STATE OF CONNECTICUT, CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES COMMISSION MEETING

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Minutes for the February 5, 2026, meeting held via Microsoft Teams. Agenda items are bolded.
Scribe: Gregory Bennett, DSS/OCSS

5:01pm – Call to order, provision for meeting minutes.
Roll Call
Present: CFSM Michael Ferguson, Chair, Graham Shaffer, Carolyn Signorelli, Darren Pruslow, Campbell D. Barrett, Allison E Post, Amy MacNamara , Michael Werner, Virginia Brown, and Susan Hamilton.

Not present: Gary Winfield, Cara Pavalock D'Amato, Scott Storms.

Minutes from the December 4, 2025 meeting moved to accept by Graham Shaffer and seconded by Michael Werner. The motion carried.

5:04 pm – Update on status of proposed regulation

Magistrate Michael Ferguson began the meeting by turning it over to Graham Shaffer to have an update on the status of our proposed regulations. Graham stated he wanted to bring everyone up to speed on what happening since our last meeting. He stated that proposed regulations, the updated guidelines was accepted by the Attorney Generals office. He stated that for legal sufficiency purposes we then sent it to the legislative regulations review committee and it has been scheduled for February 24, which is a Tuesday, for a hearing with the regs review committee. Graham stated that he doesn't yet have a zoom link for that and he believes the hearing is at 11:00am and then stated yes, 11:00am room 1 e of the Legislative Office Building which is in Hartford and where we had our two public hearings on the proposed regulation. He stated that when he has a zoom link from the committee administrator, he will circulate that to all the members. Graham stated that he plans to attend in person, and it would be great to have as many members there in person, or at least there through zoom, which is what they use over there for the hearing. He stated that we never know if they're going to have a lot of questions, so he will get that zoom link out as soon as he has it. He stated the other thing he wanted to make you all aware of is that since our last meeting and before we submitted it to the Regulations Review Committee, we realized in looking at old minutes and talking to some folks in both SES and OCSS here at DSS that there's usually been in the past a delayed implementation of the new guidelines. Graham stated largely the reason for that is that the CCSES, the computer eligibility system that's used in our 4D program, needs to be reprogrammed with the new schedule. He stated any new rules we put in, and similarly, private vendors who offer software to the bar for purpose of computing child support orders need to do the same. He stated so we did indicate in what's known as our notice of decision that we would be moving forward. Graham stated we did indicate an August 1st effective date and I wanted to make sure you guys were all aware of that. He stated we think it's necessary, after talking to folks within state government that that happened. He stated that is where we're we stand with the proposed regulation and again like when we get to regs review, they can do a number of things with it, they can reject it without prejudice because they feel like there's changes we need to make. He stated that would delay the process a bit because we'll have to make those changes, then go back to the Attorney General's office and get it approved, submit it for a new hearing And they could approve it with just technical changes, which is sort of what I'm hoping for at the end of the day, in which case the reg would be filed with the secretary of the state's office and then our August 1st effective date would kick in. He stated that those are the two sort of most likely outcomes as we get as we get

to Reg review. He stated if you guys have any questions, let me know, but otherwise I'll send that zoom link when I have it.

5:11 pm – Assignment of Work for the Preamble

Magistrate Michael Ferguson stated I know we talked earlier, Graham, with Darren that committee they really want the people to be present versus the zoom in case we have to answer any questions. Magistrate Ferguson stated he would definitely be there with Graham and I think Darren said he would be there as well and hopefully attorney Signorelli could be there and some others as well. He stated that way it'll be the group of the Commission members that can field and answer the questions, so hopefully we can get a good group to be there. He asked Do you have any questions on what Graham just laid out? With no responses. He stated like indicated, this should be a fairly quick meeting and the the other, the big issue is we could probably get start on writing the preamble or revising it, and so he's not sure if anyone had an opportunity to look at it and to figure out what sections they want to see if they can revise. Magistrate Ferguson stated just so the committee could know, we met briefly and hopefully we can get some participation in rewriting the revising preamble. Carolyn Signorelli stated that she did tell Graham that she would be willing to help wherever the slack needs to be picked up and happy to help. Magistrate Ferguson stated rather than put everyone on the spot he will send an email out to everyone, all the Commission members, and you can pick what area you would like to revise and he will assign areas and then we can go from there. Susan Hamilton stated she was not sure if there is already people assigned to different sections yet and where the gaps might be, or are we sort of starting from just sort of a blank slate with each of the sections? Magistrate Ferguson stated that we have identified the different areas and so we can just kind of send you an e-mail and then you can say, oh, I want to do this, say and that might be a little easier. Graham Shaffer stated what he can do after this meeting, and he'd hope to have it done before this meeting, but he thought of competing other obligations is I think we've kind of identified from both the notice of intent that we've issued and also previous agenda items where we discussed various topics that ultimately were not changed or adopted in the proposed guidelines. He stated that he can put together sort of a list of all those topics to try to link that in with the different provisions of the guidelines that are affected and then circulate that to the membership so that you can see like these are the things that we need to address. He stated that he's already circulated the Word document with the preamble from the previous version of the guidelines, and it appears to me typically what happens is the Commission goes sub section by subsection, subdivision by subdivision and says, here's what this provision talks about, we made no changes and here's why. Graham stated typically because there was no reason to make changes, everything seems working fine and then in those sections where they did make changes and they note that they provide some commentary for why they made the changes, what they think the changes mean, and then in sections where they debated changes but didn't make changes they explain in. He stated for details why we did not make changes even though we considered it so, I think that's really the work ahead of us is to do that, and he can try to put together sort of a guidance document with all the different topics, the provisions implicated in the guide. Graham stated then maybe we can have people weigh in there and he did also talk to Paul Bordelow at SES. He stated that he didn't think that the turnaround time was that great for getting those printed once they have a final version of the preamble from us, but he would still kind of like to have this done by early this summer. Graham stated with that August 1st implementation date, we can make sure that the judicial branch has everything they need to print the new booklets when the time comes.

Magistrate Michael Ferguson then asked if there were any questions or comments and by the next meeting we should have that document distributed to everyone, assigned the topics, and we should be going forward. He

stated that he hopes that we can get a good portion of the Commission members to be present on the 24th at 11:00 AM and that's room 1 E and that concludes the meeting.

5:17pm – Adjournment