

State of Connecticut
COURT OF PROBATE

DISTRICT OF BRISTOL #017

HON. ANDRE D. DORVAL
JUDGE

CITY HALL
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June 11, 2010

The Honorable Paul J. Knierim
Probate Court Administrator
Chairman Probate Court Budget Committee
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110

Re: 2011 Budget/Probate Court District #19

Dear Judge Knierim:

In reviewing the budgetary information provided to my court relative to the proposed budget for the newly created Probate District 19 for the first six months of 2011 it has come to my attention that there is no provision within the allotted funds for the obtainment of social work services on behalf of the court. In the budgetary documentation which I provided to your committee in January of 2010 I had requested an allocation of \$30,000.00 for social work services to be provided to the court. Upon my receipt of the budget allocations approved by your committee in March of 2010 for the first six months of 2011 I erroneously was of the opinion that the \$5,000.00 allocation under the heading Accounting/Professional Services was in fact intended to be used for the obtainment of social work services for the court. I have subsequently learned however that those funds were not allocated for that purpose.

It has been the prior practice of the Bristol Probate Court to retain social work services on behalf of the court to assist it with the more difficult children's and elderly cases that come before the court. I have previously used social work services in those cases where I had reservations as to the safety of the children who were being placed or with the safety of an elderly person who remained in their home. Several years ago I started to employ a retired Department of Social Services worker on a part time basis and treated her as a part time employee of the court. More recently I have commenced retaining the services of a former DCF social worker as a subcontractor on an as needed basis in lieu of having a part time social worker on the payroll of the court.

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PAUL J. KNIERIM

Honorable Paul J. Knierim

June 11, 2010

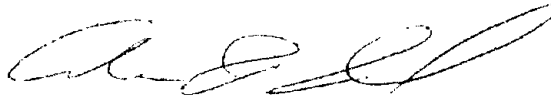
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Although I certainly comprehend the financial restraints that are being imposed upon the probate courts in view of the current economic situation, I feel that it is imperative that the probate judge who will be elected in November to fill the position of probate judge for the newly created Probate Court District 19 have the flexibility of retaining the services of a social worker on an as needed basis to assist in the handling of the more difficult situations that confront the court.

Therefore, I am respectfully requesting that your committee consider allocating the sum of \$25,000.00 per year to the newly created Probate Court District 19 which will serve in excess of 90,000 people so as to enable it to retain social work services on an as needed basis so as to be able to properly serve the needs of those individuals who use the court.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or should you wish to discuss this matter.

Very truly yours,



Andre D. Dorval
Judge Bristol Probate Court