

Kansas Child Support Guidelines Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
July 28, 2006

Members attending: Hon. Nancy Parrish, Hon. Tom Foster, Hon. Tom Graber, Roy Brungardt, Prof. Linda Elrod, Dave Gregory, Charlie Harris, Sherri Loveland, Rep. Tim Owens, Gary Pomeroy, staff.

Guest: Dr. Jodi Pelkowski

Dr. Jodi Pelkowski

Dr. Pelkowski provided handouts and gave a presentation on income shares, including the positive aspects and criticisms. She reviewed other types of child support guidelines models and compared them to the income shares model.

Dr. Pelkowski also went over the dissolution burden. She said the dissolution burden is consistent with what the IRS would say a household should be able to keep and be subsistent.

The Kansas Guidelines have “hold downs” for childcare and health care. Dr. Pelkowski will calculate how the figures would look without these hold downs.

Dr. Pelkowski explained how she calculates the child support percentage of income, which is what drives the guideline tables. In the same way Dr. Terrell did, she uses 1990-1992 consumer expenditures data as a base and updates it to 2005 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. She uses USDA estimated annual expenditures to figure out “how much to reduce the child age groups.” Dr. Pelkowski uses the resulting data to make per capita estimates. She calculates the income before and after taxes.

The committee inquired if there is more recent consumer expenditures data than the 1990-1992 data. Dr. Pelkowski said that to get more recent data would be cost prohibitive, and noted that the 1990-1992 data is updated to 2005 dollars.

Dr. Pelkowski also explained that her estimates were made without eliminating any categories. At the committee’s request, she will calculate what would have happened had the committee not requested Dr. Terrell to develop hold downs on child and health care. Dr. Pelkowski will also determine what is included in each of the consumer expenditure survey categories. She will break out tax categories and explain what they include.

Dr. Pelkowski iterated that the issue of whether the age charts should be removed or the percentages changed is a policy decision.

Dr. Pelkowski compared current tables to her draft estimate (which contains all the adjustments).

The *Ronen* case was brought up. Dr. Pelkowski was asked if extracurricular expenses are fairly and sufficiently averaged into the Kansas guidelines. Dr. Pelkowski’s said she thought that yes;

these costs are averaged into the guidelines, because they would be included in “all the costs of the household” in the Cost Expenditure. She noted that this would cover the average family’s extracurricular activities, like soccer, but would not cover non-average types of extracurricular activities, like premier soccer (which costs significantly more money.) Dr. Pelkowski will double check and inform the committee on her final opinion on this issue at the next meeting.

The committee thought it should discuss giving some guidance on *Ronen* in the guidelines, such as that the guidelines provide for average families doing average things and may not provide for all extracurricular expenses. If Dr. Pelkowski’s final opinion is that these extracurricular costs are adequately averaged in, the committee thought perhaps the fact these expenses are accounted for should be noted in the guidelines.

### Cost of Living Differential

Dr. Pelkowski informed the committee that there are annual cost of living statistics on the Census Bureau’s website. The statistics are based on average annual pay. The committee said it will ask that the website URL be put in the guidelines.

The committee noted that in higher income cases, the estimated annual expenditures in Kansas were approximately \$300 more per month than the USDA figures. Dr. Pelkowski said that income shares models penalize mid-to-high income households more, probably because per capita income is used. The Committee will consider this when it studies the application of *Ronen* in more depth, because perhaps in mid-to-high income cases the non-custodial parent actually is covering the cost of extracurricular activities.

Dr. Pelkowski said that she feels comfortable with Dr. Terrell’s work and what was done in the past. She was very impressed in how the committee had dealt with and adjusted for potential problems inherent with income shares models.

Dr. Pelkowski said the committee might be interested in learning about Arizona’s time adjustment, because it is a good one.

### Other

The June minutes were approved as amended.

Dave Gregory made changes to the public survey based on committee comments and suggestions. He will email it to committee members prior to the next meeting and then get it out. There was talk of whether the Kansas Payment Center could put the survey in their mailings.

Staff reported that the Issues Discovery Survey will get up and running.

### Future Agenda Items

Dr. Pelkowski will discuss Arizona’s time adjustment. It will be first on the agenda. She will also discuss the results of her removing the “hold downs.”

Shared residency/shared custody

Judge Parrish will be unable to attend the September meeting.

Future meetings

August 25 (long meeting)

September 29

October 27

December 1