

Georgia Child Support Guidelines Commission Meeting

Statute Review Subcommittee

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2008

I. Welcome and Introductions

Judge Louisa Abbot, Chairman of the Statute Review Subcommittee, called the Subcommittee Meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Judge Abbot asked subcommittee members to introduce themselves and then asked all guests to introduce themselves and state any issues/ concerns that they would like addressed at the meeting today.

Subcommittee members present: Judge Debra Bernes; Mr. Charles C. Clay; Ms. Joy Hawkins; Mr. Michael Martin; Representative Ed Lindsey; and Mr. Rick Smith. Staff members present include Jill Radwin, Elaine Johnson, Debra Oliver, and Jessica Ekhomu. Jill Travis of the Legislative Counsel's Office was also present. Invited guests who participated in today's discussion include: William J. Camp, Esq.; Dr. Kirsten Rambo; Superior Court Judge Clarence Seeliger; Shirley Champa; Lynnette Davis; and, Mark Cicero.

II. Explanation of Purpose and Role of Subcommittee

Judge Abbot explained that the purpose of the subcommittee's meeting today is to look at and make recommendations to the full Commission regarding clean up, technical and substantive statutory revision proposals. If accepted by the Commission, the Commission will recommend the suggested revisions to the State's Legislature.

III. Assessment/Discussion of Proposed Revisions to §19-6-15

A. "Clean Up" Proposals

Areas were identified where words need to be substituted or deleted due to changes made to Senate Bill 382 during the last days of the 2006 Legislative Session. Some revisions also called for a consistency of terms, where currently there is inconsistency within the guidelines. The Statute Review Subcommittee reviewed and discussed these proposals. The majority of these proposals, with various revisions, were accepted by the Statute Review Subcommittee as recommendations to the full Commission.

B. "Technical" Revision Proposals

Areas were also identified which are considered technical changes due to not altering the meaning or intent of the statute, but necessitated more discussion among the Statute Review Subcommittee. After review, the Statute Review did recommend a few technical revisions to the full Commission. Other areas required further study, including whether the proposed revision would constitute a statutory or rule revision.

C. "Substantive" Revision Proposals

Due to time constraints, only a couple of issues that would be considered substantive proposals were discussed. Only two provisions were recommended by the Statute Review to the full Commission at this time. Those two provisions were the requirement that health insurance shall be ordered if reasonably available at a reasonable costs to either parent, and that the extraordinary medical expenses deviation be limited to the child for whom support is being calculated and the parents who are parties in the case. The issues concerning a low income deviation and military benefits were referred to study committees, which were formed at the meeting.

The meeting concluded prior to 2:00 p.m., at which time, the Child Support Commission convened.