

Guideline Models by State

From <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/models.htm>

There are roughly three child support guideline models used by the states:

The **Income Shares Model** is based on the concept that the child should receive the same proportion of parental income that he or she would have received if the parents lived together. In an intact household, the income of both parents is generally pooled and spent for the benefit of all household members, including any children.

The **Percentage of Income Model** sets support as a percentage of only the noncustodial parent's income; the custodial parent's income is not considered. This model has two variations: the Flat Percentage Model and the Varying Percentage Model.

The **Melson Formula** is a more complicated version of the Income Shares Model, which incorporates several public policy judgments designed to insure that each parent's basic needs are met in addition to the children's. The Melson Formula was developed by a Delaware Family Court judge and fully explained in *Dalton v. Clanton*, 559 A.2d 1197 (Del. 1989).

All of the guideline models have certain aspects in common. First, most of the guidelines incorporate a "self-support" reserve for the obligor. Second, all the guidelines have a provision relating to imputed income. Third, by federal regulation, all the guidelines take into consideration the health care expenses for the children, by insurance or other means. Lastly, most of the guidelines have incorporated into the presumptive child support formula special additions for child care expenses, special formulas for shared custody, split custody, and extraordinary visitation, and special deductions for the support of previous and subsequent children.

Guideline Models by State			
Percentage of Obligor's Income	Income Shares		Melson Formula
Alaska	Alabama	New Jersey	Delaware

Arkansas	Arizona	New Mexico	Hawaii
District of Columbia	California	New York	Montana
Georgia	Colorado	North Carolina	
Illinois	Connecticut	Ohio	
Massachusetts	Florida	Oklahoma	
Minnesota	Guam	Oregon	
Mississippi	Idaho	Pennsylvania	
Nevada	Indiana	Rhode Island	
North Dakota	Iowa	South Carolina	
Tennessee	Kansas	South Dakota	
Texas	Kentucky	Utah	
Wisconsin	Louisiana	Vermont	
	Maine	Virgin Islands	
	Maryland	Virginia	
	Michigan	Washington	

	Missouri	West Virginia	
	Nebraska	Wyoming	
	New Hampshire		

NOTE: Puerto Rico did not specify which guidelines it follows.

Source: Morgan, Laura. *Child Support Guidelines*