

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

**Thursday, March 10, 2022  
9:30 a.m.**

**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 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 six (6) guests attended this open meeting. Study Committee members in attendance were:

Katie Connell, Chair	Pat Buonodono	Adam Gleklen
Johanna Kiehl	Jill Massey	Sarah Mauldin
Wayne Slear	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 February 17, 2022, meeting. Just before 10:00 a.m., 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. Study Committee member Sarah Mauldin moved to approve the minutes while Study Committee member Adam Gleklen seconded the motion, and the approval passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions. Study Committee member Wayne Slear joined the meeting after this vote was held.

In working toward a final report containing recommendations for the Commission, the Study Committee members continued to discuss issues on which there is consensus amongst the 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. Study Committee member Carol Walker stated that she had edited the draft document following the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and included edits discussed at that meeting and that she had emailed the updated version to the members on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Chair Connell asked the members if they had the draft document before them for review, and the members acknowledged they did have the latest version.

Chair Connell asked Carol Walker to begin the discussion and review edits she and Study Committee member Johanna Kiehl had made to the draft document. Ms. Walker started at the beginning of the first section of the document with the consensus items. The discussion on the “7% for child rearing expenses” listed as the first bullet on the agenda was set aside at the moment.

The Study Committee determined numbers 1 through 3 had no substantive edits, and then moved onto a discussion of number 4 by member Johanna Kiehl. After a discussion on number 4 the members agreed with the new language. The Study Committee agreed upon the proposed edits to number 5, and member Pat Buonodono suggested edits to number 7 that were also agreed upon by the members.

The Study Committee had a discussion led by member Johanna Kiehl around number 8, concerning expenses for children that involve three types – variable, fixed, and controlled expenses incurred by both parents during parenting time. Ms. Walker remarked that perhaps the Child Support Commission may not have thought about the children’s expenses in this way and that laying it out for the Commission may be helpful as they are thinking of a methodology to use for parenting time. Study Committee members further 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 parents in the determination and calculation of parenting time.

The Study Committee members continued their discussions on numbers 9 through 15 and reached consensus on those items. Some discussion was had on number 16 concerning 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 Commission, even if it is outside the scope of this Study Committee. It was agreed that this is a question the Commission can ask Dr. Jane Venohr who is conducting Georgia’s 2022 Economic Study, to respond to and clarify the issues. Finally, there was a brief discussion on number 17 and the members were in agreement with recommendations for that item.

The Study Committee reached a consensus to accept all the changes that were discussed during this meeting. Chair Connell called for a vote and Study Committee member Carol Walker made a motion and Study Committee member Pat Buonodono seconded the motion. The approval passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions. The next steps will be to edit and clean up the draft document and have a new version ready for the next meeting on March 22, 2022. Study Committee members Carol Walker and Johanna Kiehl agreed to continue editing the draft document for the Study Committee.

Study Committee member Carol Walker reported on her concept and specifics for the final report to the Commission. She explained that the final report itself will be loosely modeled after a similar report prepared in Minnesota. The final report will begin with the recommendations from this Study Committee in three subcategories – 1) items where the committee has consensus, 2) where the committee does not necessarily have consensus, and 3) items identified as outside the scope of the objectives, but still of importance. These will be supported by broader explanations of how each of these things matters and will be supported by documentation. There will be a section on when the work of the Study Committee began, how many meetings have been conducted, surveys conducted and reports secured from outside sources, such as the 50-State Report from Georgia State University. All these resources will be attached as appendices to the final report itself. The Study Committee members concurred with Ms. Walker’s ideas and structure for the final report. Study Committee member Sarah Mauldin

volunteered to assist with the final report in reviewing and ensuring the most current version of all resources are included in support of the final report.

The Study Committee members continued their discussions on the second part of the draft document and where the members have not yet reached consensus. Those items are: 1) how to measure parenting time (time increments); 2) should there be a minimum amount of parenting time before a parenting time adjustment is considered; and 3) should parenting time be included in cases filed with the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS). Chair Connell asked the members to consider individually their ideas for these items, and to email their ideas to the full committee for review prior to the March 22, 2022, meeting. The items in this section will be discussed again during the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Study Committee member Carol Walker continued the discussions with the third section of the draft document involving items that are outside the scope of work for this committee, but that have been identified as important and should be included in the final report to the Commission. The Study Committee had already gone beyond the designated time for this meeting and agreed to review this section during the March 22, 2022, meeting.

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. Additionally, a final meeting of the Study Committee was scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., also as a hybrid meeting at the State Bar building in Atlanta and via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.