

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

**Friday, August 19, 2022  
9:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

The Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this hybrid meeting in person at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center in Atlanta and via videoconferencing using Zoom webinar. Nine (9) out of the fifteen (15) Commission members attended in total, four (4) in person and five (5) via Zoom. Commission members in attendance were:

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair  
Kathleen B. Connell, Esq.  
Christina Scott, J.D.

Charles C. “Chuck” Clay, Esq.  
Judge Lisa Jones  
Dr. Roger Tutterow

Judge Lisa G. Colbert  
Regina Quick, Esq.  
Judge Connie L. Williford

Executive Program Manager Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator Latoinna Lawrence served as staff for this meeting. Several other state employees and members of the public attended this open meeting.

**Welcome, Housekeeping, and Approval of Minutes**

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order, welcomed all, and confirmed that a quorum of Commission members was present. Commission staff member, Latoinna Lawrence, reviewed virtual meeting protocols and provided instructions for giving public comment at the end of the meeting. Judge Key addressed approval of the meeting minutes from the Commission’s last meeting on April 29, 2022, which had been electronically distributed to all Commission members prior to the meeting, and hearing no corrections to those minutes, noted they stood approved.

**Economic Subcommittee Report**

Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair of the Economic Subcommittee, gave a report noting that the case sampling data for the 2022 Economic Study had been provided to the economist conducting that study, Dr. Jane Venohr, and that sampling contained 472 orders from 16 counties across Georgia. Dr. Tutterow reported that Dr. Venohr would be providing a preliminary report today and a final report at the Commission’s next meeting on September 30, 2022. Dr. Tutterow introduced Dr. Jane Venohr of the Center for Policy Research, Inc. in Denver Colorado to provide her preliminary report.

**Presentation by Dr. Jane Venohr on Preliminary Findings for Georgia’s 2022 Economic Study**

Dr. Venohr, spoke about her preliminary findings that are contained in a PowerPoint presentation that may be found on the Commission’s website at <https://csc.georgiacourts.gov/business-of-the-child-support-commission/>. Dr. Venohr explained that she has been retained by the Commission to assist with the federal review requirements for Georgia’s Child Support Guidelines Statute (O.C.G.A. 19-6-15) and that the findings in this report demonstrate that Georgia has considered all federal data requirements. Dr. Venohr spoke on a wide array of topics, noting that Georgia’s existing Basic Child Support Obligation (“BCSO”) Table dates to 2002 and recommending that the “Rothbarth” Study—that was concluded in 2021 using data from 2013-2019—be used to update the BCSO Table. Dr.

Venohr addressed issues around imputing income and the subsistence needs of noncustodial parents noting that Georgia was one of the first states to implement the new federal requirements on those issues. Dr. Venohr acknowledged Dr. Tutterow and staff for their excellent work in collecting the case sampling data. Dr. Venohr raised a concern about imputing incomes at minimum wage for 40 hours per week because Georgia labor market data shows that many minimum wage jobs are not for 40 hours per week and/or are not for 52 weeks per year. Dr. Venohr also addressed Georgia's deviation rates and made recommendations for the Commission to consider. Dr. Venohr noted that Georgia has low overall unemployment, but there are some exceptions in pockets of the state and that some noncustodial parents have significant barriers to employment. Dr. Venohr concluded her presentation by addressing issues around the low-income deviation and parenting time deviation.

### **Statute Review Subcommittee Report**

Co-Chair Katie Connell spoke briefly on the LIFE Act's effect on the Child Support Guidelines Statute (O.C.G.A. 19-6-15). Judge Williford spoke on issues around the parenting time deviation and recommended further retaining Dr. Venohr to work with the Commission on that topic. Judge Williford also recommended exploring an idea first suggested by Commission member, Regina Quick, to pursue a legislative parenting time deviation study committee to help educate Georgia legislators on this important topic prior to filing any formal legislation. Regina Quick moved that the Commission request a resolution by the Georgia General Assembly creating either a joint legislative parenting time deviation study committee or such a study committee in each house. That motion was seconded by Judge Colbert and passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions. Judge Williford made a motion to pursue a contract with Dr. Jane Venohr to determine how best to account for parenting time when calculating child support. That motion was seconded by Regina Quick and passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

### **Technology and Calculator Subcommittee Report**

Regina Quick, Chair of the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee gave a report and made a motion that the Georgia Child Support Calculator be modified to allow expired shared worksheets to be deleted by the user in whose account such worksheets remain. It was determined that a quorum of Commission members was no longer present, and Judge Key directed staff to take an e-vote on that motion.

### **Public Comment**

The Commission heard comments from the public. One member of the public attended in person and raised her concern that the Georgia Child Support Guidelines do not adequately provide for children of high-income families. Via Zoom, a member of the public requested a recording of the meeting. Staff attorney, Noelle Lagueur-Alvarez, explained that the Commission complies with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act which require a meeting summary and meeting minutes, but that the public is free to record Commission meetings on their own device.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.