

**Georgia Child Support Commission
Statute Review Subcommittee
Kathleen Connell, Esq., Co-Chair
Hon. Connie Williford, Co-Chair
Friday, July 21, 2023
2:00 p.m.**

Meeting Summary

The Statute Review Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) held this meeting via Zoom Webinar. Four (4) Subcommittee members attended this meeting, including a recently appointed member, Sarah Austin, who replaces Mara Block as a representative for the Legal Aid community. The Subcommittee members in attendance were:

Hon. Connie Williford
Sarah Austin, Esq.

Pat Buonodono, 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 also attended this open meeting.

Co-Chair Judge Connie Williford opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. 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. Judge Williford noted that the minutes of the Subcommittee’s June 23, 2023, meeting were previously distributed. No edits to those minutes were requested, however, a quorum was not present. Accordingly, an e-vote on the minutes from the last meeting will be conducted.

Judge Williford led a discussion around the pros and cons of various formulas to use when accounting for parenting time in calculating child support and almost the entire meeting was dedicated to that topic. Dr. Jane Venohr presented from a memo she drafted dated July 17, 2023, to illustrate: (1) the cross-credit method with a 1.5, 1.6, 1.65, and 1.7 multiplier (2) the Minnesota/Michigan formula with exponents of 2, 2.5, and 3, and (3) the Oregon formula. When discussing the cross-credit method, Dr. Venohr explained that the only way to avoid a cliff effect is to use a calculation that would compare two worksheets. As to the Minnesota/Michigan formula, Dr. Venohr stated that if Georgia decides to adopt that formula, she’d recommend an exponent of 2. Judge Williford asked for her rationale for that recommendation and Dr. Venohr explained that an exponent of 3 would not give the noncustodial parent enough credit for his or her expenses.

The Subcommittee also discussed developing a calculator to help parents determine the amount of parenting time they each have and discussed how to define increments of parenting time.

Latoinna Lawrence gave a brief update on the public survey about changing the terms custodial and non-custodial parent. To date, a majority of survey respondents prefer to retain the terms custodial and noncustodial parent.

The Statute Review Subcommittee will meet again on August 18, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., and on September 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., both via Zoom. The next full Child Support Commission meeting will take place on August 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. as a hybrid meeting on Zoom and at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center.

This meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.