

**Georgia Child Support Commission Meeting**  
**April 23, 2021**  
**Meeting Summary**

The following Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) members were present at the Child Support Commission meeting held virtually via Zoom videoconferencing on Friday, April 23, 2021:

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair  
Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes  
Charles C. “Chuck” Clay, Esq.  
Kathleen B. Connell, Esq.  
Rep. Houston Gaines

Judge Lisa Jones  
Judge Emory Palmer  
Regina Quick, Esq.  
Dr. Roger Tutterow

**Welcome, Housekeeping, Introductions, Commission Member Updates:**

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order and mentioned hoping that the next Commission meeting can be a “hybrid meeting” for those who can and want to attend in person, and there will also be a virtual option for those who want to attend remotely.

Judge Key recognized Superior Court Judge Connie L. Williford, a new appointee to the Commission who attended the meeting but who has not yet been sworn in.

Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, conducted the roll call to determine whether a quorum was present. Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez confirmed that nine Commission members were present and that a quorum to conduct business was established.

Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, gave instructions for attendees to indicate they wish to speak, including giving public comment, during this virtual meeting.

Judge Key informed all that Wendy Williamson had submitted her resignation from the Commission.

**Review and Approval of Minutes from December 4, 2020 Commission Meeting**

Chuck Clay made a motion to approve without changes the meeting minutes from the Commission’s 12/4/2020 meeting which were previously circulated by staff. Judge Palmer seconded. Those minutes were unanimously approved.

**Revisions to Commission Bylaws**

Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez reviewed staff-recommended edits to the Commission’s bylaws to clean up typographical and word choice errors as well as some substantive updates. This issue was also thoroughly discussed during the 12/4/2020 Commission meeting and all Commission members were encouraged to follow up with staff with any questions or further revisions. No Commission members made any further suggested revisions to the bylaws between the 12/4/2020 meeting and this meeting. Suggested substantive edits to the bylaws were discussed. Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez shared her screen to show the “track changes” version of the bylaws and pertinent parts of the Commission’s enabling statute. The revised bylaws were unanimously approved.

**Update on Recent Court of Appeals Opinion**

Public comment was made during the 12/4/2020 Commission meeting calling the Commission’s attention to Georgia Court of Appeals case, Cousin v Tubbs, A20A2050. Since the last meeting, an opinion in that case was issued. Staff attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, updated the Commission on that opinion.

### **Review of Commission Subcommittee Assignments**

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, reviewed the current members of the Commission's three standing subcommittees. Judge Key asked for volunteers to join any of the subcommittees.

### **Changes to Uniform Superior Court Rules regarding Income Deduction Order**

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, reviewed the status of USCR changes regarding income deduction orders. Changes to USCR 24.11 were approved on 2/25/21 by the Council of Superior Court Judges. There was a second reading of proposed USCR 24.12 by the Council of Superior Court Judges at their Rules meeting on 1/19/2021, which would update the IDO court order form.

### **Status of Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee**

Chair Kathleen Connell advised that the work of the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee continues. She anticipates that this study committee will provide a recommendation to the Commission by the end of 2021.

### **Update of Economic Subcommittee**

Chair Dr. Roger Tutterow advised that the next economic study of Georgia's Child Support Guidelines/BCSO Table will be in 2022. In preparation, this Subcommittee will convene meetings in 2021 that will include "listening sessions" to hear public comments. Dr. Tutterow addressed the likely cost of the economic study and the basic process for case sampling to ensure that cases reviewed in the economic study are representative of all of Georgia.

### **Child Support Guidelines and Calculator Online Training**

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, reported that Staff has been providing online training 1-2 times per month. The training is approved for 1 hour of CLE for attorneys and 1 hour of CE credit for registered neutrals. Trainings have been very well attended and received. Training videos for parents/self-represented litigants have been recorded by staff and are now on the Commission's website for use by anyone at any time. Staff is working on recording a training video that was specifically requested by DHS/DCSS.

### **Status of Appointment of Superior Court Judges**

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, reported that the Commission has submitted the names of two Superior Court Judges—Judge Alison T. Burlison of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit and Judge Lisa Colbert of the Eastern Judicial Circuit—to fill the remaining Superior Court judge vacancy on the Commission.

### **Report on 50/50 Joint Physical Custody & "Split Parenting" Issues**

Staff attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, reported on feedback she has received anecdotally from judges and attorneys that 50/50 joint physical custody is trending upward in Georgia. Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez also made the Commission aware of HB 96 that was introduced during the 2021 Georgia Legislative Session, but that did not pass during session, which would make 50/50 joint physical custody a rebuttable presumption in child custody disputes between parents. Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez noted that she receives questions from attorneys during every child support calculator training about exactly how child support should be calculated in 50/50 joint physical custody cases.

### **Public Comments**

The Commission heard comments from several members of the public all of whom identified themselves as non-custodial parents. Each speaker was afforded approximately 5-7 minutes of speaking time.