

TASK FORCE ON CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

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Lori Hoff

Kim Hamill

Change

- ▣ “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” Socrates
- ▣ “My father used to say don’t raise your voice. improve your argument.” Desmond Tutu
- ▣ “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” Mahatma Gandhi



The perfect package?



What is the Answer?

- ▣ The current guidelines can be challenging for low income households
 - Minimum wage to \$15 per hour
 - Imputing income
 - Consistent income best for children



The Children's Stories



- ▣ Noddle Story
- ▣ Teenage child earns more than imputed non-custodial parent
- ▣ Minimum Support Order for \$50.00 per month does not cover half of a child's basic needs
- ▣ Stories of difficulties paying for parenting time expenses
- ▣ Struggles to pay rent/mortgage and concerned they would lose home
- ▣ Forced to live with relatives

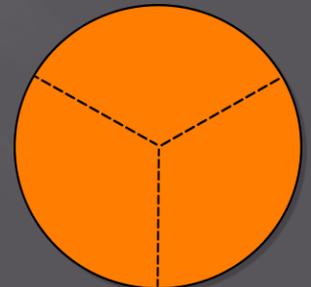
Low Income Households

- ▣ \$290.00 per month is the average child support order for Mille Lacs County
- ▣ 81% of cases in Mille Lacs County have an obligation less than \$500.00 per month.
- ▣ Less than 1% of cases in one metro county had court orders with basic support obligations over \$1,000.00 per month

100% of PICS

(parental income for support)

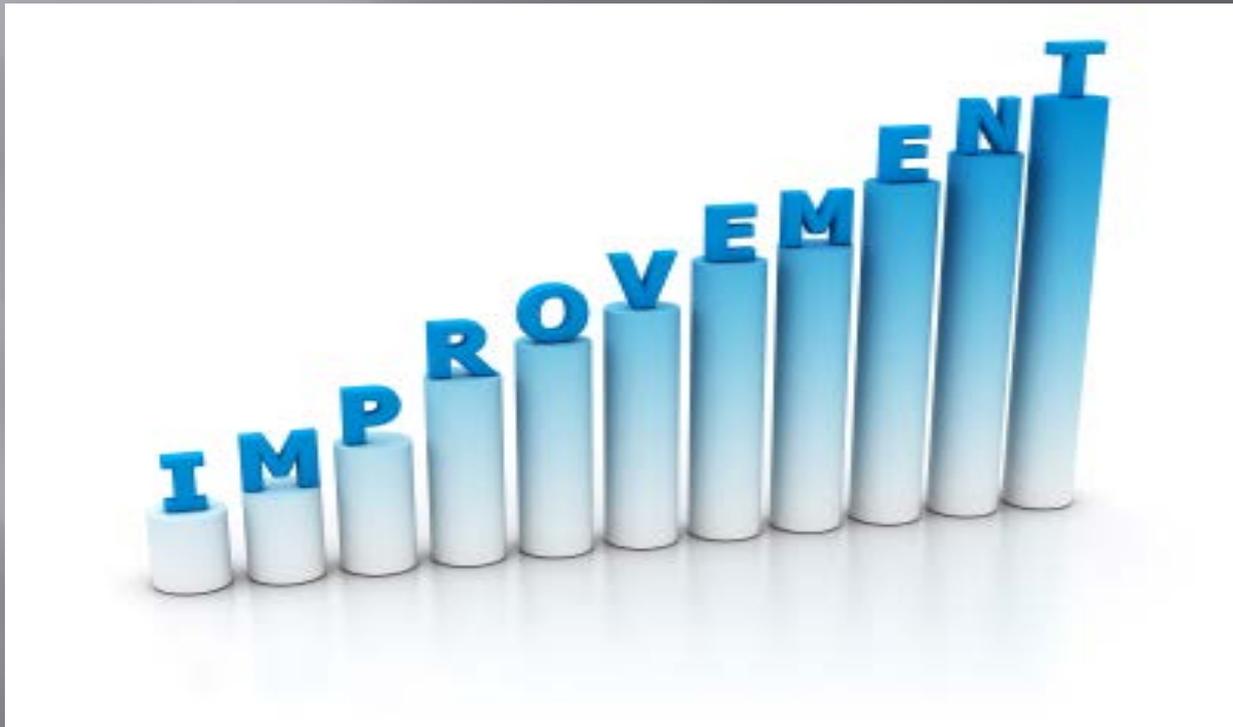
- ▣ Is it fair to the children when a non custodial parent pays 100% of the support when the custodial parent is on assistance or is disabled
- ▣ Is it fair to the children when a custodial parent pays 100% of the support when the non custodial parent has no income, is disabled or does not make payments



Non-Joint Children (Living In the Home)

- ▣ Current guidelines only allow for a deduction for up to TWO non joint children in the home.
- ▣ Court ordered obligations for all children are considered in current guidelines.
- ▣ Is this Fair?

Improvements to Consider



CAP

- ▣ Consider a cap or limit on gross income for low income obligors
- ▣ Orange County, California study
- ▣ Consider
 - 20% of gross for 1 child
 - 25% of gross for 2 children
 - 30% of gross for 3 or more children



Self Support Reserve

- ▣ Consider an increase in the self support reserve
- ▣ Currently 120% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (\$1206.00) per month
- ▣ Task force is charged with looking at self support reserve for both parents.

Multiple Cases



- ▣ The current guidelines give a deduction for non-joint children's court ordered support, spousal maintenance, and children in the home.
 - Rush to the Courthouse
 - Round Robin Deductions
 - Custodial Parents have varying incomes making income shares model difficult in these cases

- ▣ Previously preference was given to the oldest born child.

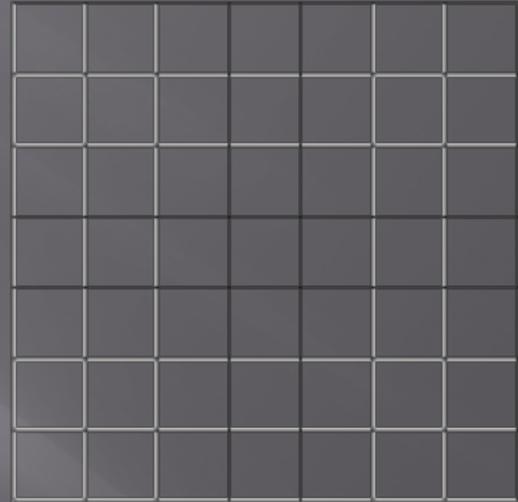
Multiple Cases #2

- ❑ Consider a different grid for non-custodial parents with multiple cases
 - ❑ A total for four children with each child getting a fourth of the total amount determined for child support
- ❑ Custodial Parent Fairness
 - ❑ Prevents one family from getting the largest sum and three others getting \$50 per month



How Many Different Grids?

- ▣ Low Income
- ▣ Multiple Children
- ▣ Large Family
- ▣ High Income



- ▣ We want something simple so consider how many charts would keep it simple

Deviations

- ▣ Keep the ability to deviate
- ▣ Difficult to predict the future
- ▣ Definition of a family
 - Merriam Webster currently has 8 definitions
 - Complexities of Life

Deviations #2

Merriam Webster defines Family:

- ▣ 1 : a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head.
- ▣ 2 : a group of persons of common ancestry *b* : a people or group of peoples regarded as deriving from a common stock .
- ▣ 3 : a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliations *b* : the staff of a high official (such as the President)
- ▣ 4 : a group of things related by common characteristics: such as *a* : a closely related series of elements or chemical compounds *b* : a group of soils with similar chemical and physical properties (such as texture, pH, and mineral content) that comprise a category ranking above the series and below the subgroup in soil classification *c* : a group of related languages descended from a single ancestral language
- ▣ *5a* : the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children; *also* : any of various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family *a single-parent family* *b* : spouse and children *want to spend more time with my family*
- ▣ 6 : a group of related plants or animals forming a category ranking above a genus and below an order and usually comprising several to many genera *b in livestock breeding* (1) : the descendants or line of a particular individual especially of some outstanding female (2) : an identifiable strain within a breed
- ▣ 7 : a set of curves or surfaces whose equations differ only in parameters
- ▣ 8 : a unit of a crime syndicate (such as the Mafia) operating within a geographical area

Conclusions



- ▣ Thank you for this opportunity
- ▣ Excited to see what this task force designs