

**Georgia Commission on Child Support
Low-Income Deviation Work Group
Friday, August 27, 2021**

Meeting Summary

The Low-Income Deviation Work Group (“Work Group”) of the Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this meeting via videoconferencing using Zoom. Elaine Johnson, Executive Program Manager for the Commission, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed the ten Work Group members as well as the nine guests who attended this open meeting. Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, also served as staff for the meeting. Work Group members in attendance were:

Audrey Bergeson	Sabrina Rivers
Ryan Bradley	Jamie Rush
Barbara Briley	Liz Schriber
Shirley Champa	Kenneth Sleets
Deborah Johnson	Erica Thornton

Through screen sharing, Elaine Johnson started the meeting by giving a demonstration of how the low-income deviation currently functions in the calculator.

Following that demonstration, Ms. Johnson asked the Work Group for suggestions on how the child support calculator could be improved to make it more user friendly. Ryan Bradley said that in practice, when in court, most judges get to a number they want to order as a child support amount because of low-income considerations. However, the calculator asks for the deviation amount to be entered. He suggested having the judge or a party enter the amount they think child support should be—as long as it is above the statutory minimum for the low-income deviation—and let the calculator fill in the appropriate deviation amount. Deborah Johnson agreed with Ryan’s suggestion. Audrey Bergeson suggested offering both as an option—allowing people to request a deviation amount -OR- enter the amount they think child support should be. Deborah Johnson added that there should be a field in the calculator for the custodial parent to oppose the deviation. Deborah Johnson also suggested a tool within the calculator akin to the self-employment calculator to draw out of people the reasons why a low-income deviation may be appropriate. Liz Schriber shared an excel spreadsheet she had prepared and agreed for staff to circulate it to all members for future discussion.

Staff noted that the next Work Group meeting would be held on September 21, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.