

Minutes

Child Support Schedule Workgroup

Subcommittee: Self-Support Reserve and Adding Deductions

Friday, April 28, 2023 11:35am - 1:50pm

Green River College
12401 SE 320th St, Auburn, WA 98092
Mel Lindbloom Student Union Building
Twin Peaks Room 151

To access the meeting online and to register: [Webinar Registration](#) | [Miro](#)

Attendance

Members Appearing:

Kaha Arte	Raymond Allen	Joy Moore
Amy Roark		<i>Facilitator: Rachelle Jennings</i>
		<i>Notetaker: Lucas Camacho</i>

Public Attendees: None

Agenda Details

1. **Welcome**
 - a. Agenda Overview
2. **Timeline**
 - a. Review
 - b. Schedule Remaining Subcommittee Meetings
 - i. No remaining scheduled meetings, should we schedule additional meetings?
 1. Friday, May 5th, 3:00pm – 5:00pm.
 2. Thursday, May 11th, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
 3. Thursday, May 25th, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
 4. Wednesday, May 31st, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
 5. Friday, June 9th, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
 6. Friday, June 16th, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
 - c. The group will present recommendations and gather final feedback in the workgroup meeting on May 19th.
3. **Update on Focus Area 1: Self Support Reserve Calculation**
 - a. Anneliese is working on analyzing alternative models.
4. **Focus Area 2: Worksheet Deductions**
 - a. Discussed RCW 26.19.075 – Standards for deviation from the standard calculation.
 - i. The existing language allows the courts to deviate support based on extraordinary debt, disparities in living costs, special needs of disabled children, special medical, educational, or psychological needs of children, and costs anticipated to be incurred by parents in compliance with court-ordered reunification efforts.
 - ii. Cases with noncustodial parents who have significant debt are often referred for bankruptcy or to other agencies

- iii. Discussed adding deviations for noncustodial parents who are in treatment/rehabilitation programs
- iv. Noncustodial parents who lose housing – can they ask for a temporary modification or would they need to pursue a normal modification?
 - 1. Housing loss would likely meet the criteria for a significant change in circumstances, so it would be more along the line of normal modification process
- v. Paid family leave
 - 1. Joy will draft proposed language change to add Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and other mandatory contributions
- vi. Maintenance payments
 - 1. Maintenance payments are currently counted as income to the payer per federal policy. In Washington it counts as income to the payee. Do we change to federal law?
 - a. Group doesn't have strong feelings about this.
 - b. Only affects high-income families with divorce orders
 - c. Would it help to know how many cases have maintenance on them?
 - i. Rachelle will gather court order data.
- vii. Are criminal fines counted as deductions? Should this be considered?

Break (12:52pm – 1:10pm)

5. Defining BSO in 26.19.011

- a. Discussion
 - i. “Monthly child support obligation determined from the economic table based on the parties’ combined monthly net income and the number of children for whom support is owed.”
 - ii. Terry is the one who recommended refining this definition further and he is not present today, so the group is unsure how to continue the discussion.

6. Alternate Self Support Reserve (SSR) Models

- a. Arizona model – their state sets their SSR at 80% of full-time monthly minimum wage earnings.
 - i. If Washington used the same model, the SSR would be \$2015/mo. For comparison, our existing SSR is \$1519/mo.
 - 1. Labor and Industries implements a cost of living adjustment every year (announced in September to take effect following January).
 - ii. Need to do more research as to how Arizona arrived at their 80% figure.
 - 1. Initial finding is that Arizona determined that the 80% limitation allows their parents to maintain a basic standard of living and still afford to pay child support.
 - iii. Can explore other thresholds once we have done this research.
 - iv. Who benefits from this model?
 - 1. Depends who you are – more noncustodial parents would have \$50 orders, but that means the custodial parents and their children would receive less money.
 - 2. Minimum wage earners if Washington’s minimum wage were to ever become stagnant
 - v. What is the best percentage of minimum wage to support a single person household?
 - 1. Will need to take a closer look at Consumer Price Index/census info for basic needs in Washington’s.
 - a. Ray will research the minimum cost to support a single person household in WA

7. Decisions, Tasks, and Next Steps

- a. Homework
 - i. Joy will draft proposed language change to add FMLA and other mandatory contributions

- ii. Rachelle will gather court order data regarding the number of cases with maintenance on them.
 - iii. Ray will research the minimum cost to support a single person household in WA
- b. Next meeting: Friday, May 5th, 3:00pm – 5:00pm.