

O'Donnell, Shanna

From: Liza Andrews <landrews@ctcadv.org>
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 4:15 PM
To: Del Ciampo, Joseph
Cc: Karen Jarmoc; Lucy Nolan; Beth Hamilton
Subject: RE: Rules Committee referral re: Section 1-11C Media coverage
Attachments: Joint Rules Comm Memo re Camera Coverage 11.8.19.pdf

Item 05-02b
(011320)

Good evening Joseph,

On behalf of both the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence, attached please find our joint comment regarding the proposed rule change. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Please let us know if you need anything further.

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From: Del Ciampo, Joseph [<mailto:Joseph.DelCiampo@jud.ct.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 9:42 AM
To: Kevin.Lawlor@ct.gov; Rapillo, Christine (Public Defenders) <Christine.Rapillo@jud.ct.gov>; mrueckert@goodwin.com; bchapman@ctbar.org; trentlalima@gmail.com; Karen Jarmoc <kjarmoc@ctcadv.org>; Cimino, Linda <Linda.Cimino@jud.ct.gov>; Natasha.Pierre@ct.gov
Cc: Petruzzelli, Lori <Lori.Petruzzelli@jud.ct.gov>; O'Donnell, Shanna <Shanna.ODonnell@jud.ct.gov>
Subject: Rules Committee referral re: Section 1-11C Media coverage

Good morning,

I am writing to you as Counsel to the Rules Committee of the Superior Court. The Rules Committee has received a proposal from the Judicial-Media Committee to amend Section 1-11C concerning media coverage in criminal proceedings.

This proposal was taken up for discussion by the Rules Committee at its meeting on Monday, October 21, 2019. At that meeting, the Rules Committee decided to seek comments from the Office of the Chief Court Administrator; the Office of the Chief State's Attorney; the Office of the Chief Public Defender; the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; the Criminal Justice Section of the Connecticut Bar Association; the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; the Office of Victim Services; and the Office of the Victim Advocate before taking further action on this proposal. As such, a copy of the materials related to this proposal is attached to this e-mail for your review.

The Rules Committee may continue its discussion of this proposal at its next meeting, which is scheduled to be held on Monday, November 18, 2019. **Please provide your comments on this proposal no later than Monday, November 11,**

2019 so that any comments may be distributed to and reviewed by the members of the committee in advance of this meeting.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rules Committee of the Superior Court

FROM: CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence and CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence

DATE: November 8, 2019

RE: RC Proposal 2019-006a – Camera coverage of homicide cases involving sexual assault

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed rule change to Section 1-11C regarding media coverage of criminal proceedings.

The proposed amendment would permit a judge to authorize camera coverage of a homicide case involving sexual assault provided the victim's family affirmatively consents to such coverage. The Judicial-Media Committee states that the general intent of the existing ban of camera coverage in court cases involving sexual assault charges is to protect victim privacy and, in a homicide case, those privacy concerns are largely absent. While we don't disagree that the privacy concerns may be less prevalent, we believe it is important to be clear about how media coverage of a homicide, including those involving sexual assault, may impact the family of the murdered victim.

Having said that, we support the proposed change although we respectfully suggest that the Rules Committee address two points of potential clarification. First, how is "family" defined? Will the court take the lead of the Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services' Advocate in identifying a family spokesperson? What if family members disagree about whether or not coverage should be allowed? Second, we suggest that clarifying language be added in the proposed "new" section regarding cases where a family member cannot be identified, clearly stating that camera coverage will not be permitted in those cases.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or for more information.

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