

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

**Thursday, February 3, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

The Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee (“Study Committee”) of the Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this meeting via videoconferencing using Zoom webinar. Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for the meeting.

Nine (9) Study Committee members and two (2) guests attended this open meeting. Study Committee members in attendance were:

William Alexander	Katie Connell	Byron Cuthbert
Adam Gleklen	Johanna Kiehl	Jill Massey
Sarah Mauldin	Charles Spinardi	Carol Walker

At the start of the meeting, a quorum of Study Committee members was not present, and Chair Katie Connell opted to wait a few minutes before addressing approval of the minutes from the January 11, 2022, meeting. A few minutes into the meeting, staff attorney Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez established that a quorum of eight Study Committee members was present. As to the minutes of the Study Committee’s January 11, 2022, meeting, Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, noted one correction to a typo that had been made and Study Committee member, Sarah Mauldin, noted that her name had been misspelled at the end of the draft minutes. Adam Gleklen moved to approve the minutes of the Study Committee’s January 11, 2022, meeting as corrected. That motion was seconded by Sarah Mauldin and passed unanimously. Study Committee member, Johanna Kiehl, joined the meeting after that vote was conducted.

The Study Committee discussed the “Unit Definitions” document compiled by Study Committee member, Sarah Mauldin, that summarizes how five other states define how to measure parenting time, e.g., days, overnights. The Study Committee noted that Virginia’s definition is too confusing.

Study Committee member, Carol Walker, presented on her document entitled “Outline of Main Points” that she circulated to the Study Committee via Elaine Johnson prior to the meeting. Carol Walker started with a discussion of topics outside the scope of this Study Committee, but that are nonetheless important and should be shared with the Child Support Commission and/or one of the Commission’s subcommittees. Study Committee member, Adam Gleklen, thanked Carol Walker for doing that, noting that it is important that the issues identified by this Study Committee—even if outside the scope of this Study Committee—should not get lost. Carol

Walker also led a discussion around whether the parenting-time deviation should be removed in its entirety from the child support guidelines statute if a parenting time adjustment is adopted.

Study Committee member Johanna Kiehl gave an update on her follow-up with a Minnesota attorney about the pros and cons of some of the finer points of the Minnesota statute.

The Study Committee discussed that the terms “custodial parent” and “non-custodial parent” upset people even when only being used for purposes of child support. Carol Walker noted that labels are important and that we should use the least-inflammatory language as possible. Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, noted that federal agencies use the terms “obligee” and “obligor,” but those terms are often very confusing to the general public.

Carol Walker led a discussion through points on which she thinks there is consensus amongst the Study Committee. That effort remains a work in progress and several Study Committee members are going to work on edits to Carol Walker’s draft of consensus points. The meeting ended with a brief discussion around the question of how the low-income deviation would dovetail with a parenting time adjustment.

The Study Committee added a meeting on March 10, 2022, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

The next Study Committee meeting will be via Zoom on February 17, 2022, at noon. Staff is also working on arrangements for a hybrid meeting at the State Bar building in Atlanta and via Zoom on March 22, 2022.