

6/2/22, 5:00-7:00pm – CT Child Support Guidelines Commission Meeting, minutes

Conducted via Microsoft Teams

(Agenda items bolded)

5:00pm Call to order. Roll call to determine if we have a quorum. Attendees: Chair – CFSM Michael Ferguson; Graham Shaffer; Sean Kehoe; Craig Fishbein; Scott Storms; Virginia Brown; Vice Chair - Lucy Potter; Darren Pruslow; Steven Hernandez; Zoe Stout; Amy McNamara – late arrival. Not in attendance: Campbell Barrett; Garry Winfield, Jr.. Scribe – Beth Rude. Quorum attained.

5:03 – Approve Agenda: Fishbein moved, Shaffer second. Vote – approved with no dissent.

Provision for Meeting Minutes: Approve minutes from 4/28/22 meeting. Fishbein abstain. Shaffer moved, Potter second. Vote – approved with no dissent and one abstention.

5:05 - Reminder Concerning Disclosure of Information for “Gender and Racial Composition Report” under CGS Sec. 4-9b: Shaffer reminds members to of self-disclosure of race and gender requirement. Email your information or intention to not disclose to Chair - michael.ferguson@jud.ct.gov , Vice Chair - lpotter@ghla.org and Shaffer – graham.shaffer@ct.gov, by COB June 9, 2022. If not submitted, will assume you choose not to disclose.

5:07 - Revisit adoption of “Ground Rules” for conduct of Meetings: Fishbein has not seen it and Chair will move forward to next item and will return to this later after member has had a chance to review.

5:09 - Update Regarding Economic Review of Child Support Guidelines: Shaffer – last economic study was completed in 2012 or 2013. Reached out to Jane Venohr’s firm who completed the last study and, as many other states are also looking to have studies completed as they also postponed their commissions due to the pandemic, a study for us would not be completed until late November. DSS is responsible for paying for this economic study and is now awaiting estimate from firm, regarding services and costs. Fishbein – can we put this out to bid, are there any other vendors? Shaffer – there is one national vendor and the states that don’t use this vendor have their studies completed by an economist at one of their universities. Fishbein – looking for competition to possibly lower the cost. Shaffer – understood, but there appears to be just the one vendor. If we put it out to bid it might take significantly longer. Potter – Emphasize that this economic study should be completed early in the process of creating a new guidelines. Previous commissions were unsuccessful in finding an in-state economist to complete the economic study.

5:13 - Schedule next meeting: Chair Ferguson – Since the economic study won’t be completed by November, propose the next meeting will be Thursday, September 1, 2022, 5:00-7:00pm. Shaffer – During this time, can research some topics as relevant and necessary for our work? Research topics of concern and changes in the law since the last commission met.

5:16 - Return to ‘Revisit adoption of “Ground Rules” for conduct of Meetings’: Fishbein – question on the Ground rules: 10 - The first item of business at each meeting will be a review of the proposed agenda. Is this necessary? Discussion. Pruslow – suggest a time from or deadline for distribution of agenda to allow for members to comment. Hernandez – unless law or regulation to the contrary, Chair determines the agenda. Fishbein – motion to strike ground rules #10. Discussion. Potter – second motion to remove #10. Vote carried, none dissenting. Discussion. Shaffer – move to amend #5 – that agenda will be circulated to members 1 week in advance of each meeting. Fishbein – second. Vote unanimous. Fishbein – motion to adopt ground rules as amended. Potter – second. Vote unanimous, ground rules adopted as amended.

5:28 - Topics for Commission's Consideration:

- **Imputation of income and minimum wage orders.** In FSM default appearance cases there is extensive use of this and should be used only if there is evidence of earning capacity. Discussion.
- **Changes needed for higher income orders.** Existing income cap in place for perhaps 20 years, net combined \$4000/wk. Pruslow – guidelines on the lower end, \$50/wk and lower should be addressed also. Discussion.
- **Adoption of current order when there is an arrearage at time child emancipates.** Current practice has been to modify the arrearage payment up to the current support amount at the time the child emancipates, and the current order terminates. This is happening only in FSM court.
- **Arrearages calculations.** FSM court deviation to increase arrears up to a minimum wage-earning capacity even if that is not supported by evidence. Discussion.
- **Methodology for orders in instances of shared custody.** Discussion.
- **Crediting other orders (even if not fully paid) when calculating available income.** Discussion.
- **Addressing situations where there are more than 2 parents following passage of the CT Parentage Act.** Potter inserted Connecticut General Statutes § 46b-475 regarding adjudicating competing claims of parentage into chat for reference. Discussion.

Shaffer – any other topics, please share with Chair, Vice Chair and me. Pruslow – suggestion to get all topics in prior to next meeting and circulate them as it may trigger other ideas. Chair Ferguson – send in all topic ideas for next meeting by August 1st.

5:56 - Revisiting question of public hearings and CT regulatory process. Shaffer – When will we have meetings to gather public input? Frame issues and then take it to the public for input or hold meetings first and see what the public is looking for? Discussion. Hernandez - Perhaps have groups testify, like father's groups or child advocate in advance and the public later in the process. Discussion. Chair Ferguson – revisit issue in September. Members can submit emails prior to meeting for discussion to Chair, Vice Chair and Shaffer.

6:06 – Meeting adjourned.



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CA guidelines re



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46b-475



45 CFR 302.56

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