

Minutes of Spousal Support and Maintenance Task Force
Ethan Allen Room

Meeting Date: Sept 20, 2017 10:00 AM -2:00 PM

Members in Attendance

Judge Thomas Devine, Chair
Cary Brown
Emily Davis
Priscilla Dube
Martin Feldman
Senator Peg Flory
Judge Brian Grearson
Representative Kimberly Jessup

Others Active Participants

Topics Discussed

The meeting opened at 10:00 AM

- Introductions
- Judge Brian Grearson talked about past efforts by the legislature to reform Alimony laws in Vermont. He talked about the case Weaver v. Weaver and how it addresses some of the current issues. He also suggested that the committee focus their efforts on what they can realistically accomplish given their limited time frame
- Patricia Benelli talked about the new guidelines for alimony and how it is helping the judicial process for divorce proceedings. She discussed the pros and cons of the guidelines and suggested some areas where they could be modified.
- Steve Hitner talked about Mass Alimony Reform including the history, what is working, what could be better, and answered a lot of questions from the committee.
- The Committee talked about the goals of the Task Force. They also discussed the particular data they felt that they will need to review in regards to alimony in Vermont to move forward with their efforts. They considered different options they could use in order to get that information. The committee decided on the action items for the next meeting.
- **Adjournment** at 2:30 PM.

- The next meeting of the Task Force will be held October 5th, 2017, 9 AM to 12:00 PM at the State House and there will be a public meeting on November 6th at 5:00 PM. Location to be determined

Minutes prepared by Peggy Delaney, Committee Assistant