

The Connecticut General Assembly



Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection: Compliance, Enforcement & Outcomes Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, November 20, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andréa Deyo, Attorney Phyllis DiCara, Joe DiTunno, CJ Forcier, Attorney Gail Hardy, Shauna Henry, Merit Lajoie, Capt. Heather LaRock, Representative Tammy Nuccio, Andrea O'Connor, Geralyn O'Neil-Wild, Marc Pelka,

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Chairwoman Geralyn O'Neil-Wild called the meeting to order at 11:08 am.
- II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS
Welcoming remarks and members introduced themselves.
- III. MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL
Charles Forcier made a motion to accept the November meeting minutes with one correction, the spelling of Marc Pelka's name. Second Attorney Phyllis DiCara. All in favor.
- IV. REVIEW AND VOTE ON FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO ADVISORY COUNCIL
In advance of the meeting, Chairwomen Gerrie Wild and Gail Hardy provided this subcommittee with a copy of the proposed recommendations that would be presented to the Chairs of the Advisory Council. Chairwoman Wild advised that the three subcommittee reports would be incorporated into a single report for presentation to the General Assembly, therefore, the report that we submit would probably look "different."

Each member in attendance was asked to share their thoughts about the proposed submission. The general consensus was that the report represented a comprehensive account of the work that we have completed thus far, and the work that remains to be done.

Marc Pelka shared his concerns regarding language in the body of the narrative that addresses a need to continue discussions on "how to balance the rights of the defendant, who has a right to know where he can't go, with the safety concerns of a victim..." Joe DiTunno, C.J. Forcier, Andrea O'Connor; Merit Lajoie, and I shared our experiences in criminal and civil court. We acknowledged that there is work to be done in this area. We will continue to

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work with Judicial to establish a uniform procedure statewide, for victims to have their addresses remain confidential in criminal court matters—just as it is done in civil court. Marc offered substitute language.

All members indicated that the report accurately reflected the work of the subcommittee, and voted to advance the following recommendations to the Chairs:

1. Invite Darren Mitchell to work with us on improving Connecticut's response to domestic violence as it relates to orders of protection and an abusers' access to firearms.
2. Establish a protocol within each Judicial District for the review, execution and tracking of domestic violence arrest warrants.
3. Establish a consistent practice statewide for domestic violence victims to request that their addresses be protected from defendants in criminal cases.

V. UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

We extended warm, congratulatory wishes to C.J. Forcier, who is retiring at the end of January 2025. We thanked him for his time and service to this Council.

VI. MEETING SCHEDULE

No meeting in December

Upcoming meetings:

January 15th, February 19th, March 19th, April 16th, May 21st, and June 18th.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn Merit Lajoie and second Marc Pelka. Gail Hardy called the meeting to an end at 12:39 pm.