



NATASHA M. PIERRE, ESQ.
State Victim Advocate

November 13, 2019

Joseph J. Del Ciampo
Counsel to the Rules Committee
State of CT Judicial Branch
Via email to Joseph.DelCiampo@jud.ct.gov

Re: Proposed Amendment to Section 1-11C

Dear Attorney Del Ciampo.

The Rules Committee requested comments from the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) regarding the above referenced proposal. The proposal would permit a judge to authorize camera coverage of a homicide case involving charges of sexual assault provided the victim's family affirmatively consents to such coverage.

The OVA takes the position that a victim's involvement in criminal proceedings and all related decision-making is the victim's choice. As such, I do not have an opinion as to whether this proposal benefits or harms victims, as the experience and needs of each victim varies. However, I would advise that if this amendment occurs, a process must be in place to address conflicting wishes of multiple victims. For example, in a homicide case, the parents are the victims - one parent may wish to have video coverage, while the other may not. It is important that no victim is coerced into agreement on this matter.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at (860) 550-6632 or Natasha.Pierre@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Natasha M. Pierre, JD, MSW