

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 731

H.P. 537

House of Representatives, February 14, 2003

An Act Regarding Case Management Officers

Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative NORBERT of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative: TARDY of Newport.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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4 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §183, sub-§1, ¶¶D and E,** as enacted by PL 1997,
c. 269, §1 and affected by §2, are amended to read:

6 D. Family case management officers shall employ appropriate
8 case management techniques and have jurisdiction to hear and
dispose of the following matters:

10 (1) Interim orders in actions involving the
12 establishment, modification or enforcement of child
support;

14 (2) Interim orders in actions involving divorce, legal
16 separation, paternity or parental rights, including
interim orders in post-judgment proceedings arising out
18 of these actions, except that a contested motion
concerning interim parental rights and
20 responsibilities, excluding interim child support
orders, may be determined by the family case management
22 officer only if both parties consent to determination
of the issue or issues in dispute by the family case
24 management officer;

26 (2-A) Parental rights and responsibilities and
parent-child contact orders entered pursuant to Title
28 19-A, section 4007, subsection 1, paragraph G, to make
such orders consistent with subsequently entered orders
in matters included in subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3);

30 (3) Final orders in any of the matters included in
32 subparagraphs (1) and (2) when the proceeding is
uncontested;

34 (4) Final orders in a contested proceeding when child
36 support is the only contested issue; and

38 (5) Other actions assigned by the Chief Judge of the
40 District Court.

42 E. Interim orders in any of the matters included in
paragraph D, subparagraphs (1) and (2) and (2-A) are
44 effective immediately and are subject to de novo review by a
judge at the final hearing. Final orders in any of the
46 matters included in paragraph D, subparagraphs (3) and (4)
are subject to appellate review in the same manner as any
48 final order of the District Court. The family case
management officer shall inform the parties of the rights of
50 review established in this paragraph.

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SUMMARY

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This bill authorizes family case management officers to hear
and dispose of matters involving parental rights and
responsibilities and parent-child contact orders.

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