

**Georgia Commission on Child Support
Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee
Kathleen Connell, Esq., Chair**

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Meeting Summary

The Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee (“Study Committee”) of the Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this meeting via videoconferencing using Zoom. Kathleen (“Katie”) Connell, Chair of the Subcommittee, called the meeting to order and welcomed the 11 Study Committee members, including herself, who attended as well as the nine guests who attended this open meeting. Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, and, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, served as staff for the meeting.

Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez acknowledged that no quorum existed. There are 27 members of this Study Committee and only 11 were present. To establish a quorum, 14 members are required. Katie Connell suggested that a vote on meeting minutes from the May 2021 Study Committee Meeting be conducted via email. Staff confirmed that they would do so in compliance with the Commission’s Bylaws.

Study Committee members discussed a document memorializing the Study Committee’s charge and objectives. Discussion focused on the second bullet of that document and Katie Connell advised she would edit that bullet and raise it for discussion at a future meeting.

Study Committee members confirmed their interest in discussing with attorneys from other states how parenting time is addressed in those other states. Practitioners from six states (Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, Nevada, Tennessee, and Virginia) were identified and Study Committee members volunteered to contact them when appropriate in the future. Study Committee members, Sarah Mauldin, and Carol Walker, agreed to review and consolidate a list of questions for those attorneys based on a first draft of questions compiled by staff, with contributions from Study Committee members Patricia Buonodono and Johanna Kiehl.

Katie Connell acknowledged that the chronic absences of several members of the Study Committee are impacting the work of the Study Committee by denying the Study Committee their contributions and perspective, and by thwarting the ability to reach quorum. Study Committee members discussed this issue. Katie Connell asked Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez to draft a letter on Commission letterhead for her to sign and mail to chronically absent Study Committee members addressing this issue. Ms. Connell’s office will handle a hard copy and electronic mailing of that letter.

To ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act, staff suggested discussing and setting the dates for the next several meetings. It was discussed and meetings were set for Wednesday, August 25, 2021, Wednesday, September 15, 2021, and Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 1:30-3pm on each of those days.