

**Georgia Commission on Child Support
Commission Meeting
Judge R. Michael Key, Chair**

**Friday, December 10, 2021
1:30 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

The following Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) members were present at the Child Support Commission meeting held virtually via Zoom videoconferencing on Friday, December 10, 2021:

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair	Charles C. “Chuck” Clay, Esq.	Kathleen B. Connell, Esq.
Rep. Houston Gaines	Judge Lisa Jones	Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrúa
Regina Quick, Esq.	Rep. Bonnie Rich	Christina Scott, J.D.
Dr. Roger Tutterow	Judge Connie L. Williford	

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff and 13 guests attended this open meeting.

Welcome & Housekeeping

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests. He thanked the Commission members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend this very important meeting. Commission staff member, Latoinna Lawrence, informed everyone that the meeting was being conducted using Zoom webinar and gave instructions for attendees on how to indicate they wish to speak during the public comment period that would be held at the end of the meeting.

Review and Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2021, Commission Meeting

Judge Key directed the members attention to the October 15, 2021, meeting minutes. Commission staff member Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez confirmed that 11 of the 15 Commission members were present and that a quorum of members existed. Judge Key noted that the minutes were distributed to the members prior to the meeting and asked if there were any proposed corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections indicated and Judge Key directed the vote. There were no abstentions, no nays, and the minutes of the Commission’s October 15, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Judge Key moved to the business of reports from the subcommittees and asked Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair, Economic Subcommittee to begin, followed by Regina Quick, Chair of the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee, and then Katie Connell, Chair of the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee.

Update from Economic Subcommittee

Chair Dr. Roger Tutterow began his report by reminding the members that the Commission previously approved contracting with Dr. Jane Venohr, Economist with the Center for Policy Research, Inc. (CPR), based in Colorado, to conduct the 2022 Economic Study. He explained that the JC/AOC will handle the contracting process with the CPR. He reported that members of the Economic Subcommittee, Commission staff, and staff from DHS/DCSS have held initial conversations with Dr. Jane Venohr on the

economic study. The conversations included discussions on issues encountered with the number of orders initially collected for the 2018 case sampling. In order to avoid this issue in 2022, a decision was made, and agreed upon by Dr. Venohr, to increase the number of counties in the 2022 case sample and to extend the time period from which orders are collected from one month to two months. Dr. Tutterow explained that he is in the process of selecting the counties for the 2022 economic study and noted that all counties, except those in the very last study in 2018, will be included in the pool from which the 15 counties will be pulled for the 2022 case sampling for the economic study. Dr. Tutterow also confirmed that orders will be gathered from 15 counties, rather than 12 counties as had been done in the past, and for a two-month period, all to ensure that the sample size for the 2022 economic study is sufficient. Dr. Tutterow also reminded the members that the subcommittee had conducted two public listening sessions and that staff had organized the public comments collected in those sessions will be shared with Dr. Venohr as a part of the study.

Commission staff member, Elaine Johnson reported that staff is working on deliverables for the contract with CPR and the task of preparing the contract is progressing well in coordination with the AOC's legal department. Ms. Johnson added that case sampling will be collected on private child support orders and orders obtained by the DHS/DCSS. Staff is also working on the letter to court clerks to gather orders for the case sampling. Ms. Johnson explained the letter will be shared with Judge Key and Dr. Tutterow for review.

Update from Technology & Calculator Subcommittee

Chair Regina Quick reported that the next planned deployment of updates to the calculator will be made in early January 2022 and will include the self-employment taxes paid formulas on Schedule B based on annual changes to the federal tax code. Ms. Quick noted that the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee awaits a summary of suggestions from the Low-Income Deviation Work Group on proposed improvements to the functionality of the Low-Income Deviation on Schedule E in the calculator. The intention is to improve the ease-of-use of this deviation. She anticipates that work on those suggestions will start in early 2022.

Status of Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee

Chair Kathleen Connell acknowledged that the members of the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee ("Study Committee") have been working very diligently and are close to developing final recommendations to present to the Commission. Accordingly, to ensure this important work is completed, she asked that the Study Committee be extended through the end of April 2022. She explained that this additional time will allow the Study Committee to reach consensus on key items and have its final report and recommendations ready to present to the Commission at its Spring meeting in April 2022. Ms. Connell shared that there are a core number of Study Committee members who are very committed to this work and attend meetings regularly. However, there are some Study Committee members who never attend, and this has been causing quorum issues as of late. Chair Connell reported that she would like to look at member attendance and identify Study Committee members who have not attended any of the last five meetings and be allowed to remove those members from the Study Committee so that quorum may be achieved at the remaining meetings. Chair Connell shared that it is her observation and expectation that the Study Committee will recommend some change to the way that Georgia currently handles parenting time. She commented that she further expects the report and recommendations of the Study Committee will be delegated to the Statute Review Subcommittee for review.

Judge Key thanked Chair Connell for her report and commented that he would need to look at the Commission Bylaws to help make the correct decision on the Study Committee membership. Commission Staff attorney Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez shared that she had reviewed the Bylaws and reported that the Commission Chair has within his discretion the authority to appoint members to any committee. Judge Key thanked Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez for this information. Judge Key then stated that he would extend the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee through the end of April 2022 and authorized removing any member of the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee who had not attended the last five meetings.

Low-Income Deviation Workgroup

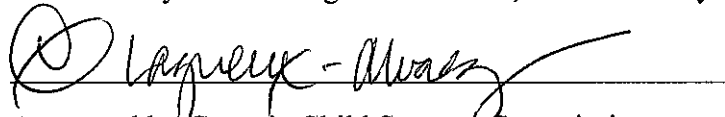
Judge Key asked Commission Staff member Elaine Johnson to report for the Low-Income Deviation Workgroup. Ms. Johnson shared that the purpose and goal of the workgroup was to consider ideas on how to improve ease of use of the low-income deviation (under current law) on Schedule E in the child support calculator. The Workgroup members developed several viable ideas for consideration, including an idea from staff on how all the ideas combined can be presented on Schedule E in the child support calculator. She stated that final ideas will be approved by the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee, and then will be further developed by the AOC IT department working with the Commission staff.

Public Comments

Judge Key addressed new business on the agenda as public comments and remarked that it appeared that no one attending from the public had signed up to make comments to the Commission. He reminded everyone that there was still time for individuals to sign up. Judge Key then identified a question in the Zoom Chat from Mr. Raja Antone asking if the reports of the subcommittees and workgroups would be available for review by the public? Judge Key asked staff to address the question. Commission Staff member Elaine Johnson stated that the Low-Income Deviation report was released on December 4, 2020, and already available on the Commission website. Commission Staff member Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez confirmed that the report is on the website once completed. Ms. Johnson remarked that the work of the Parenting Time Study Committee is continuing, but that the report from that committee will eventually be added to the website. Judge Key confirmed that when the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee completes their work and it is an approved report, the report can then be posted as well. Commission Staff member Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez posted the link to the Low-Income report in the Zoom chat and explained that all reports can be viewed under the heading of, "Business of the Commission."

Judge Key remarked that he saw no other questions in the Zoom chat which concluded new business and then he led discussion on the Commission's next meeting date. The date of Friday, April 15, 2022, was identified for the next meeting. Judge Key thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. [*Since the 12/10/2021 Commission meeting, it was noted that Friday, April 15, 2022, is a state holiday so the next meeting will be held on Friday, April 29, 2022.*]

Reviewed by: Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, Staff Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez", written over a horizontal line.

Approved by Georgia Child Support Commission at
Commission Meeting on December 10, 2021