

## Alabama

### **(C) Determination of Recommended Child Support Obligation.**

**(1) Basic Child Support Obligation.** The basic child support obligation shall be determined by using the schedule of basic child support obligations. The category entitled "combined gross income" in the schedule means the combined monthly adjusted gross incomes of both parents. "Adjusted gross income" means gross income less preexisting child support obligations and less preexisting periodic alimony actually paid by a parent to a former spouse. For combined gross income amounts falling between amounts shown in the schedule, the lower value shall be used if the combined gross income falls less than halfway between the amounts shown in the schedule. Where the combined gross income falls halfway or more than halfway between two amounts, the higher value shall be used. The category entitled "number of children due support" in the schedule means children for whom the parents share joint legal responsibility and for whom support is being sought. The court may use its discretion in determining child support in circumstances where combined adjusted gross income is below the lowermost levels or exceeds the uppermost levels of the schedule.

**(2) Computation of Child Support.** A total child support obligation is determined by adding the basic child support obligation, work-related child care costs, and health insurance costs. The total child support obligation shall be divided between the parents in proportion to their adjusted gross incomes. The obligation of each parent is computed by multiplying the total child support obligation by each parent's percentage share of their combined adjusted gross income. The custodial parent shall be presumed to spend his or her share directly on the child.

**(3) Rounding.** All dollar amounts used in child support calculations under this rule, including the recommended child support order, may be rounded to the nearest dollar, and all percentages may be rounded to the nearest one percent.

**(4) Additional Awards for Child Support.** In addition to the recommended child support order, the court may make additional awards for extraordinary medical, dental, and educational expenses if (i) the parties have in writing agreed to such awards or (ii) the court, upon reviewing the evidence, determines that such awards are in the best interest of the children and states its reasons for making such additional awards.

