

**Georgia Commission on Child Support
Low-Income Deviation Work Group
Tuesday, November 9, 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, chaired the meeting and called it to order at 10:00 a.m. Nine Work Group members and two guests 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:

Deborah Johnson	Kenneth Sleets
Audrey Bergeson	Erica Thornton
Liz Schriber	Mark Rogers
Ryan Bradley	Laureen Alford
Sabrina Rivers	

At the beginning of the meeting, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, confirmed that a quorum of seven of the 11 Work Group members was present. Elaine Johnson raised the issue of approving the minutes from the last Work Group Meeting which was held on 10/19/2021. Deborah Johnson raised the issue that because she and Elaine Johnson have the same last name it was confusing when the draft minutes referred to a “Ms. Johnson” in a couple of places. Deborah Johnson moved to approve the Minutes form the October 12, 2021, meeting with the understanding that they would be edited to clarify to whom a reference to “Ms. Johnson” was referring. Ryan Bradley seconded that motion and Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez conducted a voice vote. Members of the Work Group unanimously voted to approve that motion with no abstentions. Work Group members Mark Rogers and Laureen Alford joined the call after the vote on the approval of the minutes was held.

Staff created a compilation of all Work Group suggestions for improving the Low-Income Deviation as it functions in the child support calculator collected thus far. Latoinna Lawrence shared her screen to show that compilation.

Elaine Johnson and Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez gave a presentation on an idea staff developed that basically calls for the way in which the low-income deviation functions to be inverted. In other words, the low-income deviation would prompt a party to request the amount of child support to be paid rather than the deviation amount. Deborah Johnson said she generally like that idea but does not think the calculator should provide check boxes defaulting to the statutory minimum, rather she suggested a field simply asking what the party thought he or she could afford to pay.

Ryan Bradley noted that he generally agreed with the staff’s suggestion as well.

Laureen Alford noted that the calculator should avoid use of legal jargon as the public needs to use it. She also suggested making the child support calculator more like “Turbo Tax” which just requires the user to answer a series of questions.

Mark Rogers noted that he liked all the ideas generated by this work group in concept, but they need to be able to be used by self-represented litigants.

Elaine Johnson said that next steps would be for staff to confer with the Commission’s Technology & Calculator Subcommittee and to set a meeting to present the ideas of this Work Group to that subcommittee. This meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.