

The Hotsheet

Volume 11, Issue 3

A WSBA Family Law Section Publication

February 2007

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Family Law Section Midyear Seminar

You should be receiving the announcements soon for the 2007 Family Law Section Midyear seminar. This year the midyear meeting and seminar will be held at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane from June 22 to June 24. Please make your reservations at the hotel early. The phone number for the Davenport is 800-899-1482. Be sure to state that you are part of the Family Law Section's midyear group.

Lake Cruise at the Midyear

Pete Karademos is arranging a cruise on Lake Coeur D'Alene as part of the Family Law Midyear. Buses will take us to the cruise, leaving at about 5:30 p.m. The dinner cruise will last approximately four hours. The cost is \$75.00 per person. Please contact Pete at 509-624-5338 or at p.karademos@comcast.net if you are interested. We need a minimum number

of guests to be able to reserve a boat, so please contact Pete as soon as possible if you are interested.

Attorney, Jurist, and Professional of the Year

The Family Law Executive Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2007 attorney, jurist, and professional of the year. If you would like FLEC to consider someone for one of these honors, please contact any FLEC member with the name and a brief description as to why your nominee should be chosen for the award.

Results of Fax Poll

In the November 2006 *Hotsheet*, we asked for your opinion on proposed changes to RCW 26.09.187(b), which some interpret to create a presumption against parenting plans providing relatively equal amounts of time with the children for each

parent.

We received 45 responses to the fax poll. 24 respondents agreed with the proposed changes; 16 disagreed. Others had other comments but did not vote to simply agree or disagree.

A more detailed description of the fax poll results will be presented at the Family Law Midyear in June.

Bills Under Consideration

HB 1009 would create (or reinstate) the child support work group that has been looking into modifying our child support schedule. The group would be charged to review the support schedule every four years. A member of FLEC would be a member of the group.

As of this time, the chances of this bill passing are good.

HB 1624 would allow a child to petition for reinstatement of parental rights if the child is de-

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pendent and in state custody, three years have passed since termination of the child's parents' rights, the child has not been adopted, and the child is at least 12 years old.

SB 5900 would add a new chapter to RCW Title 49, the Labor Regulations title. It would allow domestic violence victims to take time off work under certain circumstances, with notice to their employers if it is possible to give prior notice. The bill would give employees a right of action against employers for not following the act.

HB 2074 would amend RCW 13.34.180 and add a new chapter to 13.34. It would add the following as a ground for filing a termination petition: It has been 18 months since the child was removed from the home and the parent has indicated an unwillingness to care for the child or has failed to have contact with the child. **HB 2075** would give courts authority to order termination petitions to be filed under the same conditions.

SB 5470 would amend much of RCW Chapter 26.09. Among the proposals are the following:

Prospective petitioners would have to see a family court screener 15 days prior to filing a petition. All cases would be screened

for potential domestic violence, and litigants would be given information regarding appropriate referrals.

All counties would be required to provide courthouse facilitators.

Mediation would be available for any pre- or post-decree issues within one year of the filing of the petition.

Factor i of RCW 26.09.187 would be modified. The new factor one would read, "The relative strength, nature, and stability of the child's relationship with each parent." The second half of the current factor i, often called "the daily needs factor", would be added to factor iii. The new factor i would be given the greatest weight.

The bill would require the compiling of statistics on how much time each parent receives with the child, whether the parenting plan is agreed to or court imposed, whether or not there are domestic violence, drug, or other issues in the particular case, and other such information.

HB 1351 and SB 5336 were described in the January 2007 issue of *The Hotsheet*. These bill would allow same sex couples (and other couples so long as one is 62 or older) to register as domestic partners. The bill would then

give domestic partners some of the same legal rights married couples enjoy in Washington as those rights relate to inheritance, medical decision-making, and a limited number of other areas.

As of this writing, the bills had been passed out of committee and appear to have a relatively good chance of becoming law.

Family Law Listserv

One of the benefits provided by your section is the popular listserv. There you can post questions or otherwise find useful information. Check our web site for instructions on joining the listserv.

WSBA Web Site Section Membership Renewal

Your Family Law Section membership can be renewed from the WSBA website page at www.wsba.org.

Prospective new members can join from the same web site.

This is a publication of a Section of the Washington State Bar Association. All opinions and comments in this publication represent the views of the authors and do not necessarily have the endorsement of the Association or its officers or agents.

"Good laws have their origins in bad morals."

-Ambrosius Macrobius