

**Georgia Commission on Child Support
Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee Meeting
Kathleen Connell, Chair**

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Meeting Summary

The Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee (“Committee”) of the Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this meeting via videoconferencing using Zoom. Ms. Kathleen Connell, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed the Committee members who attended, staff who attended, as well as the guests who attended this open meeting.

The meeting minutes from the April 13, 2021, were previously furnished to the members, and with no changes recommended, the minutes were approved.

Staff attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez reviewed the Charge and Objectives document previously reviewed at the April 13, 2021, meeting of the Committee, and at the direction of the Chair, was edited by staff following the April meeting. Part A of the document was written by staff, while Part B was compiled with information furnished by Committee members Carol Walker and Johanna Kiehl.

Staff attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez and Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, shared information on the number of children annually born out of wedlock to Georgia mothers. They recommended the Committee consider how this factor may prevent fathers, who have not yet had the child legitimated as required by Georgia law, from including parenting time in their child support worksheets and orders.

Mr. David DeLugas, Executive Director and General Counsel, Parents USA, asked to speak to the Committee concerning parenting time and was included on the agenda for that purpose. Mr. DeLugas shared his concern that child support and parenting time should not be tied together in Georgia’s Child Support guidelines statute.

Ms. Connell asked Staff attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez to address next steps. Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez discussed the overarching methodologies of the 10 states reviewed and reported on five points the Committee should consider. She recommended the Committee reduce the number of states from 10 to five for continued in-depth study. The Committee agreed to reduce the number of states but decided to reduce the number to six states – Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, Nevada, Tennessee, and Virginia. Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez recommended the staff survey the Committee members on a list of questions that would help further the collection of information on the six state’s guidelines and their parenting time process. The final questions will be used to interview expert practitioners from the six states.

Ms. Connell asked that staff schedule the next meeting of the Committee after staff has created the series of questions to use in surveying experts from other states. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.