



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT
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PRESS RELEASE

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**PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT ANNOUNCES THE FORMATION OF UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS**

Governor Deval Patrick has signed Chapter 521 of the Acts of 2008, An Act Relative to the Uniform Probate Code. The implementation of this legislation will cause sweeping changes in Massachusetts in the areas of probate law, guardianships and conservatorships. Article V of the Code pertaining to guardianships and conservatorships has an effective date of July 1, 2009 while the remainder of the Code has an effective date of July 1, 2011.

Chief Justice Paula Carey has begun working towards implementation by establishing the Probate and Family Court Department's Implementation Committee to coordinate this process. There will be two working groups, one to concentrate on the implementation of Article V and another that will focus on the remainder of the Code. A subgroup will work on the Guardianship of Minor aspects of Article V. The following people have graciously volunteered to be a part of this effort:

MUPC Estate Working Group

Honorable Elaine M. Moriarty, Chair
Honorable Anthony R. Nesi
Honorable Lisa A. Roberts
Pamela Casey-O'Brien, Register
Tara DeCristofaro, Register
Anastasia Welsh Perrino, Register
Benjamin F. Harley, Esq., Judicial Case Manager
Raymond H. Young, Esq.
Mark A. Leahy, Esq.
Edward Notis-McConarty, Esq.
Susan T. Seguin, Head Administrative Assistant

Article V Working Group

Honorable Elaine M. Moriarty, Chair
Honorable Anthony R. Nesi
Honorable Susan D. Ricci
Honorable Sean M. Dunphy (Ret.)
Patrick W. McDermott, Register
Gina L. DeRossi, Register
Mark A. Leahy, Esq.
Benjamin F. Harley, Esq., Judicial Case Manager
John G. Dugan, Esq.
Robert F. Fleischer, Esq.
Jennifer Moye, Ph.D.
Evelyn J. Patsos, Esq., Family Law Facilitator
Jennifer M. Ulwick, Esq., Assistant Judicial Case
Manager
Lester D. Blumberg, Esq.

This omnibus piece of legislation provides significant protection for minors and those who lack capacity. The legislation also provides for whole scale change in the probate area of practice with an eye toward simplification and streamlining of processes. Chief Justice Carey said, "I am grateful to those who have agreed to serve on this important Committee and for their commitment to our Court. We look forward to greater protections for minors and those who lack capacity and welcome reform in the probate area of our Court."