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

Friday, December 3, 2021 12:00 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 webinar. Study Committee members in attendance were:

Kathleen "Katie" Connell, Chair
Adam Gleklen
Johanna Kiehl
Sarah Mauldin

Jamie Rush
Charles Spinardi
Carol Walker

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for the meeting. Legislative counsel, Holly Carter, also attended. This meeting was open to the public and three members of the public attended.

Katie Connell asked if a quorum was present, and Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez advised that a quorum of Study Committee members was not present. Katie Connell directed staff to seek approval of the meeting minutes from the November 15, 2021, Study Committee meeting via e-vote. Johanna Kiehl asked that when those minutes are circulated for approval, to please also circulate the exhibits mentioned in those minutes. Carol Walker asked for specific statutory language related to Tennessee's definition of parenting time from her report given on November 15, 2021, be added to those minutes. Staff advised they would edit those minutes accordingly.

Study Committee members discussed a one-page written suggestion submitted by Study Committee member, Pat Buonodono, and circulated to all Study Committee members by staff prior to this meeting. Unfortunately, Ms. Buonodono was unable to attend the meeting and report on her written suggestion due to an unavoidable conflict.

Study Committee member, Adam Gleklen, agreed to contact a Florida practitioner about that state's threshold on when to account for parenting time.

Sarah Mauldin noted that she would add the pertinent statutory language on parenting time for each state in the "State Notes" compilation that she has been assembling.

Johanna Kiehl noted that she would reach out to a Legal Aid lawyer in Minnesota to follow up on some issues for the Committee.

Noting that this Study Committee is authorized by the Child Support Commission through the end of 2021, Chair Katie Connell opened a discussion on next steps for this Study Committee. Carol Walker recommended looking at a final report by Minnesota's Child Support Work Group as an excellent model of a final report that this Study Committee could produce. Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, shared her screen to show the Study Committee a draft Final Report to the Commission that staff had compiled to summarize the work of this Study Committee over the last three years. Some Study Committee members did not agree with all the items listed in a section of that draft report titled, "hot topics discussed at Study Committee meetings." Staff noted that this is a work in progress and that section was added so as not to "lose" any important topics Study Committee members may want included in a final report to the Commission.

Katie Connell explained that at this point, this Study Committee could hand off its work to the Commission's Statute Review Committee, for which Ms. Connell also serves as Chair. Carol Walker voiced concerns about handing this work off to the Statute Review Subcommittee at this time. Several Study Committee members voiced the desire to continue the work of this Study Committee to reach consensus and present the Child Support Commission with a single recommendation. Chair Katie Connell noted that at the Child Support Commission meeting scheduled for Friday, December 10, 2021, she would seek for an extension of this Study Committee with the hopes of wrapping up work within the first quarter of 2022. Since an extension to authorize this Study Committee past December 31, 2021, will be requested on December 10, 2021, no next meeting date for this Study Committee was set at this meeting.

This meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.