

State of Connecticut – Child Support Commission Meeting

Minutes for the 5/5/23 meeting, *via Microsoft Meetings*. Agenda items bolded.

5:00 pm – Call to Order

Roll Call, Present: Chair CFSM Ferguson, Vice Chair L. Potter, G. Schaffer, Assistant Attorney General 4 - Amy Guido – replacing the recently promoted Sean Kehoe as the representative from the Office of the Attorney General, C. Barrett, S. Storms, V. Brown, A. Calvo-MacNamara, M. Williams – joined a few minutes later.

Not present: G. Winfield, C. Fishbein, D. Pruslow, S. Hernandez.

Quorum threshold achieved.

Provision for Meeting Minutes, March 2023. G. Shaffer moved to adopt the minutes and seconded by L. Potter. Motion approved.

5:04 pm - Change in agenda, skipping to: **Update from the Family Law Section of the CT Bar Association**. A. Calvo-MacNamara reported on the CT Bar Association, Family Law Sections review of the Commissions identification of the topics to be considered by this Commission. The topics were met with approval. The concern of the family bar, assuaged by Atty Calvo-MacNamara, was that inclusion of the topic for review did not mean adoption of the topic into the guidelines but for consideration purposes. A group of family law committee members will be reviewing the recordings of this commission meetings to familiarize themselves with the work of the commission and provide feedback to Atty Calvo-MacNamara and through her to the commission as requested. The sole topic which the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section wishes to suggest as a topic for this Commission to consider is the apportionment of the expense of a subject child's extracurricular activities and whether there should be a cap. Previous commissions have declined to include this issue in past guidelines. Discussion ensued. Chair declines to accept a motion to include this topic, at this time but will address later. Additionally, A. Calvo-MacNamara has input from the section on many of the topics on the commissions list and looks forward to sharing them with the commission as requested.

5:13 pm - **Any additional discussion concerning initial presentation by Dr. Jane Venohr, and issues raised therein?** No additional discussion about the presentation by Dr. Venohr by commission members.

5:14 pm - Topics for Commission's Consideration

Chair reviewed topics for this commission to consider, though this list is subject to additions:

- Imputation of income and minimum wage
- Changes needed for higher income orders
- How to handle orders where income is lower than contemplated by the guidelines
- How to handle lump sum awards considering the rule established in Jenkins v. Jenkins
- Adoption of current order when there is an arrearage at the time the child emancipates
- Arrearages calculations
- Methodology for orders in instances of shared custody
- Crediting other orders
- Addressing situations where there are more than 2 parents following passage of the CT Parentage Act
- Providing or defining a method for calculating a monthly and/or bi-weekly expression of child support in the guidelines
- Setting an age at which the childcare contribution portion of a support order terminates, unless ordered otherwise by the court

- Protecting an actual amount of the obligor's income as a self-support reserve, as is done in some other states
- Creation of an automated calculator in the guidelines

If any other members have any additions to this list, other than mentioned today – extracurricular activities, email the Chair, Vice Chair and Attorney G. Shaffer. At the next meeting, we will assign Commission member to these topics and members should email Chair, Vice Chair and Atty Shaffer with the topics of primary interest prior to the next meeting. The members assigned to each topic will be responsible for researching the issues, presenting their findings to the broader commission, and making a recommendation. We will then have an opportunity for the Commission members to discuss it and then an opportunity for the public to add their input. The presentation should include:

- A description of the problem that needs to be addressed
- How previous commissions have addressed the issue, if at all
- Any relevant case law or other sources of law that are relevant to the issue
- A recommendation on how the current commission should handle the issue

5:18 pm - Open discussion. No discussion

Chair encouraged members to begin their research on their topic/s of interest as more than likely they will be assigned to that topic or subject area.

Next meeting will be June 1, 2023 at 5:00pm with the majority of that meeting dedicated to assigning members to topics.

Atty G. Shaffer states the intention of these groups in not meet formally outside of these commission meeting and if emails are exchanged between members among assigned to these groups, they will be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. Chair states that we are not formally breaking up into subcommittees as then the public would need to be invited.

Attorney Amy Guido introduced herself.

5:21 pm – Meeting adjourned.

