

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

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Summary

The Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee (“Study Committee”) of the Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this hybrid meeting in person at the State Bar building in Atlanta and via videoconferencing using Zoom webinar. Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for the meeting.

Seven (7) guests attended this open meeting via Zoom. Seven (7) Study Committee members attended in total, five via Zoom and two in person. Study Committee members in attendance were:

Pat Buonodono	Byron Cuthbert	Johanna Kiehl	Jill Massey
Sarah Mauldin	Charles Spinardi	Carol Walker	

Chair Katie Connell joined via Zoom at the start of the meeting, but within just a few minutes, had to excuse herself due to an ill child. A quorum of Study Committee members was never achieved and toward the end of the meeting, Study Committee member Carol Walker moved to hold an e-vote on the approval of minutes from the Study Committee’s meeting on March 10, 2022, which was seconded by Study Committee member Johanna Kiehl. Staff will handle conducting the e-vote.

In working toward a final report to provide to the Commission no later than this Study Committee’s end date of April 30, 2022, the Study Committee members continued to discuss their recommendations for how Georgia should handle parenting time in the calculation of child support. Specifically, the Study Committee talked through a draft final report to the Commission, which the primary drafter, study committee member Carol Walker, refers to as the summary document. Carol Walker gave an overview of that document, and the Study Committee started off discussing the “non-consensus” section.

Study Committee member Johanna Kiehl presented on her ideas and recommendations. One of Johanna Kiehl’s recommendations focuses on how to calculate the amount of parenting time in a case, and a good bit of discussion focused on that topic with Study Committee member Pat Buonodono raising concern over possible confusion caused by Johanna’s use of the word “holiday” in that recommendation.

Study Committee member Carol Walker asked whether all meeting minutes from all Study Committee meetings should be included as an appendix to the Study Committee’s final

report. Staff attorney Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez's response was that providing all meeting minutes in an appendix was not likely needed for several reasons: (1) all Study Committee meeting minutes are available permanently on the Commission's website, (2) such an appendix would be quite voluminous given the approximately 20 meetings held by this Study Committee, and (3) the minutes are organized by date—not subject matter—so that providing all minutes on a chronological basis would not necessarily be helpful to the readers of the report. Study Committee member Pat Buonodono offered a great middle-solution, noting that the report could provide the URL link to help those looking to review meeting minutes.

Next, the Study Committee discussed whether there should be a threshold amount of parenting time before a parenting time adjustment is applied. After that, they discussed the idea of having a “box to check” within the child support calculator for judges to use if parenting time has been ordered, but the judge does not think that parenting time will be exercised.

Following that, Carol Walker asked if there were any thoughts on the section of the draft report that addresses court-ordered parenting time. None were offered.

Next, the Study Committee discussed the four recommendations that are important, but that are “outside the scope” of this Study Committee. Study Committee member Sarah Mauldin suggested adding the idea of adopting new terminology in lieu of “custodial parent” and “noncustodial parent” to that list to make it five such recommendations.

Then, the Study Committee took up the topic of how much to include in the “process” section of the final report. The Study Committee plans to work collaboratively over the next few weeks to come up with a final draft of the final report. It was suggested that the final report be voted on by e-vote prior to the next meeting in case there is a lack of quorum at that meeting. Study Committee member Carol Walker is charged with keeping the working draft of the final report.

The next—and what is anticipated to be the last—Study Committee meeting will be a hybrid meeting held in person at the State Bar Building in Atlanta and virtually via Zoom on Monday April 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.