



GEORGIA CHILD SUPPORT COMMISSION

Honorable R. Michael Key, Commission Chair
Honorable Connie L. Williford, Commission Vice-Chair

July 10th, 2026

Statement from the Georgia Child Support **Commission - Senate Bill 454**

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The Georgia Child Support Commission recognizes that changes to child support laws can have significant impacts on families and that reasonable people may have differing views about those changes. Child support decisions affect parents and, most importantly, children, making these issues among the most challenging and emotionally charged in family law.

The Commission's role is not to advocate for mothers or fathers. By statute, the Commission studies child support, reviews economic data, evaluates practices in other states, and makes recommendations to the General Assembly that promote fair, consistent, and economically sound child support guidelines in the best interests of Georgia's children.

The parenting time adjustment adopted by the General Assembly was the result of more than five years of study by the Commission, including public and judicial surveys, a review of all 50 states' approaches, consultation with nationally recognized child support economists, and extensive input from judges, attorneys, child support professionals, and other stakeholders. The adjustment recognizes that when children spend substantial court-ordered parenting time with both parents, both households incur day-to-day expenses. It replaces Georgia's previous discretionary parenting time deviation with a transparent, standardized calculation designed to promote greater consistency and predictability in child support determinations.

Senate Bill 454 also modernizes how Georgia's guidelines address low-income parents by replacing the discretionary Low-Income Deviation with a standardized Low-Income Adjustment. Developed after extensive study and public comment, the new adjustment establishes clear limits on child support obligations based on adjusted gross income, making relief more predictable, improving consistency across cases, and ensuring compliance with federal requirements that child support guidelines consider the subsistence needs of low-income parents.

The Commission recognizes that no child support system will produce the same outcome in every case, and reasonable people may disagree with individual results. Parenting time adjustments are based on court-ordered parenting schedules, and Georgia courts continue to have the discretion to

deviate from the presumptive child support amount when appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

The Commission remains committed to monitoring the implementation of Georgia's child support guidelines, reviewing data as required by law, and recommending improvements when warranted. As always, its focus is on developing child support policies that are fair, evidence-based, and serve the best interests of Georgia's children.