



PROBATE COURT - DISTRICT OF BROOKFIELD

JUDGE JOSEPH PAUL SECOLA

P.O. BOX 5192, 100 POCONO ROAD

Brookfield, CT 06804

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VIA FAX: 860-355-6024

To: Marianne Arancio Stilson, Chief Clerk, New Milford Probate Court – please give a copy of this letter to the Budget Committee at their next meeting.

To The Budget Committee: Judge Dianne Yamin, Judge Joseph Marino, Probate Administrator Paul Knierim

I am writing in support of Judge Martin Landgrebe and Marianne Arancio Stilson of the New Milford Probate Court in their attempts to increase the number of staff for the new consolidated court, which will be located in New Milford.

You should know that I am not running for Judge of the merged court. The proposed staff of 2.4 positions is really inadequate. The 3 courts together presently have 4.5 staff positions (1 for New Fairfield, 1 for Brookfield and 2.5 for New Milford). Expecting the present staff of New Milford to absorb the work of 2 other courts with no additional staff is not only unrealistic, but will result in a significant drop in service to the public.

I am in support of the request that 4.5 Clerks be allowed for this merged Court. I will now discuss the facilities and work of the present Brookfield Probate Court.

The following are facilities and group homes that the Brookfield Probate Court currently uses.

Facilities:

- 1) Danbury Hospital- Psych Unit
- 2) Village at Brookfield Commons
- 3) Brookfield Housing Authority- Brooks Quarry



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4) Bethel Healthcare

Group Homes: Ability Beyond Disability

- 1) 156 Long Meadow Hill Road, Brookfield, CT
- 2) 22 North Pleasant Rise, Brookfield, CT
- 3) Pleasant Rise Circle, Brookfield, CT
- 4) Dorset Drive, Brookfield, CT
- 5) Squire Court, Brookfield, CT
- 6) Valley View Road, Brookfield, CT

Matters where we use the said facilities are as follows:

Current Open GMR's: 25

Current Open Conservatorships: 29

Current Open Trusts: 51

Current Open Guard of Estate: 22

In sum, I am in support of the request that 4.5 Clerks be allowed for this merged Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph P. Secola, J.", written in black ink.

Joseph P. Secola
Judge of Probate
Brookfield Probate Court