

Georgia Child Support Guidelines Commission Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2005

Chairman, Representative Earl Ehrhart

I. Welcome and Introductions

Representative Earl Ehrhart, Chairman of the Commission, called the Commission Meeting to order at @2:00pm. Commission Members reintroduced themselves, and members in attendance were as follows: Representative Earl Ehrhart; Judge Louisa Abbot; Judge Debra Bernes; Senator Seth Harp; Dr. Roger Tutterow ; Annetta Panatera; Senator Joseph Carter (via telephone); Chuck Clay (via telephone); Joy Hawkins (via telephone); Judge Tom Campbell (via telephone); Sadie Fields (via telephone); and Judge Quillian Baldwin (via telephone). Representative Ehrhart [hereinafter “Chairman Ehrhart”] introduced and complimented the work of the Commission Staff, staff from OCSE and members of the Family Law Section of the State Bar. This meeting was open to the public.

The minutes from the November 30, 2005 minutes were distributed to the Commission members. The members reviewed them, and a motion was made to approve and second the minutes. With no further discussion and objection, the minutes stand approved. However, it was later noted that attendees Joy Hawkins and Judge Tom Campbell did attend that meeting but their names were inadvertently omitted.

The meeting was open to the public.

II. Obligation Tables (Rep. Ehrhart)

A. Review and Adoption by Commission

III. Statute Review Recommendations (Judge Abbot)

A. December 13, 2005 Meeting Minutes (Jill will have to provide)

B. Remaining Specific Issues Approved by the Subcommittee

1. Theoretical Support

2. Revised Role of Jury

a. Child Support Enforcement Exception—not yet approved

3. Remove 7% Threshold from Special Expenses Deviation

C. Remaining Specific Issues Not Yet Approved (Jill will provide amendments and inserts, as well as new overall proposal.)

1. Self Support Reserve
2. Involuntary Loss of Income
3. Parenting Time Adjustment
4. Other Considerations
 - a. Duties of Commission
 - b. Name of the Commission
 - c. Revision to the Modification Subsection
 - d. Extraordinary Medical Expenses

IV. Forms Subcommittee Report and Presentation (Sen. Harp)

- A. Presentation by Cindy Moss, Deputy Director, OCSE regarding electronic calculator and two versions of worksheets and schedules

V. New Business or Agenda Items(Rep. Ehrhart)

VI. Final Report (Rep. Ehrhart/Jill Radwin)

- A. Discussion of Final Report, pursuant to duties of Commission as set forth §19-6-53.
 1. Outline of Proposed Final Report
 - a. Overall Report, signed by Commission Chair (one page)—while not a specific duty of the Commission, it is in line with the first duty of the Commission “to study and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of Georgia’s child support guidelines.” In addition, the issuance of a report is consistent with other previous Georgia Child Support Commissions
 - b. New Legislative Proposals followed by Section by Section Comments--§19-6-53 states: To make recommendations for proposed legislation.”
 - c. Obligation Table, followed by a report from Dr. Tutterow explaining the Economists’ Review and can also include PSI’s report (?)—This corresponds with §19-6-53: “To create and recommend to the General Assembly a child support obligation table consistent with Code Section 19-6-15...After reviewing the commission’s report, the General Assembly shall consider and approve by joint resolution the initial child support obligation table...”
 - d. Worksheets--§19-6-53 states, “To develop and publish the child support obligation table and worksheets associated with the use of such table. There will be a second set of worksheets which will go into an appendix. The second set are based on HB 221, as passed.

- e. Case Sampling—pursuant to federal regulations.
- f. Report of Anticipated Training—from Judge Key in line with the duty of the Commission to develop training materials and information to educate judges, attorneys and litigants...and to collaborate with ICLE and ICJE and other agencies.