



Connecticut Legal Services



NEW HAVEN
LEGAL
ASSISTANCE
ASSOCIATION, INC.

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 27, 2019

Rules Committee of the Superior Court
Attn: Joseph J. Del Ciampo, Counsel
P.O. Box 150474
Hartford, CT 06115-0474
Joseph.DelCiampo@jud.ct.gov

Re: Proposed Amendment to Practice Book Section 11-19

Dear Rules Committee,

We write on behalf of the undersigned legal services programs to submit this comment regarding Attorney Cohen's proposal to amend Practice Book Section 11-19 to set a time limit for deciding short calendar matters. The proposal would require a trial court to make a decision on pendente lite issues in family cases within 30 days after the completion of the hearing. The three direct service legal services organizations in Connecticut, Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA), Connecticut Legal Services (CLS), and New Haven Legal Association Association (NHLAA), support this proposal.

Our legal services organizations represent victims of domestic violence in family matters. We certainly appreciate the need to reduce the time that such persons must wait to obtain critical court-ordered pendente lite support orders. In our experience, undue delay is not an issue because judges assigned to the Family Division often issue pendente lite support rulings from the bench or in just a few days. However, to the extent this is an issue in some courthouses, our attorneys support this rule change. Since the proposed amendment to the rule is not a departure from current practice in many courthouses, it should not be burdensome.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and thank the Committee for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Giovanna Shay
Litigation & Advocacy Director
Greater Hartford Legal Aid
999 Asylum Ave., 3rd Floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-541-5061
860-541-5050 (fax)
gshay@ghla.org

Shelley White
Litigation Director
New Haven Legal Assistance Assoc.
205 Orange St.
New Haven, CT 06510
203-846-4811
203-498-9271 (fax)
swhite@nhlegal.org

Nilda Havrilla
Litigation and Advocacy Director
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
16 Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051
860-357-9311
860-225-6105 (fax)
nhavrilla@connlegalservices.org