

Georgia Child Support Commission Meeting

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2008

I) Welcome and Approval of February Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 by Chairman Harp. Members present included Judge Tom Campbell, Chairman Harp, Judge Lisa Jones, Representative Edward Lindsey, Mr. Michael Martin, Mr. Rick Smith; and via phone Judge Louisa Abbot, Mr. Roger Tutterow, and Mr. Charles "Chuck" Clay.

II) Forms Subcommittee

- A) Report of the Electronic Worksheet Task Force – Judge Jones asked Jill Radwin to report. Jill stated that the task force has met twice. It is made up of 20 plus persons including, but not limited to, judges, OCSS representatives, private attorneys, Legal Aid reps, Legal Services reps and a CPA. Members brought many issues and suggested child support revisions to the table.
- B) Task Force's Recommendations to Revise Electronic Worksheets – At the last meeting, issues were narrowed down to 23 recommendations. Jill went over all 23 issues (see handout) and Commission members approved accumulatively. However, item number 23, the EZ Manual Form, was approved with recommendation of further revisions to make even more concise than presented. Jill stated that not all revisions would be immediate due to the complexity, time involved and funding required; however, she will keep Commission members apprised of changes as they occur.

III) Statute Review Subcommittee

- A) Report on the Status of Senate Bill 483 – Judge Louisa Abbot stated that following the last full Commission meeting in February, all changes approved for revisions were submitted before the legislature and passed both houses and was signed by Governor Perdue on May 7, 2008. Effective date of revisions will be July 1, 2008.

- B) Meeting Notice of Next Statute Review Subcommittee – Judge Abbot stated that the next Statute Review Subcommittee meeting is planned for August 21, 2008. She commended Judge Bernes for making progress on low income deviation issues and stated that suggestions for changes would be brought before the Commission soon after the August 21 meeting.

Chairman Harp asked that the Statute Review Subcommittee obtain the assistance of Jill Travis, Legislative Counsel, to have suggestions in legislative format so that the Commission can move quickly with the suggestions.

IV) Low Income Deviation Study Committee

- A) Report and Status of the Study Committee – Jill Radwin gave the report at the request of Judge Bernes. The Low Income Deviation Committee has met twice this year. The committee has expanded to include additional superior court judges and a private family law attorney. She stated that there was such diverse and difference of opinions regarding issues/concerns about the low income awards and the low income deviation provision that at this second follow up meeting, Judge Bernes encouraged the members to try and reconcile the various issues into a consensus of needed revisions to the low income deviation provision.
- B) Next Steps - At the May 2, 2008, meeting issues were identified and defined by members. Committee members were asked to submit any suggestions regarding revisions of the low income deviation provision to Jill Radwin by May 21, 2008. Following receipt of any changes, Jill will submit the suggestions to the rest of the Low Income Deviation Study Committee members for their comments. The Low Income Deviation Committee will meet again on July 11, 2008, to approve final changes to submit before the Statute Review Subcommittee.

Representative Lindsey asked that the group consider governmental benefits that the child and/or custodial household receives when reviewing changes and that the committee provide greater definition to the courts what are considered as benefits to assist the courts with discretionary findings.

Chairman Harp stated that there needs to be better directives to the courts regarding judicial discretion in the guidelines.

- V) **New Business** – Chairman Harp asked if there was any new business. With none stated the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.
- VI) **Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting will be determined following the Statute Review Subcommittee meeting in August.