

January 28, 2015

Testimony on HB 2039 Case Management

To whom it may concern,

I stand in opposition of continuing or expanding Case Management and the legality and ethics of Case Management process in Kansas Family Law cases. I have many horror stories of my own being assigned to a Case Manager, Eric Svoboda in Sedgwick County. I am willing to provide testimony regarding my bad experiences about this issue for your review:

- The Case Management process is just another process or procedure to create revenue for lawyers from families in need of help in Kansas Family Law.*
- It can take months to review an issue in Case Management process (especially if one side is uncooperative and not willing to pay) vs. the 10 days Motion time to hear issues in the court. In this time, issues escalate further adding up to the cost every time additional documents / emails are sent to the Case Manager. Case Management ends up being a lot more expensive than having your own lawyer in Court. Case Managers know this and knowingly extend reviews as much as they can. They issue orders that escalate issues further. They have become experts on how to accomplish this.*
- You have to pay \$200+ per hour for Case Management. There is no checks and balances as to how much a case manager can charge to review the documents that you submit. And, they have the power to enforce these bills as Court expenses even when there is a disagreement. There have been many times in our case when our case manager charged us for reviewing of submitted documents and then had no knowledge of the content during meetings. He over charged us every single opportunity. I have 4 documented cases (I can show you the emails) where he had to correct his bills and every time, he was over charging.*
- There is no accountability in Case Management. Yes, you can file a Motion to review case manager's recommendations in Court but this is not taken well by the Judges at all, and they often punish the parent who objects to the case managers recommendations. In addition, the same pissed off case manager continues to review your cases while he takes a stance against you.*
- Case manager do not have to follow due process and nothing can be done about it. Our case manager admitted documents from the opposing side during meetings, wrote completely one sided reports, and lied repeatedly about issues that were not agreed to during the meetings in an effort to force the parties to an agreement / order.*

The Case Management process in Family Law should be eliminated and it is time for the Courts to start doing their jobs.

One of the most influential people in the Case Management process being present is Mark Gleeson, who manages the Court programs in Kansas. He puts together biased research reports to support the case management process using tax payer money. Mark Gleeson also coordinates the committee that has done a horrible job with the Kansas Child Support Guidelines creating further conflict in families. Mark Gleeson only supports programs that generate revenue for lawyers and justify judge's jobs. He should be fired from his position.

Regards,

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