

Changes to Medical Certificate Form and New Probate and Family Court Standing Order and Uniform Practice Relative to Medical Certificates
November 19,2010

A new Standing Order and a revised Uniform Practice are now effective pertaining to Medical Certificates in Guardianship and Conservatorship cases. There is also a new Medical Certificate Form.

The Barnstable Registry of Probate will accept the old Medical Certificate form up until and including *December 1,2010*. After December 1,2010, you must file the new Medical Certificate Form. The old Medical Certificate Forms will not be accepted after December 1,2010.

Standing Order 2-10 became effective on *November 16,2010*. This Standing Order permits the use of a new Court form referred to as a medical certificate affidavit in certain circumstances which are as follows:

1. During a pending Guardianship or Conservatorship case, after a full Medical Certificate has been filed, for a person who has been and continues to be medically stable as indicated on the most recently filed Medical Certificate Form (particularly in Part I, A, B, &C), *and* where an attorney for the Incapacitated Person or Protected Person has been appointed and does not object to the use of the medical certificate affidavit; *and/or*
2. At the hearing for a final determination of incapacity or disability for a person who has been and continues to be medically stable as indicated on the most recently filed Medical Certificate Form (particularly in Part I, A, B & C) *and* where counsel for the Incapacitated or Protected Person has been appointed and does not object..

This Standing Order does not change the requirement of the filing of a Medical Certificate Form with the Petition for Guardianship or Conservatorship.

Uniform Probate Court Practice XXII

This practice has been amended to permit a nurse practitioner to complete a Medical Certificate Form.

The Barnstable Probate Court Website has been updated with these new forms and with this information. Please visit our Court website at www.barnstablecountypfc.com. Please feel free to contact the office at (508) 375-6710 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Anastasia Welsh Perrino,
Register of Probate

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

November 9, 2010

FRANCIS X. SPINA
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

John S. Dale, President
Barnstable County Bar Association
PO Box 718
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Mr. Dale:

The Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services of the Supreme Judicial Court seeks nominations for new members. I am writing to ask you to consider nominating a member or members of your organization to the Committee.

The Pro Bono Committee, of which I am a member, is charged with assisting the bar in developing, encouraging and facilitating pro bono opportunities for attorneys, consistent with and in furtherance of Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Responsibility. Recent activities of the Committee include the annual Adams *Pro Bono Publico* Awards, which recognize attorneys for outstanding pro bono contributions, and outreach meetings to Massachusetts law schools to gather information on and encourage their pro bono efforts. The work of the Committee is not burdensome, meeting five to six times per year, but it is rewarding and valued by its members.

It is expected that the Justices will appoint four to six new members to the Pro Bono Committee. The Justices are interested in applications from attorneys with extensive pro bono experience and will strive to achieve diversity on the Committee, including geographic diversity. New members will be appointed for a three-year term, with the possibility of reappointment to a second, consecutive term.

I hope that you will be able to identify one or more of your members to nominate who you feel would make a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee, and ask that you forward their names, along with resumes, by **December 10, 2010** to Carol Lev, Coordinator of Program and Policy Development, at carol.lev@sjc.state.ma.us. Please feel free to call me at 617-557-1000 if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

