

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

**Wednesday, August 25, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

The Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee (“Study Committee”) of the Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this meeting via videoconferencing using Zoom. Kathleen “Katie” Connell, Chair of the Study Committee, welcomed 14 Study Committee members, including herself, and eleven guests who attended this open meeting. Study Committee members in attendance were:

Katie Connell	William Alexander	Pat Buonodono
Byron Cuthbert	Judge Warren Davis	Johanna Kiehl
Jill Massey	Sarah Mauldin	Mindy Pillow
Mark Rogers	Jamie Rush	Wayne Slear
Charles Spinardi	Carol Walker	

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for the meeting.

Chair Katie Connell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Katie announced that she sent the members an email just prior to the start of this meeting and provided the new language for the second bullet in the Charge and Objectives document. Katie asked Latoinna to conduct roll call from the Zoom information. Katie reminded the members that during the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting we did not have quorum to vote on the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, which resulted in the need to conduct an e-vote on those minutes. Staff provided Katie the e-vote count – 14 “yes” votes, prior to this meeting. Katie reported that we did reach an e-vote quorum and the minutes from the May 20, 2021, meeting were approved.

Study Committee members continued their discussion on the Committee’s Charge and Objectives document by reviewing the content of the second bullet in Part A of the document, as edited by Katie Connell. The new “second bullet” content was offered as follows:

- Bearing in mind that there is no accounting for parenting time in Georgia’s Basic Child Support Obligation (BCSO) table, should there be a mandatory adjustment or a presumptive adjustment or a deviation (mandatory or presumptive) based on parenting time? If so, what should that adjustment or deviation look like? Ex. Embedded in the BCSO table, as a deviation, in a separate schedule, an adjustment to the presumptive amount of child support as in Schedule E or a presumptive deviation to the amount of child support based on parenting time?

A call for quorum was made by member Carol Walker. After an initial lack of quorum for this meeting, it was determined that 13 of the 24 members were present and quorum was established. Study Committee member, Wayne Slear, arrived after quorum was established, but was in attendance for the later part of the meeting.

With quorum established, Carol Walker moved to approve the version of the second bullet in part A of the Charge and Objectives document, as circulated by Chair Katie Connell to all Study Committee members by email on August 25, 2021. Mindy Pillow seconded the motion, and the revision was approved unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

Pat Buonodono moved to approve the minutes of the Study Committee's July 22, 2021, meeting and that Motion was seconded by Mark Rogers. That motion was unanimously approved by voice vote with no abstentions.

Chair Katie Connell thanked members Johanna Kiehl for her initial effort to synthesize the set of questions, and then thanked Sarah Mauldin and Carol Walker for their "bang-up job" in finalizing the set of questions to ask our out of state friends on their state's methodology on parenting time and how it is used in child support calculations. Those six states are: Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, Nevada, Tennessee, and Virginia. Katie opened the floor for the Committee to discuss the questions. Member Johanna Kiehl noted that question #9 and question #20 appeared redundant. Chair Connell agreed and said those calling to talk with out-of-state practitioners should skip one of those questions. Sarah Mauldin asked if the questions should be set up as a survey. Katie responded that she'd rather not create a survey as she believes that would be too limiting and not allow the easy ability to create follow-up questions during the interviews, if needed. Further, that our goal is to ensure we're using these questions as a guide and not as a script.

Carol Walker asked what our timetable is going forward for the telephone interviews. Katie replied that our next meeting is on September 15, 2021, and the idea is that we do our best to speak with our out of state contacts by that meeting. She said she realizes this is a tight turn around, given that today is August 25, 2021, but she hopes that some of our six states will have been interviewed by September 15<sup>th</sup>, with the understanding we can pivot our time frame as needed. Pat Buonodono agreed we just do the best we can with our time frame. Katie recommended we speak with the people in the states that we have identified but, if necessary, we may have to consider talking with others, if the door is slammed in our faces and we must move on to another contact. Katie reminded the members who will be calling the other states – Katie will call Minnesota and Nevada, Adam will call Florida, Pat will call Virginia, Carol will call Tennessee, and Johanna will call New Jersey. Katie confirmed the next meeting is set for September 15, 2021, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Katie reported that she sent out a round of solicitation emails to several of the members who had not regularly attended past meetings asking if they wish to continue serving on the committee. Some of the members replied that they want to re-engage, and three members asked to be removed from the Study Committee reducing membership from 27 to 24.

Chair Katie Connell adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.