

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes for the October 5, 2024 meeting held *via Microsoft Meetings*. Agenda items are bolded.

Scribe: Beth Rude, DSS/OCSS.

5:00 pm - Call to order, provision for meeting minutes.

Asked all present at the meeting to sign-in in the chat.

Roll Call

Present: CFSM Ferguson, Graham Shaffer, Carolyn Signorelli, Campbell Barrett, Cara Pavalock D'Amato, Virginia Brown, Rose Colon, Darren Pruslow, Michael Werner, Susan Hamilton.

Not present: Gary Winfield, Scott Storms, Amy McNamara.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 9/5/24 meeting, moved by Graham Shaffer and seconded by Darren Pruslow. Motion carries unanimously.

5:01 pm - Recommendation of Chair, Vice Chair, and Attorneys Shaffer, Signorelli and Pavalock-Damato concerning Social Security Disability Insurance derivative benefits.

Darren Pruslow asked all present at the meeting to sign-in in the chat.

Darren Pruslow discussed the derivative benefit to the dependent(s) under Social Security disability. The Jenkins Calculation used to create child support guidelines under this condition exists in the present guidelines, but we propose to more fully proscribe the application of social security disability (SSD) benefit amount in the new guidelines. The lump sum, that is received by the custodial party (CP) from the Social Security Administration once SSD is granted, will be determined by evidence from the CP and will be credited towards any arrearages owed to the CP from the non-custodial party (NCP). Additionally, if the on-going or current amount of the SSA award exceeds the amount of the Jenkins Calculation, that overage will be additionally credited towards any arrearage that is owed by the NCP to the CP. The court will be obligated to reduce the arrearage by any retro lump sum but the court will have the discretion to reduce the arrearages by the on-going derivative benefit that exceeds the guidelines amount, if it so chooses. Discussion ensued.

The workgroup decided to place the language in the Scope section by broadening it and have retained the language from the last meeting. Graham Shaffer moved to amend section 46b-215a-3a of the child support guidelines to be amended consistent with the draft that was circulated to the whole commission and will be made public. Carolyn Signorelli seconded. Carried unanimously.

5:13 pm - Changes needed for guidelines worksheet/instructions

- **Instructions for how to include payroll deductions for paid family and medical leave insurance program**
- **Change to instructions for deducting Social Security tax/mandatory retirement plan contributions**

Graham Shaffer discussed that some changes are necessary to the worksheet and instructions. The Paid Family Leave Act mandates a ½ percent payroll deduction and the placement of this deduction on the worksheet has varied by those using the worksheet since. Language was circulated to the members. Discussion about logic behind placement on the worksheet.

Graham Shaffer moved to amend Section 46b-215a-2c(c)(2) as reflected in the draft that was circulated to members and will be made public. Seconded by Susan Hamilton. Carried unanimously.

Carolyn Signorelli discussed that some assistant attorney generals (AAGs) are reporting that the JD court is allowing parties that pay both social security tax and mandatory retirement payments to deduct both. The AAGs in the magistrate court are treating the present language as one or the other not both. JD courts are allowing them to be added. Discussion ensued.

Chair Ferguson recommended that the issue be tabled until the next meeting to allow member not in attendance to review and have some discussion with the CT Bar and others.

5:29 pm - Options for how to handle situations involving more than two parents

- **California model**
- **Option to run separate guidelines for each parent**

Graham Shaffer discussed a meeting with Vermont and California where California discussed their guidelines calculations when more than two parents are involved. Materials were circulated to the members. Graham Shaffer summarized that the California model is essentially, they add up the income of all parents, afford deductions allowed, give benefit for low income parents and then calculate the support amount and prorate it based on the amount of income each parent has. If we followed this model we would require the development of a new worksheet. Another option raised by Darren Pruslow was to run guidelines for the CP against each of the NCPs. However would this work if none of the parents have custody of the child; child with a grandmother or other relative? Discussion ensued.

5:39 pm - Expansion of guidelines schedule up to \$6,000 per week

Graham Shaffer met with Dr. Venohr and she extended the guidelines schedule out to \$6,000.00 per week. Discussion about how she did that. Discussion and voting is postponed until a later meeting. Issue tabled until next meeting.

Chair Ferguson explained that shared parenting and extracurricular activities workgroups have yet to report out.

Next meeting 11/7/24 at 5:00pm.

5:44 pm - Adjournment.

