STATE OF CONNECTICUT, CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes for the June 5, 2025, meeting held via Microsoft Meetings. Agenda items are bolded.
Scribe: Gregory Bennett, DSS/OCSS

5:03pm – Call to order, provision for meeting minutes.
Roll Call
Present: CFSM Michael Ferguson, Chair, Graham Shaffer, Carolyn Signorelli, Campbell D. Barrett, Amy Calvo MacNamara, Virginia Brown, Darren Pruslow, Michael Werner, Cara Pavalock D'Amato, and Susan Hamilton.

Not present: Gary Winfield, Scott Storms, Rose Colon.

Minutes from May meeting moved to adopt by Graham Shaffer and seconded by Susan Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously with the agreement corrections be made in spelling and accurate representation of those present and not present be captured.

Present in the meeting who are not on the Commission and signed into the chat include; Lynn Reeves, Gregory Bennett, Colleen Michelson, and Andrew Celinski.

5:05 pm – Review of and vote on updated proposed regulation. Changes since last meeting

Magistrate Michael Ferguson began the discussion with the Commission members explained that reason for this meeting was to vote on the proposed regulations and that he did not want to vote on the last meeting to make sure everyone had an opportunity to look at them. He stated that he looked at them again today and there are three that are outlined in the agenda. Magistrate Michael Ferguson then offered Graham Shaffer to speak on the three changes are. Graham Shaffer stated the 1st change is a sort of technical change in 46B-215-A2CC3. This governs how the worksheets are to be filled out and the big change is that under the previous worksheet you would only calculate a presumptive order for the obligor, and now we will have all parents have a presumptive order calculated. Graham stated that the new worksheets are in there now at the end and the worksheets themselves are part of the proposed regs and they are in the last section. Graham mentioned that we talked before about how to handle split custody and shared. He stated that physical custody in cases involving more than two parents, and that language is now there at 46B-215-A to CC-7. He stated it gives the court some discretion on how to deal with those two situations and cases involving more than two parents. Magistrate Michael Ferguson then asked the committee if there were any questions and if everyone had an opportunity to look at the regulations. He stated that he will entertain a motion when Attorney McNamara logs on around 5:10pm to vote.

5:09pm - Discussion of dates for future public hearing on proposed regulation and other matters of timing

Magistrate Michael Ferguson began a discussion to determine public forums. He stated that he spoke with Graham Shaffer and Darren Pruslow earlier and they are thinking the first public meeting should be that meeting in September we already have scheduled, and then the next one would be in October. He stated Attorney Warner and Cara Pavalock D'Amato indicated they may be able to offer some assistance in getting a place in Hartford at the LOB. Michael Werner stated he is more than happy to help with that process and to

book rooms and that it is a good time of the year. Micheal Werner stated that the rooms are varying sizes and some are quite large, maybe 72 seats or more. He stated that he is happy to work with Magistrate Michael Ferguson and Graham Shaffer to find one that is available and once we reach out to the Office of Legislative Management and know the exact dates and times it should be straightforward to reserve them. Magistrate Ferguson then stated we want to try and do something hybrid so that people can be there physically and if they need to, they can remotely participate. Michael Werner stated that we have CTN built right in at the Legislative Office building and works with them all the time. He stated they are very good at helping to set up with one stipulation, they use Zoom, not Teams.

Magistrate Ferguson asked if the Commission members are going to be present there or are some going to be remote. He stated that it is up to the Commission to decide how we want to do that, but he will definitely be there. Graham Shaffer, Campbell Barrett, Darren Pruslow, Michael Werner, and Susan Hamilton all stated they will be there in person. Magistrate Michael Ferguson stated it is not mandatory, but the preference is for everyone to be there. Darren Pruslow then asked if there is going to be a process in which people can sign up in advance to ask questions and Michael Werner stated that each committee has a clerk and he will look into connecting with them to see if they are able to support the process. Carolyn Signorelli inquired about the format of the public hearing and asked if the intention is for the Commission to field questions and have a back and forth with the public or to just give the public an opportunity to review the proposed regulations in advance and either submit testimony or come to make their comments for the Commission to listen. Michael Werner clarified that there will be 3 minutes for each speaker and then time is up.

Cara Pavalock D'Amato and Amy Calvo MacNamara signed on at 5:18pm to this meeting and Magistrate Michael Ferguson briefly brought them up to date with what has occurred so far in the meeting.

Magistrate Michael Ferguson stated that the first public hearing can be set up in September in Hartford and then the second may be held in Fairfield County or somewhere down there. He then clarified the date of the first meeting to be September 4, 2025. Darren Pruslow commented both public hearings should have hybrid options available. Discussion ensued about the hybrid option and other ways the public would be able to access the hearing remotely and if the second meeting needs to take place in Fairfield County. Amy Macnamara raised concern about the September 4, 2025, hearing date being so close to Labor Day. Magistrate Michael Ferguson changed the date to September 11, 2025, at 5:00pm with no end time. Cara Pavalock D'Amato questioned how it will be published and how we are getting the word out about the hearing. Graham Shaffer clarified that it will be published with the proposed regulation when we notice the proposed regulation on the E regulation system we will notice the public hearing dates and times. Michael Werner suggested that the Clerk of the Judiciary Committee might be able to assist us to be able to post on their website and potentially assist with clerking for that meeting. Cara Pavalock D'Amato stated it will also be on the CGA website, and we can put it out to some family law attorneys to share it as well.

Magistrate Michael Ferguson clarified that the second meeting will take place on October 2, 2025, at 5:00pm in Hartford at the LOB until it is changed based on the outcome of the September meeting.

5:34 pm – Review of and vote on updated proposed regulation(continued)
Magistrate Michael Ferguson moved to entertain a motion on the proposed regulations. Carolyn Signorelli moved that we approved the proposed regulations. Graham Shaffer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5:36 pm – Adjournment

Magistrate Michael Ferguson stated the next meeting is the public hearing September 11, 2025.