

**Georgia Child Support Commission
Commission Meeting
Judge R. Michael Key, Chair
Friday, August 23, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

The Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) held a hybrid meeting, taking place at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center in Atlanta, Georgia and via Zoom Webinar. Eight (8) Commission members attended. The Commission members in attendance were:

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair
Judge Lisa Jones
Christina Scott, J.D.

Chuck Clay, Esq.
Judge Benjamin Land
Dr. Roger Tutterow

Kathleen B. Connell, Esq.
Regina Quick, Esq.

Program Manager, Kurt Bryan, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for this meeting. Several members of the public also attended this open meeting via Zoom.

Chair Key opened the meeting, welcoming all. Chair Key acknowledged the passing of Deborah Johnson, Esq., a long-serving member of multiple subcommittees and study committees, and posthumously extended the Commission’s gratitude for her many years of dedicated service. Latoinna Lawrence reviewed procedures for the efficient handling of this hybrid meeting.

A quorum of eight (8) out of fifteen (15) Commission members was established. Chair Key noted that minutes from the April 19, 2024, Commission meeting had been previously distributed to all members. No corrections to those minutes were requested and they were unanimously approved.

Kurt Bryan provided an update for the Economic Subcommittee. The Subcommittee last met on August 11, 2023, and the Subcommittee’s recommended new Rothbarth-based Basic Child Support Obligation Table (“BCSO Table”) was successfully implemented into Georgia’s child support calculator on July 1, 2024 at 12:00 midnight per SB 454. The Economic Subcommittee has no future meetings scheduled at this time, but will ramp back up in 2025 in anticipation of the 2026 Economic Study.

Katie Connell provided an update from the Statute Review Subcommittee and spoke specifically on the impact from implementation of SB 454. Katie advised that there has been much positive feedback regarding the statutory changes and has answered questions from stakeholders as

needed. She spoke about the educational campaign conducted by herself, Judge Williford, and Commission staff regarding the July 1, 2024, statutory changes. There was extensive discussion regarding the usage of the parenting time adjustment formula to determine a parenting time deviation amount prior to January 1, 2026. Judge Land brought up a concern regarding messaging, noting that since it is not current law, orders may be subject to appeal if the Commission's message is that the parenting time adjustment formula is mandatory. Judge Land wanted it specified that the usage of the parenting time adjustment formula as a deviation is not required by the Commission. Katie Connell noted that the findings of fact should accompany the deviation. A consensus was reached that the Commission supports, but does not require, the usage of the parenting time adjustment formula as found in SB 454 to determine a parenting time deviation amount until the parenting time adjustment becomes effective on January 1, 2026 and will post a tool to use that formula to the Commission website with an instructive disclaimer. Commission staff will draft language for a disclaimer and present it to the Commission for approval via e-vote. The Statute Review Subcommittee's next scheduled meeting will be held on September 10, 2024.

Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez provided a brief update regarding general feedback received on SB 454. She noted that there had been concerns regarding calculator users having to figure out and estimate the number of parenting time days parents will have with children. She noted that Commission staff will work to have a tool embedded within the calculator to assist parents with calculating parenting time days. She also noted that some practitioners had expressed concerns about having a high-income deviation. Katie Connell noted that this will be brought up in the upcoming Statute Review Subcommittee.

Regina Quick provided an update for the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee. The Subcommittee last met on June 12, 2024. There was a successful implementation of the 2 (two) previously approved changes to the calculator for the Schedule A radio button and the Juvenile Court case styling, along with the statutory changes from SB 454. Regina noted that there have been no reported issues with the roll-out of the calculator changes. There will be ongoing work on the parenting time adjustment and the low-income adjustment, with the next meeting expected on September 13, 2024. Discussion on the calculator modernization project and the expected deployment is set for later this year. Kurt Bryan noted that testing for the new calculator should commence in late September 2024.

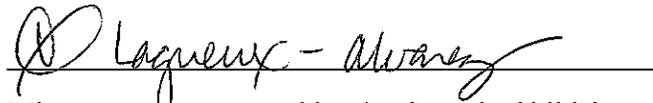
Chair Key and Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez spoke about permanency plan deviations and dependency cases in Juvenile Court. The propriety of ordering child support in dependency cases was brought up at the May Council of Juvenile Court Judges Conference. Chair Key discussed how the ordering of child support can impact reunification and the time to permanency in cases involving the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS), and suggested the Commission take a closer look at this topic to see if the Commission may need to make legislative policy changes. Regina Quick noted the statutory requirements found in O.C.G.A. 19-11-6 regarding a parent's assignment of rights to DFCS.

There were no public comments from attendees.

The next Commission Meeting is set to be held on November 22, 2024, as a hybrid meeting, in person and via Zoom Webinar.

This meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Reviewed by: Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, Staff Attorney

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez", is written over a horizontal line.

Minutes were approved by the Georgia Child Support

Commission by an e-vote on 12/09/2024