

**Georgia Child Support Commission
Statute Review Subcommittee
Kathleen Connell, Esq., Co-Chair
Hon. Connie Williford, Co-Chair
Friday, September 25, 2026, 2:00 p.m.**

Meeting Summary

The Statute Review Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) held this meeting via Zoom. Seven (7) Subcommittee members attended this meeting, and there was a quorum. Judge Lisa Colbert, Child Support Commission member, and Holly Carter, Legislative Counsel, also participated in the meeting for discussion purposes. The Subcommittee members in attendance were:

Judge Connie Williford, Co-Chair
Regina Quick, Esq.
Sarah Austin, Esq.
Shawnita Goosby, Esq.

Byron Cuthbert, Esq.
Katie Connell, Esq., Co-Chair
Christina Scott, J.D.

Program Manager, Kurt Bryan, Staff Attorney, JoAnna P. Deering, and Program Coordinator, Lazaro Quintanilla, served as staff for the meeting. Several Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) employees and members of the public also attended the meeting. Co-Chair Judge Williford opened the meeting, and Lazaro Quintanilla reviewed procedures for handling the virtual meeting.

Once a quorum was established, Katie Connell proposed that the Subcommittee vote on the drafted minutes from the 07/18/25 meeting. Sarah Austin motioned to approve, and Christina Scott seconded the motion. The Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Katie Connell began the discussion about the Commission’s previously approved changes to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15 regarding the removal of the 7% test in the deviation for special expenses for child rearing, expressly providing that extraordinary expenses for child rearing may be handled outside of the worksheet and moving dental and vision insurance from Schedule E to Schedule D in the child support worksheet. Staff Attorney JoAnna Deering had previously drafted the proposed language to amend O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15 in accordance thereto, and on January 19, 2026, Commission Staff requested a vote from the Commission to approve the language; the vote passed on January 23, 2026. The approved language was subsequently forwarded to Legislative Council, Holly Carter, for preparation of the proposed legislation.

Kurt Bryan moved the discussion towards adding a specific sentence to the prior drafted language to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15. The sentence reads, “This subsection does not limit the parties’ ability to enter into an enforceable agreement concerning extraordinary expenses, even when such

agreement does not include a Schedule E deviation.” This sentence was recommended to make it explicitly clear that extraordinary expenses may be handled outside of the worksheet. Clarification regarding the handling of extraordinary expenses outside of the worksheet was deemed necessary due to recent appellate court decisions that have held otherwise. Katie Connell, Judge Williford, Christina Scott, and Sarah Austin agreed with the intent of the proposed sentence but recommended that additional language be incorporated therein to specify that the court or jury may also handle extraordinary expenses outside of the worksheet. Accordingly, Commission Staff were directed to draft such proposed language, request approval by the Subcommittee, and provide the approved language to Holly Carter for inclusion in the drafted legislation. The expressed goal is to have the legislative language drafted and approved by the Subcommittee prior to the next Commission meeting on 10/30/26, so that the Commission may take a final vote on the proposed legislation at that meeting.

Judge Williford brought up the issue of identifying potential sponsors of the Commission’s bill for the upcoming 2027 legislative session. After Subcommittee members discussed various options for sponsorship, it was decided to approach Representative Chuck Efstration about sponsoring the bill and obtaining advice about getting it presented during the 2027 legislative session. Kurt Bryan then briefed Subcommittee members about the potential for additional changes to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15 arising from the Economic Subcommittee. Katie Connell and Judge Williford agreed that the Economic Subcommittee may add on to the Statute Review Subcommittee’s proposed legislation, if necessary, so long as it does not hinder the ability of the bill to be presented during the 2027 legislative session.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 P.M.