



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT ANNOUNCES NEW STANDING ORDERS

The Probate and Family Court Department announces the implementation of Standing Orders 1-11, 2-11, and 3-11. The full text of the standing orders is available at www.mass.gov/courts/courtsandjudges/courts/probateandfamilycourt

Standing Order 1-11

Chief Justice Carey of the Probate and Family Court established a committee of judges, probation staff and members of the bar to address the issue of access to and consideration of CARI (Court Activity Record Information) and WMS (Warrant Management System) information in proceedings in the Probate and Family Court where cases are referred by the Court to the Probation Department for services. Recent information technology changes make this information more readily available and the standing order was developed to provide guidance for what to do with the information. The committee met frequently over a period of months and ultimately recommended the process outlined in the attached standing order. Standing Order 1-11 was approved by the Supreme Judicial Court, as well as Chief Justice Mulligan, and has an effective date of June 1, 2011.

Standing Order 2-11

In *Brantley v. Hampden Division of the Probate and Family Court Department*, 457 Mass. 172 (2010), the Supreme Judicial Court invited the Probate and Family Court to promulgate a standing order to address the concerns raised in the *Brantley* decision. Over the course of six months, a Task Force of judges, probation staff, DCF management and lawyers met to consider a standing order regarding the Probate and Family Court's use of documents from DCF. The attached standing order represents the final recommendations of the Task Force. Standing Order 2-11 was approved by the Supreme Judicial Court, as well as Chief Justice Mulligan, and has an effective date of June 1, 2011.

Standing Order 3-11

The Probate and Family Court has partnered with the Department of Revenue in obtaining a federal grant aimed at addressing the effects of the economic downturn on child support payments. The pilot program outlined in Standing Order 3-11 explores the possibility of streamlining the modification process for child support and/or health insurance issues in the Probate and Family Court. The primary initiative of the pilot is that complaints for modification of child support and/or health insurance may be sent to the other party via first-class mail, rather than service in accordance with Mass. Dom. Rel. P. 4. In addition, streamlined forms are being introduced that focus specifically on child support and/or health insurance as well as combining the concept of a complaint for modification and a motion for temporary order onto one form. Standing Order 3-11 was approved by Chief Justice Mulligan and has an effective date of May 16, 2011.
