

**Georgia Child Support Commission
Technology & Calculator Subcommittee
Regina Quick, Esq., Chair
Friday, December 16, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

The Technology and Calculator Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) held this hybrid meeting in person at the State Bar building in Atlanta and via Zoom webinar. Five (5) of the nine (9) Subcommittee members attended in total, one (1) in person and four (4) via Zoom. The Subcommittee members in attendance were:

Chair Regina Quick, Esq.
Deborah Johnson, Esq.

Anna G. Bolden, Esq.
Senator Emanuel Jones

Jacqueline Fortier, Esq.

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

Chair Regina Quick opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., welcomed the Subcommittee members, including two new Subcommittee members, Anna Bolden and Jacqueline Fortier, attending their first meeting, and welcomed the public in attendance. Staff member Latoinna Lawrence reminded everyone that public comment is not taken during Subcommittee meetings. Chair Quick noted that attendees could post comments in the Zoom chat feature and could attend future full Commission meetings to give public comment.

Chair Quick noted the presence of a quorum and asked if there were any corrections needed to the minutes from the August 3, 2022 meeting. None were indicated and she asked if someone would make a motion to approve the minutes. Subcommittee member, Deborah Johnson, moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 3rd, 2022, and Senator Emanuel Jones seconded that motion. There were no objections to those minutes and the motion passed unanimously approving the August 3, 2022 minutes.

Chair Quick continued with the agenda and asked staff member Elaine Johnson to report on an update to the Child Support Calculator for Archiving and Deleting Shared Worksheets. Ms. Johnson reported that she worked with developers in the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, IT Division to upgrade the child support calculator to allow expired, shared worksheets to be archived and deleted. She explained that this was a feature that already existed for worksheets created by users, but not for those that were shared with another user and had expired. Since the technology already existed in the calculator, it was easy for the that upgrade to be made. Ms. Johnson reported that the update was successfully deployed on November 10, 2022, and she has not received any negative feedback from any users on this new functionality. Chair Quick asked if there had been an announcement regarding this upgrade. Ms. Johnson replied that she would look into placing an announcement on the calculator’s home page. She added that the

calculator home page is in need of an upgrade to improve its ease of use in making such announcements and that she is looking into this update. Staff member Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez offered to coordinate an e-blast to members of the State Bar's Family Law Section and to registered neutrals through the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution, and to make an announcement during the Family Law Section meeting at the State Bar's Mid-year meeting in early January. Chair Quick approved those activities and thanked her. Chair Quick will notify DCSS staff and Subcommittee member, Deborah Johnson, will notify Georgia Legal Services and Atlanta Legal Aid about the new functionality.

Chair Quick continued the meeting and asked staff member Elaine Johnson to report on maintenance of the child support calculator. Ms. Johnson reported that staff is exploring the potential of developing a second version of the child support calculator specifically intended for use by self-represented litigants. She explained that in November she spoke about that idea with the JC/AOC's IT developers, discussing the needs of self-represented litigants. Ms. Johnson explained this idea is in its very early stages in planning and staff will continue to collaborate and brainstorm ideas with the developers. She added that Kristy King, who supervises the developers had indicated they can prepare a presentation on the design and Ms. Johnson said this can then be presented to the Subcommittee at a future meeting for them to view and consider. Subcommittee member, Jacqueline Fortier, who is a member of both the Florida and Georgia Bars, recommended reviewing resources produced by Florida courts for self-represented litigants. Chair Quick asked Ms. Fortier to send to staff any good materials on this topic that she has from other states and Ms. Fortier agreed to do so.

Chair Quick noted that since the August 3rd meeting, she asked Subcommittee members if there were anything specific that they wanted to work on with the staff concerning the calculator. She shared that staff is still looking at improving instructions in the calculator for the low-income deviation. Chair Quick stated that she and staff will continue that work and will begin efforts with the JC/AOC IT developers to simplify the instructions and screen presentation of the low-income deviation in the child support calculator. Chair Quick noted that if any Subcommittee members want to contribute to that work or had any comments, to contact staff.

Chair Quick resumed discussions from the August 3rd meeting on the subject of potentially changing and simplifying instructions for the preexisting order process on Schedule B of the calculator. She noted that she had also asked the Subcommittee members to indicate if they may want to contribute to this work. Chair Quick stated that she and staff will work with the JC/AOC IT developers on improving the instructions for the preexisting order process on Schedule B in the child support calculator. She also extended the invitation for any Subcommittee members to join this work or provide any comments to staff.

Subcommittee member Jacqueline Fortier raised that she read in the August 3rd minutes about the discussion the Subcommittee members had on how to get people to swear to what they state in the calculator. Chair Quick commented on that previous discussion and that it might be easier for there to be a verification in the worksheet. She asked the members for their input and the Subcommittee held a lengthy discussion around adding a verification to the child support calculator. Subcommittee member Anna Bolden commented that she would not feel comfortable verifying a child support worksheet that she prepared because a lot of times she does not have

enough information on the other parties' finances. She also remarked that reminders may be added to point out that supporting documentation is needed and attached to the worksheet. Chair Quick reiterated that one of her points during the August 3rd discussion was that judges are sometimes left to guess whether or not the noncustodial parent in the preexisting order is actually paying the child support, which is an element of being able to claim the preexisting order. She suggested perhaps this is just a matter of improving the instructions and she shared that maybe this is an item that should be lifted up to the Statute Review Subcommittee for their consideration. Subcommittee member Deborah Johnson offered to create a draft affidavit for verifying facts related to preexisting orders. She also added that she does have concerns about adding more things for people to do in the calculator and that we may be overreaching if we start adding in particular elements of proof that are not required in the statute. Chair Quick asked Deborah Johnson to circulate her draft document to the Subcommittee members once completed. Subcommittee member Anna Bolden offered a possible solution involving adding check boxes to the calculator. Chair Quick asked Ms. Bolden to draft up a summary of her ideas and to circulate it to the Subcommittee.

Chair Quick asked if anyone had any new business for the Subcommittee. Staff member Elaine Johnson noted that she has prepared the updated formula change for self-employment taxes paid on Schedule B and that the JC/AOC IT developers are already working on that update to the calculator. She explained that a deployment for that annual update is anticipated in the first or second week of the new year. Chair Quick asked Ms. Elaine Johnson to report an update on this topic at the next scheduled meeting of this Subcommittee.

Chair Quick anticipates that this Subcommittee's next meeting will be held in February or early March 2023. Staff member Elaine Johnson shared, to avoid a scheduling conflict, that February 24, 2023, is likely going to be the next meeting date of the Statute Review Subcommittee.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.