STATE OF CONNECTICUT, CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES COMMISSION MEETING

*These are draft minutes and have not yet been approved by the Commission

Minutes for the April 2, 2026, meeting held via Microsoft Teams. Agenda items are bolded.
Scribe: Gregory Bennett, DSS/OCSS

5:02pm – Call to order, provision for meeting minutes.

Roll Call

Present: CFSM Michael Ferguson, Chair, Graham Shaffer, Carolyn Signorelli, Cara Pavalock D'Amato, Allison E Post, Michael Werner, Virginia Brown.

Not present: Darren Pruslow, Susan Hamilton, Campbell D. Barrett, Gary Winfield, Scott Storms, Amy MacNamara.

Minutes from the March 5, 2026 meeting moved to accept by Graham Shaffer and seconded by Cara Pavalock D'Amato . The motion carried.

5:05 pm – Proposed regulation has been accepted by SOTS

Magistrate Michael Ferguson began the meeting by turning it over to Graham Shaffer to have an update on the status of the proposed regulations that have been accepted. Graham stated the last time we met he had reported that the proposed regs have been approved with technical corrections by the review committee and that he filed them with the corrections with the Secretary of the State's Office. He stated the Secretary of the State's Office has accepted the filing and that it will become effective August 1, 2026. Magistrate Michael Ferguson then thanked the people that were there and stated that the people who went before us had quite a few questions but when they called ours there was not a single question. Magistrate Ferguson also pointed out that some others were also watching via remote.

5:09 pm – Check in on work for preamble

Magistrate Michael Ferguson stated that the reason this meeting was called was to check to see how everyone is doing with the preamble. He stated that he submitted his draft sections, and it was added to the draft. Magistrate Ferguson stated that Cara Pavalock D'Amato sent hers in as well along with Graham Shaffer. He stated that he wanted to make sure that people are working on their sections and that we have time but doesn't want it to get away from us because it comes up very quickly. He stated that those who do not have their sections done and those shooting for May 1st need to get them in. Magistrate Ferguson then inquired of Graham Shaffer if all the sections are handed out and Graham Shaffer stated that everything is accounted for and that there are a few people with some outstanding ones. Graham stated he himself has some more portions to do that he has taken on. Graham stated that he circulated the most recent draft a couple hours before the meeting today and a draft a week ago with the agenda, but it has been updated with a few more sections added. Graham asked if anyone had a chance to go through what is drafted so far and if so, if there are questions or concerns, we can raise today. He stated he also wanted to get feedback from the group about one thing and then proceeded to share his screen of the draft preamble with the meeting. Graham stated that we are working off the last commission's preamble as a starting point and editing from there, and if you go through it there are a lot of places where we did changes or considered changes that we didn't ultimately

make and we need to explain our deliberations. Graham stated there are also sections in there where it is not any aspect of the guidelines that we discussed or raised and no one on the commission had reason to seek any changes with these sections. He pointed to an example where the previous commission did make some changes to the guidelines concerning cases where another child resides with a parent. Graham inquired if we want in these sections that we didn't touch or deliberate on in any way to leave in there or say we decided to make no changes because we think that everything is working according to plan or remove these provisions that we did not touch at all. Graham stated that he was originally planning on updating and saying everything is working but it is not quite section by section as he originally thought it was, and it seems like there was some selectivity involved with the previous commission's preamble about what they included in the preamble and what they didn't. He stated that they were largely focused on things that they changed or things that they talked about and didn't change. Graham also stated one thing we could do is rework the language to provide historical context about what the previous commission did and say we decided to make no changes, so it is a living document that memorializes everything that has happened over the years or remove these sections. Carolyn Signorelli then inquired if the sections are talking about things that still apply. Graham stated yes and referred to the section on the screen that goes back to 1999 and the changes that were made then, and that they explained why they made additional changes. He stated there are still provisions of the guidelines that are still applicable, and it is not them talking about sections that they removed. Carolyn stated where is says the present commission has deleted the requirement you would need to put something like "previously deleted but we are leaving it the way it is". Graham agreed and stated, "we still agree with the state of this provision, and we are leaving it as is". Caroyln stated we need to do that because otherwise it will be confusing, and Magistrate Ferguson agreed. Magistrate Ferguson stated that we need to put something in there, even if it's one line saying that we didn't address it, but that everything was ok. Graham Shaffer stated we will need to go through every section in here and change the terminology from "we changed" to "the previous commission made this change, and we continue to believe that was appropriate and left this section of the guidelines unchanged". Carolyn Signorelli then stated to keep it as brief as possible since we did not discuss it. Magistrate Ferguson stated you should be able to use the same language for each section and agreed with Caroyln Signorelli that we don't have go into it because we did not discuss it. Graham stated that is what he is doing with the sections that we did change or talked about and didn't change and rewording what is already there to explain the lineage of the section in question and why we are making additional changes or why considered to make additional changes but chose not to. Graham asked again if anyone had chance to look through it all and if there was any feedback. Magistrate Ferguson stated that he did and that it looked good and it tied it all in, so it looks like an even flow. Graham stated as a reminder the Judicial Branch told us that they need a completed draft by June 15th in order to print everything and he did reach out to the Secretary of the State's Office and they are getting him a PDF document of the full guidelines with all of our revisions in it so that we can include that in the preamble in one document so that we can then send it to the Judicial Branch to publish. Magistrate Ferguson asked if there were any questions regarding the preamble or the next steps and Graham stated that it would be good to have everything done to the extent possible by the May meeting because it gives us a buffer if we need to come back in June to discuss. Carolyn Signorelli inquired whether changes should be made on the document we have and then send it to Graham or to try to share it. Graham stated that he did not know if he could share the document outside of the State and to ensure that there is one master document, have people send him their changes and he will ensure everything gets incorporated and then share with the group. Cara Pavalock D'Amato then stated she will reach out to Graham about the shared parenting and Graham stated that he already started to do some of it so she can look at the two sections where shared parenting needs to be discussed because he has already completed one of them.

5:15pm – Adjournment

Next meeting: May 7, 2026