

Child Support Guidelines Commissions

Some states have permanent advisory bodies devoted to their child support guidelines. At the May 29th, 2019 meeting, one member suggested that the task force review Georgia's Commission on Child Support to aid in drafting the task force's recommendation on how to not only address the work remaining, but also how to ensure that the guidelines stay updated. In addition to information about Georgia's Commission, you will also find the statutes and rules governing the child support commissions of other states below.

Georgia Commission on Child Support

The Commission consists of fifteen members, appointed by the Governor. The duties of the Commission are outlined in O.C.G.A. § 19-6-53 and include establishing and regularly reviewing child support guidelines, development and maintenance of the Georgia Child Support Calculator, recommending legislation, providing training throughout the State to judges, attorneys, and the public, and many other duties.

Purpose: "There is created the Georgia Child Support Commission for the purpose of studying and collecting information and data relating to awards of child support and to create and revise the child support obligation table. The commission shall be responsible for conducting a comprehensive review of the child support guidelines, economic conditions, and all matters relevant to maintaining effective and efficient child support guidelines and modifying child support orders that will serve the best interest of Georgia's children and take into account the changing dynamics of family life. Further, the commission shall determine whether adjustments are needed to the child support obligation table taking into consideration the guidelines set forth in Code Section 19-6-53. Nothing contained in the commission's report shall be considered to authorize or require a change in the child support obligation table without action by the General Assembly." O.C.G.A. § 19-6-50

O.C.G.A. § 19-6-53:

(a) The commission shall have the following duties:

- (1) To study and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of Georgia's child support guidelines;
- (2) To evaluate and consider the experiences and results in other states which utilize child support guidelines;
- (3) To create and recommend to the General Assembly a child support obligation table consistent with Code Section 19-6-15;
- (4) To determine periodically, and at least every four years, if the child support obligation table results in appropriate presumptive awards;

(5) To identify and recommend whether and when the child support obligation table or child support guidelines should be modified;

(6) To develop, publish in print or electronically, and update the child support obligation table and worksheets and schedules associated with the use of such table;

(7) To develop or cause to be developed software and a calculator associated with the use of the child support obligation table and child support guidelines and adjust the formula for the calculations of self-employed persons' income pursuant to applicable federal law, if the commission determines that the calculation affects persons paying or receiving child support in this state;

(8) To develop training manuals and information to educate judges, attorneys, and litigants on the use of the child support obligation table and child support guidelines;

(9) To collaborate with the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education, the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, and other agencies for the purpose of training persons who will be utilizing the child support obligation table and child support guidelines;

(10) To make recommendations for proposed legislation;

(11) To study the appellate courts' acceptance of discretionary appeals in domestic relations cases and the formulation of case law in the area of domestic relations;

(12) To study alternative programs, such as mediation, collaborative practice, and pro se assistance programs, in order to reduce litigation in child support and child custody cases; and

(13) To study the impact of having parenting time serve as a deviation to the presumptive amount of child support and make recommendations concerning the utilization of the parenting time adjustment.

(b) The commission shall have the following powers:

(1) To evaluate the child support guidelines in Georgia and any other program or matter relative to child support in Georgia;

(2) To request and receive data from and review the records of appropriate agencies to the greatest extent allowed by state and federal law;

(3) To accept public or private grants, devises, and bequests;

(4) To enter into all contracts or agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties;

(5) To establish rules and procedures for conducting the business of the commission; and

(6) To conduct studies, hold public meetings, collect data, or take any other action the commission deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

(c) The commission shall be authorized to retain the services of auditors, attorneys, financial consultants, child care experts, economists, and other individuals or firms as determined appropriate by the commission.

June 12th, 2019

Arkansas Commission on Child Support

A.C.A. § 9-14-403

The State Commission on Child Support shall have the following duties:

- (1) To examine, investigate, and study the operation of the state's child support system to determine the extent to which such system is successful in securing support and parental involvement for children;
- (2) To make recommendations for legislation which would clarify and improve state laws in the areas of visitation, standards for support, enforcement of interstate obligations, paternity establishment, and support collection methods;
- (3) To evaluate the availability, cost, and effectiveness of services for support enforcement to children receiving aid and those not receiving aid and assist the Title IV-D agency in program improvements or enhancements which would increase the availability of support enforcement;
- (4) To examine proposed legislation and make recommendations concerning compliance with federal requirements for support collection; and
- (5) To review expedited process reporting for child support cases pending in the judicial districts from data furnished by the Administrative Office of the Courts and assist in compliance with case processing standards.

Colorado Child Support Guideline Commission

C.R.S.A. § 14-10-115 subd. 16

- (a) The child support guidelines, including the schedule of basic child support obligations, and general child support issues shall be reviewed by a child support commission, which commission is hereby created.
- (b) As part of its review, the commission must consider economic data on the cost of raising children and analyze case data on the application of, and deviations from, the guidelines and the schedule of basic child support obligations to be used in the commission's review to ensure that deviations from the guidelines and schedule of basic child support obligations are limited.
- (c) The child support commission consists of no more than twenty-one members. The governor shall appoint persons to the commission who are representatives of the judiciary and the Colorado bar association. Members of the commission appointed by the governor must also include the director of the division in the state department of human services that is responsible for child support enforcement, or his or her designee, a director of a county department of human or social services, the child support liaison to the judicial department, interested parties, a certified public accountant, and parent representatives. In making his or her appointments to the commission, the governor may appoint persons as parent representatives. In making his or her appointments to the commission, the governor shall attempt to assure geographical diversity. The remaining two members of the commission are a member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the

house of representatives and a member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate and must not be members of the same political party.

(d) Members of the child support commission shall not be compensated for their services on the commission except as otherwise provided in [section 2-2-326, C.R.S.](#), and except that members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses for travel and mileage incurred in connection with their duties. The child support commission is authorized, subject to appropriation, to incur expenses related to its work, including the costs associated with public hearings, printing, travel, and research.

Connecticut Commission for Child Support Guidelines

C.G.S.A. § 46b-215a.

(a) The Commission for Child Support Guidelines is established to issue child support and arrearage guidelines to ensure the appropriateness of criteria for the establishment of child support awards and to review and issue updated guidelines every four years. Such guidelines shall ensure, subject to [section 46b-215c](#), that current support, health care coverage, child care contribution and orders of payment on any arrearage and past due support shall be based on the income of both parents and the obligor's ability to pay. Such guidelines shall also ensure the appropriateness of periodic payment orders on arrearages when the obligor (1) is the child's legal guardian and resides with the child, or (2) is not the child's legal guardian but has resided with the child either for at least six months immediately preceding the order of payment on the arrearage or for at least six months of the twelve months immediately preceding such order. In such cases, the commission shall consider exemptions similar to those in the uniform contribution scale adopted pursuant to [section 4a-12](#). Updated arrearage guidelines shall be issued at the same time as the child support guidelines.

(b) The commission shall consist of thirteen members as follows:

(1) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee;

(2) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

(4) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee on judiciary, or their designees;

(5) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

(6) A representative of the Connecticut Bar Association, designated by the Connecticut Bar Association; and

(7) Four members appointed by the Governor, one of whom represents an agency that delivers legal services to the poor, one of whom represents the financial concerns of child support obligors, one of whom represents the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors and one of whom represents the rights and best interests of children.

(c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene the commission whenever a review is required to issue updated guidelines pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and shall provide staffing for the administrative and regulatory responsibilities of the commission and, within available appropriations, funding for economic studies required by the commission.

(d) The chairperson of the commission shall be elected by the members of the commission. A vacancy on the commission at any time shall not invalidate any actions taken by the commission during such vacancy, provided at least nine members of the commission are serving at the time of such action.

District of Columbia Child Support Guidelines Commission

DC ST § 16-916.02

(a) There is established a Child Support Guideline Commission (“Commission”). The Commission shall study and make recommendations on the child support guidelines to the Mayor.

(b) The Commission shall consist of a chairperson and 8 members who are District of Columbia residents. The Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia may appoint 2 members. The Mayor shall appoint the chairperson as well as 2 members, one of whom shall be a member of the District of Columbia Bar (“Bar”) and an expert in the fields of family law and child support. The Mayor shall also appoint one member to represent the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Office of the Corporation Counsel (“CSED”). The Council shall designate one Councilmember to serve on the Commission and shall appoint 2 additional members, one of whom shall be a member of the Bar and an expert in the fields of family law and child support.

(c)(1) Of the Commission members first appointed after the effective date of the Child Support Guideline Commission Restructuring Emergency Act of 2002 (“Commission Restructuring Act”) [July 23, 2002], one member appointed by the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the non-Bar member appointed by the Council, the Bar member appointed by the Mayor, and the CSED representative appointed by the Mayor shall serve 2-year terms. All of the other initial appointments after the effective date of the Commission Restructuring Act [July 23, 2002] shall serve 4-year terms. Thereafter, all Commission members shall serve for a term of 4 years from the date of appointment. A Commission member may be reappointed. A person appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission occurring prior to the expiration of a term shall serve for the remainder of the term. A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(2) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be necessary for the Commission to conduct business.

(d) The functions of the Commission shall include:

(1) To review and recommend updates of the child support guidelines not less than once every 4 years.

(2) To review pertinent economic data, including poverty levels, and information on the functioning of the guidelines that the Commission gathers or that is brought to the attention of the Commission for the purpose of recommending changes to the guidelines.

(3) To hold a public meeting at least annually to receive oral or written comments from members of the Bar or the public. Thirty days public notice shall be given for a public meeting.

(4) To perform other tasks as necessary to develop, update, or monitor the guidelines and to ensure that the District of Columbia is in compliance with the federal mandates in section 467 of the Social Security Act, approved August 16, 1984 (98 Stat. 1321; 42 U.S.C. § 667).

(e) The Commission, as restructured pursuant to the Child Support Guideline Commission Restructuring Act [this section], shall convene no later than December 31, 2002, and shall issue initial recommendations no later than December 31, 2003.

(f) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for any reasonable expense associated with service on the Commission.

(g) The Mayor shall provide sufficient space for the Commission to operate and may detail personnel to assist the Commission. The Mayor shall also direct any agency contacted by the Commission to give full cooperation to the Commission.

Kansas Child Support Guidelines Advisory Committee

KS Sup. Ct. Rules, Rule 1301

(a) Purpose. The Child Support Guidelines Committee is established for the purpose of complying with Chapter 45, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 302.56, which requires that state guidelines for child support be “reviewed at least every four years to ensure that their application results in the determination of appropriate child support amounts.” This Committee is responsible for reviewing economic data relating to the cost of raising children and analyzing case data, gathered through sampling or other methods, on the application of, and deviations from, the guidelines.

(b) Appointment, Qualifications. The Supreme Court will appoint the members of the Committee, which must include district judges, attorneys with considerable experience representing parents paying and receiving child support, attorneys employed by the State IV-D agency's child support enforcement division, attorneys with accounting or tax preparation experience, and child support obligors and obligees.

(c) Terms. The terms of the inaugural members of the Committee will be staggered. The terms of five members will be six years, the terms of four members will be five years, and the terms of four members will be four years. At the expiration of the inaugural member's term, the term of each succeeding member of the Committee will be four years. No member of the Committee will be eligible for more than three consecutive four-year terms. A member appointed to complete an unexpired term is eligible to serve two more consecutive four-year terms. A member is eligible for one or more additional terms after a break in service.

(d) Chair. The Supreme Court will designate a member of the Committee to serve as the chair.

(e) Member Disqualification. A member who, for any reason, no longer represents the entity which the member represented at the time of appointment must notify the Kansas Supreme Court through the Office of Judicial

Administration within 30 days of the change in status. This notice of a change in status may, at the discretion of the Court, constitute the member's resignation as a member of the committee and the Court may appoint another individual to the committee to represent that entity.

(f) OJA Representative and Liaison Justice.

(1) In addition to the members described in subsection (b):

(A) there will be a permanent, nonvoting seat on the committee for a representative of the Office of Judicial Administration; and

(B) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will designate a Supreme Court Justice to serve as liaison to the Committee.

(2) The persons serving the Committee under paragraph (1) are not subject to a term limit under subsection (c).

Massachusetts Child Support Enforcement Commission

M.G.L.A. 119A § 1

There is hereby established within the executive office for administration and finance, the child support enforcement commission. Said commission shall consist of six members who shall be the secretary of the executive office for administration and finance who shall serve as chairman, the commissioner of revenue, the attorney general, the chief justice of the trial court, the commissioner of public welfare and a district attorney who shall be designated by the governor. Said commission shall monitor the child support enforcement system of the commonwealth and shall, from time to time, advise the IV-D agency and other agencies of the commonwealth, including the appropriate divisions of the trial court department, in matters for the improvement of the child support enforcement system of the commonwealth.

Nebraska Child Support Advisory Commission

Neb.Rev.St. § 43-3342.05

(1) The Child Support Advisory Commission is created. Commission members shall include:

(a) Two district court judges whose jurisdiction includes domestic relations, to be appointed by the Supreme Court;

(b) One member of the Nebraska State Bar Association who practices primarily in the area of domestic relations;

(c) One county attorney who works in child support;

(d) One professional who works in the field of economics or mathematics or another field of expertise relevant to child support;

- (e) One custodial parent who has a court order to receive child support;
- (f) One noncustodial parent who is under a support order to pay child support;
- (g) The chairperson of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature, who shall serve as the chairperson of the commission;
- (h) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature;
- (i) The State Treasurer or his or her designee;
- (j) The State Court Administrator or his or her designee; and
- (k) The director of the Title IV-D Division or his or her designee.

(2)(a) The Supreme Court shall notify the Executive Board of the Legislative Council of its intent to review the child support guidelines pursuant to section 42-364.16. Following such notification, the chairperson of the commission shall call a meeting of the commission.

(b) Each time the commission meets pursuant to subdivision (2)(a) of this section, the Supreme Court shall make appointments to fill the membership under subdivision (1)(a) of this section and the chairperson of the Executive Board shall make appointments to fill each membership under subdivisions (1)(b) through (f) of this section. The terms of these members shall expire after the commission has fulfilled its duties pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(c) Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

(d) If determined to be necessary to perform the duties of the commission, the commission may hire, contract, or otherwise obtain the services of consultants, researchers, aides, and other necessary support staff with prior approval of the chairperson of the Executive Board.

(e) For administrative purposes, the commission shall be managed and administered by the Legislative Council.

(3) The duties of the commission shall include, but are not limited to:

(a) Reviewing the child support guidelines adopted by the Supreme Court and recommending, if appropriate, any changes to the guidelines. Whenever practicable, the commission shall base its recommendations on economic data and statistics collected in the State of Nebraska. In reviewing the guidelines and formulating recommendations, the commission may conduct public hearings around the state; and

(b) Presenting reports, as deemed necessary, of its activities and recommendations to the Supreme Court and the Executive Board. Any reports submitted to the Executive Board shall be submitted electronically.

(4) The Supreme Court shall review the commission's reports. The Supreme Court may amend the child support guidelines established pursuant to section 42-364.16 based upon the commission's recommendations.

Rhode Island Commission on Child Support

15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-18-2

There is established a commission on child support to study all aspects of child support. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) The number of children eligible for and/or receiving child support;
- (2) The amount of support being ordered paid by the courts and the actual amount being paid;
- (3) The methods used in determining the amount of child support;
- (4) The methods used in enforcing support orders

15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-18-3

(a) The commission shall consist of fifteen (15) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the house of representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the speaker; two (2) of whom shall be from the senate, not more than one from the same political party, to be appointed by the president of the senate; one of whom shall be the chief judge of the family court, or his or her designee; one of whom shall be the chairperson of the supreme court advisory committee on women in the courts; one of whom shall be a magistrate of the family court to be appointed by the chief judge of the family court; one of whom shall be the director of the department of human services or his or her designee; two (2) of whom shall be attorneys who are members of the family court bench bar committee to be appointed by the chairperson of the committee; one of whom shall be the chief counsel of the legal aid society; one of whom shall be a member of a child support advocacy group to be appointed by the governor; and two (2) members of the general public who, at their time of appointment, are custodial parents to be appointed by the governor. Members from the family court bench bar committee, members from the general public, and the member from the child support advocacy group shall serve two (2) year terms.

(b) Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled by the appointing authority in the same manner as the original appointment.

(c) The members shall annually elect, by majority vote, one of the members as chairperson, one of the members as vice-chairperson, and one of the members as secretary.

15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-18-5

The commission shall report to the general assembly at least every two (2) years its findings and the results of its studies, and shall make such recommendations to the general assembly as it deems advisable.