines revisions.
6. Parenting Time Guidelines. Judge Hallett reported the Supreme Court approved the guideline revisions and asked the committee to take them to the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana for review. Judge Smith agreed to prepare a PowerPoint outlining new and revised sections of the Parenting Time Guidelines. Committee members agreed to draft scenarios with suggested answers about new and revised portions of the Guidelines for the next meeting.
7. Next meeting date. Committee members agreed to meet again on Friday, August 20, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. via Teams and review the PowerPoint and scenarios for the Parenting Time Guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
August 20, 2021

The Domestic Relations Committee met on Friday, August 20, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. remotely through Teams.

1. Members present. Andrew R. Bloch, Ashley N. Hand, Marie L. Kern, Lori K. Morgan, David K. Najjar. Leslie C. Shively, and Thomas P. Hallett, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Angela Reid-Brown, Indiana Office of Court Services; and Jill Russell and ChiQuita Williams, Trial Court Technology provided staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. The July 16, 2021 minutes of the committee were approved.
4. Parenting Time Guidelines.
 - a. Committee members reviewed and revised scenarios to illustrate new language in the Parenting Time Guidelines: Shared parenting, pick up and drop off times, make up time, extracurricular activities, relocation, phone use and communication, holiday exchanges, and regular care responsibilities.
 - b. Members of the committee agreed to review a PowerPoint on new and revised language for the Parenting Time Guidelines and additional scenarios.
5. Electronic parenting time calendar.
 - a. Jill Russell reported the Indiana Department of Education changed the way school calendars are forwarded to the Department. They no longer indicate various school holidays. The lack of this information will require Court Technology to revise the electronic parenting time calendar. In addition, the new pick up and drop off times, and the new delineation of which parent has the child the day before and the day of the child's birthday will require new programming for the calendar.
 - b. Committee members discussed implementation of recommendations from the Family Law Task Force for the electronic parenting time calendar. They agreed to review priorities and costs at their next meeting.
6. Next meeting date. Committee members agreed to meet again on Friday, October 15, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. via Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
October 15, 2021

The Domestic Relations Committee met on Friday, October 15, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. remotely through Teams.

1. Members present. Lisa Berdine, Andrew R. Bloch, Kurt Grimm, Ashley N. Hand, Mark Hardwick, Marie L. Kern, Jennifer K. Kinsley, Lori K. Morgan, David K. Najjar, Leslie C. Shively, William L. Wilson and Thomas P. Hallett, Chair.
2. Staff present. Judge Gregory A. Smith, Jeffrey Bercovitz, Pamela Christenberry, Indiana Office of Court Services; and Jill Russell and ChiQuita Williams, Trial Court Technology provided staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. The August 20, 2021 minutes of the committee were approved.
4. Parenting Time Guidelines.
 - a. It was announced the Indiana Supreme Court issued an order on October 5, 2021 approving revisions to Indiana's Parenting Time Guidelines. They will be effective January 1, 2022 for new parenting time orders.
 - b. Members of the committee reviewed and suggested revisions to a PowerPoint on revisions to the Parenting Guidelines.
 - c. Committee members reviewed and revised scenarios to illustrate the revisions in the Parenting Time Guidelines including extracurricular activities and public health emergency.
5. Electronic parenting time calendar. Members of the committee discussed revisions to the parenting time calendar due to the approved revisions effective January 1, 2022: school calendar from the Indiana Department of Education, pick up and drop off times changes, noncustodial parent alternating with custodial parent for the child's birthday, and holiday schedule for 3-4 year olds. The committee members also discussed their priorities for implementation of recommended changes from the Family Law Taskforce to the Parenting Time Calendar
6. Next meeting date. Committee members agreed to meet again on Friday, January 21, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. via Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law