

NOTICE

**CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES TASK FORCE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT**

The 2016 - 2017 Massachusetts Trial Court Child Support Guidelines Task Force is seeking public comment and suggestions concerning the Massachusetts Child Support Guidelines. Written comments may be submitted to the Task Force at email address: [childsupport@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:childsupport@jud.state.ma.us)

or by U.S. Postal Service to: Child Support Guidelines Task Force  
Executive Office of the Trial Court  
John Adams Courthouse  
One Pemberton Square  
Boston, MA 02108

The Task Force will hold five public forums where written statements may be delivered and brief oral statements may be made. Due to the expected turnout, testimony shall be limited to three minutes. Oral testimony is not necessary because written and oral testimony will be considered equally. The public forums will be held as follows:

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| Wednesday June 8, 2016<br>Boston       | 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.<br>Edward Brooke Courthouse, 24 New Chardon St. |
| Thursday June 9, 2016<br>Worcester     | 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.<br>Worcester Courthouse, 225 Main Street        |
| Wednesday June 15, 2016<br>Lawrence    | 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.<br>Fenton Judicial Center, 2 Appleton Street    |
| Wednesday June 22, 2016<br>Springfield | 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.<br>Springfield Hall of Justice, 50 State Street |
| Thursday June 23, 2016<br>Plymouth     | 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.<br>Plymouth Courthouse, 52 Obery Street         |

The deadline for submission of all comments is **June 24, 2016**. If specific changes to the Guidelines are suggested, specific sections to be changed should be referenced, new language proposed, and reasons for the proposed changes included.

**An invitation to comment:**

As many of you know, the Administrative Office of the Probate and Family Court along with the Hon. Randy J. Kaplan, have taken steps to revamp the process for the appointment of guardians *ad litem* under Category E and F. These steps included having list members submit reapplications with writing samples and in-person interviews with new applicants, along with new training requirements. As we conclude this process, we are inviting members of the legal community to comment about their experiences with guardians *ad litem* who have been appointed by the court.

Our expectation is that this process will result in a more professional and experienced list of eligible GALs in which all can feel confident.

Please provide any comments by May 31, 2016. Please forward your comments to [GALcomments@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:GALcomments@jud.state.ma.us). We appreciate your assistance with this process.

All comments will remain confidential.

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**Fwd: Craig's CV2Go Letter**

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**From :** E Access <e.access@jud.state.ma.us>  
**Subject :** Fwd: Craig's CV2Go Letter  
**To :** Marisol Mancia <marisol.mancia@jud.state.ma.us>

Thu, May 19, 2016 10:50 AM

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**From:** "E Access" <e.access@jud.state.ma.us>  
**To:** "E Access" <e.access@jud.state.ma.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 10:20:09 AM  
**Subject:** Craig's CV2Go Letter

Dear Attorney Portal User:

You have indicated you might be interested in a future product that would provide push notifications related to information on court cases where you are the attorney of record.

We are pleased to announce that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court has worked with CourtView Justice Solutions to provide you with real-time notifications of docketing on your court cases, and updates to your court schedules through the CV2Go notification service. CV2Go is a product of CourtView Justice Solutions, and is integrated with the MassCourts case management system to automatically send case update alerts to any subscribed mobile device or email address.

As a CV2Go subscriber, you may choose how you want to be notified\*. If your schedules and cases span multiple courts, CV2Go even automatically consolidates this information and alerts you by:

- Email and Calendar Feed (iCal)
- Mobile Apps (iOS, Android)
- CV2Go Portal ([www.mycv2go.com](http://www.mycv2go.com))

CV2Go is offered by CourtView as a subscription service for \$300 per annum for an individual attorney, with discounts available when multiple attorneys within the same firm are registered together.

This announcement is offered for your information and not as a solicitation or an endorsement of CV2Go or any other product.

For more information please visit [www.courtview.com/attorney-cv2go](http://www.courtview.com/attorney-cv2go).  
To register for the CV2Go service, click [here](#).

\* All updates are automatically emailed. Additional options are also available.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT

STANDING ORDER 2-16  
PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

This Court finds that the best interests of the minor children of parties appearing before it would be well served by educating their parents about children's emotional needs and the effects of divorce on child behavior and development.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All parties to a divorce action in which there are minor children are ordered to attend and participate in an approved Parent Education Program. In addition, a judge, in his or her discretion, of this Court may require the parties in an action to establish paternity, complaints for modification or contempt, or in any other case involving parenting time, custody, or support of minor children to attend a Parent Education Program.
2. All parties to a divorce action in which there are minor children must register with an approved program within thirty (30) days of service of the original complaint upon the original defendant. Other parties ordered to attend a parent education program must register for a program within thirty (30) days of the order. Sanctions for failure to register or complete a program may be imposed by the Court. Upon registering for a program, parties shall complete the "Affidavit Confirming Registration at Parent Education Program" and file with the Court.
3. For divorcing parents, and parents in other cases when specifically ordered by the Court, attendance at a program is mandatory unless waived. Parties must file their Certificates of Attendance with the Court no later than thirty (30) days after completing the program.
4. If a party seeks to waive attendance at a Parent Education Program, the party must file a "Motion to Waive Attendance at a Parent Education Program" with notice to the other party. The motion must include the reason the party is alleged to be unable to attend a Parent Education Program. Waivers may be granted upon a demonstrable showing of: chronic and severe violence which negates safe parental communication; language barriers; institutionalization or other unavailability of a party; or where justice otherwise indicates. The Court may elect to deny the "Motion to Waive Attendance at a Parent Education Program" and may, instead, permit use of a five-hour DVD or online program entitled *KidCare for Co-Parents: An Educational Program for Divorcing Families* to satisfy the Parent Education Program requirement. Waiver for one parent does not automatically apply to the other parent.
5. If a party is not able to attend an in person Parent Education Program, the party may file, with notice, a "Motion to Permit Completion of Parent Education Program via DVD". The motion must include the reason the party is alleged to be unable to attend a Parent Education Program in person. Approval to participate in a Parent Education Program through use of the DVD or online program may be granted upon a demonstrable showing of: significant health or financial issues; significant

geographic and transportation issues, or other significant barriers to in person participation; or where justice otherwise indicates. If allowed, the party must complete the interactive program and obtain the Certificate of Attendance. This Certificate must be provided by the party to the Court no later than 30 days after completion of the program. Approval for one parent does not automatically apply to the other parent.

6. Unless the Court orders otherwise, the parties must attend programs currently approved by the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court. Program vendors will ensure that parties to an action do not attend the same session of any program unless the Court orders otherwise. Lists of currently approved programs (including *KidCare for Co-Parents: An Educational Program for Divorcing Families*) are available at <http://www.mass.gov/courts/programs/parent-child/>

7. A copy of this Standing Order shall be provided by the Registry to the plaintiff or his/her attorney upon the filing of a complaint for divorce involving minor children. The plaintiff or his/her attorney shall serve a copy of this Standing Order along with the complaint and summons to the person authorized to make service pursuant to Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P. 4(c).

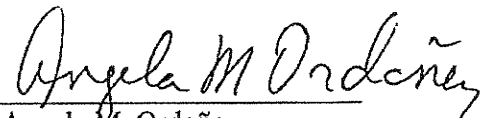
8. The parties shall each pay \$ 80.00 to the provider in advance of the program to offset cost of materials, facilitators, and program administration. The same fee applies to participation via DVD or online in the program entitled *KidCare for Co-Parents: An Educational Program for Divorcing Families*.

9. If a party is unable to afford the \$80.00 course fee, the party may be eligible to pay a reduced fee of \$5.00 to the provider. The party must submit to the Court an "Affidavit of Indigency and Request for Waiver, Substitution or State Payment of Fees and Costs." This form is promulgated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court pursuant to G.L. c. 261 sec. 27B and is available on the Court's website ([mass.gov/courts](http://mass.gov/courts)) and at the Registries of the Probate and Family Court. If the waiver of the fee is allowed by the Court, the party must submit a copy of the approved waiver to the Parent Education provider when seeking to attend a program for the \$ 5.00 reduced fee.

10. An uncontested divorce hearing may be scheduled pending attendance if the parties file an affidavit confirming their registration with the Court and so long as both parties complete the program prior to the hearing. A Pre-trial Conference in a contested case may be similarly scheduled so long as the parties complete the program prior to the Pre-trial Conference. No Trial will be held by the Court until the Court receives a Certificate of Attendance from an approved program for each party, or waives the requirement.

Changes enumerated in this Standing Order are effective as of May 1, 2016 and shall apply to all cases referenced in paragraph (1) filed thereafter.

April 11, 2016  
Date

  
Angela M. Ordoñez  
Chief Justice