

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

**Thursday, March 10, 2022
9:30 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, Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, and Contract Attorney, Janné McKamey served as staff for the meeting. Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict.

Nine (9) Study Committee members and five (6) guests attended this open meeting. Study Committee members in attendance were:

Katie Connell	Pat Buonodono	Sarah Mauldin
Adam Gleklen	Johanna Kiehl	Jill Massey
Carol Walker	Charles Spinardi	Wayne Slear

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 February 17, 2022, meeting. About halfway into the meeting, Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, established that a quorum of eight Study Committee members was present. Chair Connell inquired whether any corrections to the minutes from the February 17, 2022, meeting were needed, and none were suggested. Sarah Mauldin moved to approve the minutes of the Study Committee’s February 17, 2022, meeting. Adam Gleklen seconded, and the approval passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

In working toward a final report containing recommendations for the Commission, the Study Committee continued to discuss issues on which there is consensus amongst the Study Committee members, issues on which consensus is lacking, and issues that have been identified, but that fall outside the scope of the charge of this Study Committee.

Chair Katie Connell set aside at the moment discussion regarding the “7% for child rearing expenses” listed as the first bullet point on the agenda and moved into discussion on the latest version of the list of proposed recommendations prepared by Study Committee member Carol Walker with assistance from Study Committee member Johanna Kiehl.

The Study Committee determined numbers 1 through 3 had no edits to speak of, then moved onto a discussion of number 4. The Study Committee agreed upon the proposed edits to number 4, in a discussion led by Carol Walker. Numbers 5, 6 and 7 were not on the agenda at this time but number 7 was discussed as requested by Study Committee member Pat Buonodono.

The Study Committee had a discussion led by Johanna Kiehl around number 8, concerning incremental adjustments and variable expenses based upon the actual parenting time ratios. Study Committee member Johanna Kiehl also commented that the footnotes contained terminology and methods used by other states which could be used as examples on how to modify Georgia's Basic Child Support Obligation (BCSO) table, so that the expenses are adjusted in the calculator based upon each parent's amount of time with the child(ren).

Study Committee members engaged in a discussion on the economics of parenting time and agreed they do not want the economics questions to overwhelm the court, lawyers, or self-represented litigants in the determination and calculation of parenting time.

Some discussion was had on where the 7% used in the BSCO for special expenses for child rearing originated in our guidelines. Study Committee member Johanna Kiehl took up that discussion saying we need to know if leaving the 7% in the statute is a mathematical problem that should be considered by the Committee, even if it is outside the scope of this Study Committee.

The Study Committee had a consensus to accept the changes that were discussed that didn't interfere with the quoted statutory language, and to clean them up and have ready for the next meeting. Study Committee member Carol Walker made the motion and Study Committee member Johanna Kiehl seconded. Chair Connell called for a vote, and it passed with none abstaining.

Study Committee member Carol Walker noted that the report should have updated and correct attachments as appendices and the Study Committee members concurred. Study Committee member Sarah Mauldin volunteered to take ownership of that task.

There was a brief discussion confirming the date and time for the Parenting Time Deviation (hybrid) meeting at the State Bar of Georgia on March 22, 2022, at 10 a.m. A final meeting of the Study Committee was scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. as a hybrid meeting at the State Bar building in Atlanta and via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.