

Georgia Child Support Commission
Commission Meeting
Judge R. Michael Key, Chair
Judge Connie Williford, Vice-Chair
Friday, March 21, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Georgia Child Support Commission ("Commission") held a hybrid meeting 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	Judge Connie Williford	Kathleen B. Connell, Esq.
Judge Benjamin Land	Regina Quick, Esq.	Dr. Roger Tutterow
Judge Lisa Jones	Chuck Clay, Esq.	

Program Manager, Kurt Bryan, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Lazaro Quintanilla, served as staff for this meeting. A member of the public was present for the meeting. Judge Key warmly welcomed all who joined the meeting. Judge Key also made note of some new staffing changes. He asked Lazaro Quintanilla to introduce himself as the new Program Coordinator. Judge Key also generously thanked Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez for her service as Staff Attorney, as she will be transitioning into the role of Division Director for the AOC's Communications, Children, Families, and the Courts Division. Lazaro Quintanilla 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 November 22, 2024, Commission meeting had been previously distributed to all members. No corrections to those minutes were requested and they were unanimously approved.

Dr. Roger Tutterow provided an update for the Economic Subcommittee. That Subcommittee last met on August 11, 2023. In 2025, the process for beginning the 2026 Economic Study will commence. Subcommittee members Chuck Clay, Jill Massey, and Dr. Tutterow will create a timeline of events in the upcoming weeks. They will also hold public listening sessions to receive feedback from the public before moving forward with the next steps of developing the 2026 Economic Study.

Katie Connell provided an update from the Statute Review Subcommittee. That Subcommittee last met on March 18, 2025. At that meeting, the Subcommittee discussed the 7% test in the deviation for extraordinary expenses for child-rearing, with the possibility of handling expenses for child rearing outside of the worksheet. The Subcommittee also reviewed the possibility of adding guidance to the high-income deviation regarding how to determine an economically sound deviation amount and whether the costs of dental and vision premiums

(currently being calculated differently than medical expenses) should be moved from Schedule E to Schedule D. Judge Key tasked the Subcommittee to further discuss and research these topics for further discussion amongst the Commission and to possibly introduce future legislation to amend O.C.G.A. 19-6-15.

The Statute Review Subcommittee also discussed whether the Commission has the authority to issue an advisory opinion. The previous discussion arose from the issue of whether the introduction of the Parenting Time Adjustment accounted for a substantial change in circumstance that could allow for a modification of a child support order. While it has been determined that there is no prohibition on the creation of an advisory opinion by the Commission, no decision was taken to approve the creation of an advisory opinion as there is still more discussion to be had on the issue, as well as more options to be considered about how to resolve the issue of whether the new Parenting Time Adjustment accounts as a substantial change in circumstance that would warrant a modification of a child support order. Legislative Counsel will research the matter of an advisory opinion and provide an update to the Commission at a later date.

Regina Quick provided an update for the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee. That Subcommittee last met on October 18, 2024. The calculator modernization project continues to move forward. Commission staff has been working on testing the new calculator, while the IT team works on the data migration process. IT Project lead, Kristy King, provided an update. Kristy stated the data migration will take a few more weeks to complete. She ensured the project is within budget and that after some more testing, the launch of the new calculator should occur in April 2025.

Subcommittee assignments were discussed by Judge Key. Commission staff has worked to have all subcommittee members reaffirm their commitment to their respective subcommittee assignments. Staff sent out the updated subcommittee roster list on December 30. Kurt Bryan noted that Pat Buonodono is the only change in Subcommittee assignments. Pat Buonodono has had to resign her position on the Statute Review Subcommittee.

Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez presented an update on the proposed changes to Uniform Superior Court Rules 24.11 and 24.12. She reported that those proposed changes have passed the Council of Superior Court Judges. The proposed changes are currently under a formatting review and afterwards, will go to the Supreme Court of Georgia for a final review.

Judge Key updated the Commission on new business as it pertains to the permanency plan deviation and dependency cases. The Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) and Division of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) have introduced new policies pertaining to the referral process for children within the foster care system. Commission staff was asked to share with Judge Brunt these policies from DFCS and DCSS so that Judge Brunt may share the policies with the Dependency Committee of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges (CJCJ). Ultimately, however, CJCJ is unable to give an opinion on this issue due to ethical proprietary concerns. Judge Key will talk to the Dependency Committee of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges about the issues surrounding child support and dependency cases.

A member of the public was present to deliver comments. After the comments were heard, Judge Key requested Commission staff to distribute the comments to all Commission members. The Commission staff was tasked with reviewing the comments and informing the Commission members of any action items that fall within the responsibility of the Commission.

The next Commission Meeting is set to be held on August 1, 2025, as a hybrid meeting, in person and via Zoom Webinar.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Reviewed by: JoAnna Deering, Staff Attorney



**Minutes were approved by the Georgia Child Support
Commission during a scheduled meeting on 08/01/2025**