

Child Support Advisory Committee Guidelines Recommendations – 2016

Public Education

Recommendation: The Child Support Advisory Committee recommends that public education, focused on informing parents about how the child support guideline amounts are determined and the method for calculating individual child support obligations, be incorporated into parent education programs such as the Children in the Middle program.

Comment: The Committee recognized that there seems to be more acceptance of child support amounts when parents understand how and why the guideline amount of support is determined. The Committee believes Children in the Middle would be a good venue to provide education, but also recognizes that not all parents participate in that program, and therefore discussed potential partnerships with CSRU and Drake's Children's Rights Center to create additional educational videos for parents.

Economic Data

Recommendation: The Child Support Advisory Committee recommends that the Court review the published research paper submitted to the Committee entitled *The Monetary Cost of Raising Children*, by William S. Comanor, Mark Sarro, and R. Mark Rogers, and have an economist comment on the theories provided.

Comment: The Committee does not specifically agree or disagree with the economic report submitted, but defers to the Guideline Review Committee and economists to consider the theories provided in comparison to those used to formulate the Child Support Guidelines.

Income from Second Jobs

Recommendation: The Child Support Advisory Committee recommends that the Court amend Chapter 9 to include a summary of the case law regarding income from second jobs.

Comment: The Committee discussed the benefit to the public of summarizing case law to clearly define, within the Child Support Guidelines, the concepts that already exist in case law which the public may not be aware of or have access to. The Committee also discussed specific language recommendations, but instead defers to the Guideline Review Committee for a well-researched summary of case law.

Public Comments

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In addition to the above recommendations, the Child Support Advisory Committee submits the public comments provided regarding the Child Support Guidelines for the Court's review.