

Commission on the Status of Men

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 31, 2003

Location: Legislative Office Building, Room 208
Concord, New Hampshire

Commission Members attending: Gerard Boyle, Joseph Mastromarino, Ron Blankenstein, Larry Colby, Stephen Gorin, Michael Geanoulis

Commission Member unable to attend: Christopher Emond

Other attendees who signed attendance roster: Maurice Chaput, Raymond Edwin, Jeffrey Oligny, Rep. David Bickford, Mark Halle, Mike Smith, Daniel Frazier, Scott Garmay, Lee Newman

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Gerard Boyle.

Emile Beaulieu, of the Governor's staff, gave welcoming remarks on behalf of Governor Benson.

Opening Statements were made by each of the attending Commissioners.

Commission meeting dates and locations for the remainder of the year 2003 and 2004 were discussed. A tentative schedule was distributed. The next meeting was confirmed for November 19, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the LOB.

The remainder of the meeting was open to public comment and discussion. The Commission heard from seven individuals who spoke on issues and concerns as follows:

- fathers rights to rear their children
- child support guidelines
- support for shared parenting
- lawyers afraid of getting judges upset if they support custody for fathers
- lawyers afraid of loosing clients if they represent the rights of fathers
- police enforcement of custodial rights in a uniform rather than a selective manner
- child and husband abuse by mothers
- HB 299
- feeling like a criminal in the courtroom
- judges 'running' from the issue of fatherlessness
- legislation needed to hold judges accountable
- suicide or self neglect as the demise of fathers who are disenfranchised by the courts
- best interest of the children are not considered by the courts
- taping laws adopted in 35 states but not in NH

- the need for counseling for men on men's issues
- the need for men's support groups
- the need to expedite the divorce process
- allowing perjury, slander and false accusation in the courtroom
- exploitation of children in family court
- manufactured acrimony to win custody
- RSA 633
- Guardian Ad Litem that don't really care
- divorce as a money making proposition
- 'temporary orders equal final decree
- HB 298
- the Violence Intervention Program in NH
- lack of available services for men concerning domestic violence

A special thank you to Representative David A Bickford for sponsoring the bill that established this Commission and for his attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald G. Blankenstein
Secretary