

**Georgia Child Support Commission  
Statute Review Subcommittee  
Kathleen Connell, Esq., Co-Chair  
Hon. Connie Williford, Co-Chair  
Friday, June 23, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

The Statute Review Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) held this meeting via Zoom Webinar. Nine (9) Subcommittee members attended this meeting. The Subcommittee members in attendance were:

Kathleen “Katie” Connell, Esq.	Hon. Connie Williford	Mara Block, Esq.
Pat Buonodono, Esq.	Byron Cuthbert, Esq.	Jason Naunas, Esq.
Hon. Emory Palmer	Regina Quick, Esq.	Christina Scott, J.D.

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for this meeting. Several members of other Georgia Child Support Commission Subcommittees or Study Committees joined this meeting as panelists and members of the public attended this open meeting.

Co-Chair Katie Connell opened the meeting. Latoinna Lawrence gave a brief reminder of Zoom etiquette details for this meeting along with a reminder that public comments can be made anytime through the Commission’s website or during any full Commission meeting. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez confirmed a quorum of nine (9) of the fourteen (14) Subcommittee members was present. Co-Chair Katie Connell noted that the minutes of the Subcommittee’s May 19, 2023, meeting were previously distributed. No edits to those minutes were requested. The minutes were unanimously approved. Co-Chair Williford thanked staffed for their work on a presentation that she and Co-Chair Katie Connell gave at the beginning of the month at the Family Law Institute.

Judge Palmer led a discussion on alternatives to Georgia’s current Low-Income Deviation. Dr. Jane Venohr presented on whether Utah’s low-income adjustment could be a good fit for Georgia. Judge Palmer voiced his support for the Utah approach. Attendees asked questions of Dr. Venohr and generally discussed issues around this topic especially at what income threshold a low-income table should begin. Judge Palmer asked Dr. Venohr to develop a low-income table that starts at a noncustodial parent income of \$1,500 per month. The Subcommittee also discussed whether the proposed low-income table should be used in comparison with Georgia’s BCSO table or after the additional expenses of health insurance premiums and work-related childcare have been included.

At approximately 11:00 a.m., the Subcommittee changed gears to focus on alternatives to Georgia’s Parenting Time Deviation. There was a discussion around how to calculate the amount of parenting time each parent has, especially if a noncustodial parent has parenting time on the

1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> weekends of the month and the lack of a statewide “standard” amount of parenting time. Dr. Venohr talked the Subcommittee through various parenting time formulas, specifically the “cross credit” method that is used by many states, the Michigan/Minnesota formula, and the Oregon approach. Dr. Venohr raised the issue of split parenting and encouraged the Subcommittee to look at the statutory language from Arizona.

Latoinna Lawrence presented results from the Public Survey on changing the terms Custodial Parent and Noncustodial Parent for the period of May 16-31, 2023. Thus far, the public has voted to keep the terms the same, Custodial and Noncustodial Parent. At the next meeting, Latoinna will report the cumulative results.

The Subcommittee briefly discussed the use of the term obligor throughout Georgia’s Child Support Guidelines Statute, O.C.G.A 19-6-15.

Subcommittee member, Mara Block, noted that this would be her last meeting and the Chairs thanked her for her work and contributions to the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee’s next meeting will take place via Zoom, on July 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. All agenda items that were not addressed today will carry to the next meeting. This meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.