

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

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

1:30 p.m.

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. Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for the meeting.

Kathleen “Katie” Connell, Chair of the Study Committee, was unable to attend this meeting due to a child custody emergency and asked Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez to chair the meeting in her stead. Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and explained the Chair’s absence. Thirteen (13) Study Committee members and six (6) guests attended this open meeting. Study Committee members in attendance were:

William Alexander	Mindy Pillow
Pat Buonodono	Mark Rogers
Byron Cuthbert	Jamie Rush
Judge Warren Davis	Wayne Slear
Adam Gleklen	Charles Spinardi
Johanna Kiehl	Carol Walker
Jill Massey	

After an initial lack of quorum, a quorum of 13 of the 24 members was established. Pat Buonodono moved to approve the minutes of the Study Committee’s August 25, 2021, meeting and that Motion was seconded by Johanna Kiehl. That motion was unanimously approved by voice vote with no abstentions.

Study Committee member, Pat Buonodono, gave a report on her conversation with a seasoned family law attorney in Virginia. She noted several points from her in depth conversation with him. Mark Rogers noted that he thinks that Virginia’s parenting time adjustment is not economically sound.

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, asked that all the Study Committee members who spoke with practitioners in other states submit to staff written answers to the 20 questions they asked.

Study Committee Chair, Katie Connell, was able to join the call briefly and gave a report on her call with a practitioner in Minnesota. Her biggest take-away from that conversation was that Minnesota originally had a “cliff effect” in its statute. After that caused increased litigation for several years, Minnesota changed its statute to remedy that situation.

Next, Study Committee member, Carol Walker, gave her report on her conversation with a practitioner from Tennessee who has been practicing for a long time, since before Tennessee switched to an income shares model for child support. She noted it was especially interesting to speak with a practitioner from Tennessee because Georgia’s child support guidelines statute was modeled on Tennessee’s. She noted that a parenting time adjustment is allowed once a non-custodial parent has custody of the child for at least 94 days and that this has not caused an increase in litigation or much confrontation between parents.

Johanna Kiehl gave the final report of the day based on her conversation with a practitioner in New Jersey who attended Emory Law School and practiced in Georgia for a few years before moving north. Ms. Kiehl noted several details including that the threshold for a parenting time adjustment starts at 28% parenting time, not including holidays and vacations. She also noted that 50/50 joint physical custody is rare in New Jersey, but most families at least reach the 28% threshold.

Staff noted that the next Study Committee meeting will be on October 6, 2021. Study Committee members discussed possible dates for future meetings and the meeting was adjourned.