

## **Comments to the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel**

### **Document 5 – April 18, 2013 through August 30, 2013**

From April 18, 2013 through August 30, 2013, 12 emails and three letters were sent to the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel. Four (4) emails pertained to a specific DCSE case and were referred to DCSE for a case specific response. Eight (8) emails and the three (3) letters addressed general topics. All inquiries received a response.

All identifying information on case specific inquiries has been crossed out and salutations and closings have been deleted.

1. From: RF  
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 8:39 PM  
Subject: General question about a review

I recently received a letter from you stating that the non-custodial parent is asking for a review of the court ordered child support. The paper work is requesting that I return financial information so that the review can begin. I would like to hire a lawyer before beginning this process. However, the paper work says it must be returned in 10 days. What do I need to do to extend this deadline so that I have adequate time to hire a lawyer and have them review everything?

Thank you

2. From: DC  
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 3:49 PM  
Subject: CSE (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Good afternoon,  
Why is Income Tax offset not included in the computation of Child Support?  
When the custodial parent receives support which covers child care costs and still receives the benefit again when they claim the child for income tax.  
After reading up on this, I thought some offset should be included.  
This was not the situation in my case.  
How can I find out if it should be considered?  
Thanks

## Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

3. From: DG  
Sent: Friday, June 07, 2013 7:52 PM  
Subject: Questions about child support

To whom this may concern,

My name is XXXXXX XXXXXX, and my questions is even If I was incarcerated and now that I'm home looking for gainful employment to pay child support yet the mother of the child wants to receive money and I'm barely bringing in \$200 who can I speak to on if paying her money what can I do about my bill with dcsc? My email is xxxxxxxx@yahoo.com Contact number (XXX)XXX-XXXX Thank you for your time!

4. From: DLM  
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 1:06 PM  
Subject: Emails sent to me

Please send all announcements, decisions and activities of this panel to my email address. Thanks.

Sender of this message: Secretary of Fathers for Virginia (FFV): D'Arcy L McGreer, FFV Website: . FFV message group, Virginia Childless Fathers. Phone: 571-502-2294, Fax: Address: 2200 Wilson Blvd, Ste 102-271, Arlington VA, 22201.

5. From: JB  
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 2:35 PM  
Subject: Membership

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to inquiry how does a person become a citizen member?

6. From: LD  
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 8:39 AM  
Subject: Guideline Panel Hearing

Dear Alice and Craig:

In light of the fact that you already have the input from the Virginia Bar Family Coalition on the issues, and you have my personal written comments which I would like part of the record, and further, since the issue of shared custody guidelines is being deferred by the Panel at this time, I will not plan on attending the Public Comment hearing today. You can rely on my comments and I fully support the updated numbers and recommendations of the Panel. If I can be of assistance in the legislative process this winter and appear to support your efforts at any committee

## Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

meetings at which I am available, feel free to count on me to assist as always. Thanks you and good luck.

7. From: LC  
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2012 11:49 AM  
Subject:

To whom it may concern,

my case number is XXXXXX I've had a case with ya'll for almost 22 years now and it is still in arrearage \$13,000 the non-custodial parent has all but defied everything that the court system has put upon him and still there is nothing being done. I would greatly appericate it if someone would look into this matter. thank you XXXXXX  
XXXXX [xxxxx@yahoo.com](mailto:xxxxx@yahoo.com)

8. From: JG  
Letter dated: Monday, July 8, 2013

My name is XXXXXX. Please allow me to share my story with you. I was never married to my childrens mom. We lived together for over a year. When we found out we were expecting, she moved me out of her house back into mine one day while I was at work and moved her new boyfriend in. She promised to let me know when they were born. They were twins and they were 3days old before I even knew they were in this world. She didn't called me, she didn't call anyone, her step-dad called my mom to tell her they were 3 days old. I had to make an appointment to see my own kids. From Janurary to April I called her 27 times asking to see my children and she always said no. When they were 3 days old she also filed for custody and support, the same day her step dad called my mom.

In April a DNA test was orderd and it came back they were mine. At that time I was allowed visitation with my twins. The child support was so high that 8 months later I lost my home and my truck which I need to get to work. I could not understand why I was being treated like this. She told the court that I was a drug addit and I was a felony. I had to go to classes and take all kinds of test ( blood test, liver test, personally test) passed all with flying colors. She was ordered to take a co-parenting class which she never did and nothing was ever said to her for not doing what the judge ordered. I couldn't understand why I was being treated like this when I had did nothing wrong.

When they were 11 months old she told me they had asthma and was giving me medicine to give to them. I could not believe this, they seemed find when they were with me. I took them to a specialist and the doctor said they were find and she couldn't find any reason for the medicine. Then I realized her grandmother had COPD and was on the same medicine. I could not believe this. In 2010 there were over 100 trips to the

## Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

doctor and over \$10,000 in medicine. I talked to an attorney and we went back to court. In the beginning we had joint legal and after this court date that right was taken from me and I was not allowed to take them to the doctor anymore. If anything happens while I have them I have to drive all the way back to Dinwiddie County and she take them to the doctor. I couldn't understand why I was being treated this way for proving my kids did not have asthma.

Judge XXXXXX XXXXXX is the J&D judge in XXXXXX County. In 2012 I found out her 1grandmother was a XXXXXX and that he has been reprimanded. Now it all makes sense. He believes every thing the mom says and I lie, no matter what I say or what I prove. I work 6 days a week trying to have a decent place to bring my children when I do have them. Judge XXXXXX wouldn't allow any of my work expenses to be heard, he said you have no expenses and I almost fainted. I have ask over and over again for more time with my children only to be denied.

It seems that I will never have any decent time with my children or a standard life for my children unless the laws are changed. I am begging that the panel will lower the guidelines so I can have a decent life with my children. I love them more than life and want to give them a few thing that will make them happy when they are with me and don't have to always say daddy doesn't have the money for that.

Thank you for your time

XXXXXX XXXXXX

Twins Dad

9. From: MD  
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 1:27 PM  
Subject: Child Support

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am looking for information about how to calculate the child support or one child, with a father income monthly \$1,300 and a mother income monthly \$1,500 (live with her parent). The child has a medicaid for his health. Please, help me to figure up how to calculate the support that the father has to pay. I checked the website I saw the guideline but I can't figure out how to do it. I need help from you.

Thank you.

10. From: CW  
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2013 2:16 AM  
Subject: XXXXX XXXXX XXXXXX

To whom this may concern,

This is XXXXXX XXXXXX concerning my daughter XXXXXX XXXXXX. I am the custodial parent and i am recieving \$15:00 a week child support and this willl not cover her diapers. I want to know how much I should be recieving now that her father

## Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

XXXXXX XXXXXX is working full time at Munters in Buena Vista. His pay scale has changed dramitically since the original court order. I am requesting that my case be reviewed, to see if my daughter is entitled to an increase in support as these funds do not cover her diapers for the week because I recieve her support in \$15:00 increments.

11. From: HG

Letter Received: Friday, July 26, 2013

The formula for the Virginia Childs Support Guidelines is excessive and flawed in my opinion. Excessive child support orders are the result in part of archaic way of thinking, namely, that the wellbeing of the child is soley bound upon the wellbeing of the custodial parent and their home. And that the circumstance of the non-custodial parent matters little or not at all to the wellbeing of the child. The existing Guidelines are also bad for children because they diminish parenting time by the non-custodial parent. In many cases the non-custodial parent finds that the only lodgings he can afford are quite distant from where the children are living. Much time is then spent by both the non- custodial parent and the child in commuting. Moreover, the non-custodial parent is frequently forced to work two or three jobs, or substantial overtime, simply to survive in the face of an excessive child support order combined with the effects of taxation. I think it is critical for the wellbeing of our children that we consider the financial effects of the Guidelines, together with tax law, on both households.

The system treats dads as no more than ATM machines, incapable of making financial decisions for their children. Dads may have shortcomings, but that doesn't mean he isn't a good dad, capable of making financial decisions for his kids. Dads made competent decisions on behalf of their children before divorce, so why is it that the state deems men incompetent after divorce, empowering only the mothers? Deciding what to spend on our children should be EVERY parents right, not just mothers. The state of Virginia has taken away that parenting right from fathers by giving mothers complete finanical control with no accountability.

The moms are the heroes, which futher alienates the kids from dad because all they know is that mom spends all the money on them and dad is always broke. That dad lives in a dump that they are embarrassed to visit and never enough money to do things with them. They have no concept that the money that mom spends is coming from dad. The monetary gains that mothers achive under these guidelines, coupled with free legal aid, encourage mothers to demand full custody in our court system. I am confident that there would be a sugnificant decrease in this disturbing trend if the guidelines were adjusted to reflect fair child amounts for each party. What's more important to a child, Ugg boots and smartphones or a loving relationship with their dad and mom? What will do more emotional damage to a child, having to move into a smaller home or having to witness the deterioration of their dads pride and well-being, and having little time with their exhausted dad because they have to work two jobs just to stay afloat? I am insulted that the State allows mothers to bleed these fathers dry under the cop-out of doing what's best for the children, with absoutley NO requirement

## Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

that the money is actually being spent on the children. In my opinion child support guidelines should encourage parental responsibilities for child support in proportion to as a percentage of the parent's income.

It is my understanding that weekly health insurance (dental and vision) should be considered and subtracted from available income, if the non-custodial parent is paying this. In some counties the non-custodial parent is paying all insurance on his children. This is not considered nor is his work related expenses and he ends up with less than half of his pay. THIS IS SO WRONG

It should be noted that the country is perilously close to posting a median household income number of less than \$50,000.00 for the first time since 1995. Almost every group is worse off than it was three years ago, and some groups had very large declines in income. We're in an unprecedented period of economic stagnation.

SOURCE : MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Massachusetts is the third richest State in the United States (Data from 2010 US Census) with median income \$89,728.00. Massachusetts Support Guidelines Panel just passed effective August 1, 2013--11% decrease for one child--6% for 2 children.

I ask you today to pause a moment, put yourself on some of these dad's shoes, how would feel if you didn't have enough money to take your children to the park, to a movie, out to lunch, skating, or to buy that one toy that they have asked you for.

Thank you for your time,

12. From: JG  
Letter dated: Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter I sent you on July 8, 2013. In that letter I stated that my children's mother has XXXXXX's in her family. Also you will find proof in the documents enclosed.

1. My children's mother's marriage certificate: XXXXXX XXXXXX.
2. Christy's mother's marriage certificate: XXXXXX XXXXXX.
3. XXXXXX XXXXXX mother's death notice. (notice maiden name)

I have high-lighted connectoins.

I know you may have thought I was just a bitter man, I'm not, I just want a fair chance and have be able to afford a decent place to bring my children when I have them and to quality time with them and not have to work 6 days a week all the time.

Thank you for your time,  
XXXXXX XXXXXX  
Twins Dad

## Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

13. From: JV  
Sent: Thursday, August 01, 2013 5:22 PM  
Subject: question

Dear Panel administrator:

If emails are to be sent to panelists for their September 24 meeting, can you please tell me how that works? Does an email sent to this address get forwarded immediately to all panelists -- or does it get distributed only as part of a pre-meeting packet?

If emails are forwarded to panelists as emails come in -- are such forwards to panelists' individual email addresses, or to postal addresses, or ...?

Thanks in advance,  
XXXXXX XXXXXX  
Roanoke, Va.

14. From: RS  
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 3:07 PM  
Subject: Assistance

Good afternoon,  
I am emailing on behalf of my wife. We realize the panel is not authorized to address any specifics of any particular Division of Child Support Enforcement case.

We are not asking for that;

However, what happens, when we follow all the rules wait the appropriate amount of time, escalate to a supervisor, wait the appropriate amount of time, but still receive no response? Who do we turn to, who then will be our advocate?

All we are asking is that you not only forward this to the Division, but to someone who will respond to us. Our request for information is not unreasonable (see below).

Our greatest fear is the lack of critical feedback could result in inaction by the courts or setbacks to resolution.

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

Below is a chronological record (newest to oldest) of what I have done to seek assistance from the DCSE and the results. I am the custodial parent who is seeking child support from my son's non-custodial parent who has not paid it in several years.

## Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

I have made repeated calls with promises of call backs and have received nothing. I followed all of the rules and procedures, progressed up the chain of command, I have filled all appropriate paperwork out and you will read in some instances done investigative work myself to track down the individual and while progress has been made, I am not being provided critical feedback (i.e. whether I need to show up in court, what the court results were, etc.).

I have been patient this long and I can be patient a lot longer; AS LONG AS, I am provided normal and reasonable feedback on major events with this case.

Along with my phone number provided above, my email is xxxxxx@gmail.com

Events to date:

8/2/2013 -- I called to find out status of the 7/31 hearing (I never did hear whether I needed to attend). The rep I spoke to said the update from the court was not available yet. I asked for my case worker (XXXXX XXXXX) to call me on my personal cell phone and mentioned she had not called me back from my call on 7/26 and was told she had 5-7 business days (mind you this was day 5) and the full time had not lapsed. I mentioned that my previous call in June had not been returned and the rep said that her records showed that XXXXX had sent me a letter in response to my call (again, the letter covered a different topic than my need for the call). I asked to speak to a supervisor (who would have been a call center supervisor) and explained that I was not getting calls back. The supervisor left a message for XXXXX's supervisor (XXXXX XXXXX) and said I would get a call back in 1-3 business days. I have not received that call back to date (it has been 5 business days, 2 beyond what was stated).

7/26/2013 -- I called to find out if I needed to attend the hearing scheduled for 7/31 (a fairly important piece of information). I spoke to a call center rep and asked that XXXXX XXXXX call me back. I was told she would call within 5-7 business days. I have not received a call back to date.

June -- I called but I don't have the exact date. I wanted an update on the case and asked that XXXXX XXXXX call me back. I did not get a call back but got a letter saying that a hearing date had been scheduled for 7/31...no other information.

4/15 -- XXXXX XXXXX called me (returned a previous call) and left me a message saying that they had confirmed the non-custodial parent's state of residence but the letter they sent on 2/27 to the address they had on file was not correct and had been returned. So, now they could register the order in GA courts but they needed to notify him and could not without a valid street address. I called XXXXX back and I gave them the address that I had found online which they noted in their records. I also gave them information I had found online regarding employment status of the non-custodial parent demonstrating that he was employed.

4/2 -- I called XXXXX XXXXX to get a status update and was told I would get a call back. (She called back on 4/15)



## Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

12/13/2012 -- I spoke to XXXXX XXXXX (who was the previous case worker) and she said they had confirmed XXXXXX's state of residence and the "packet" would be sent to GA to enter the court order. They were going to expedite the process during the week of 12/17 but she said it would still take 60-90 days.

9/24/2012 -- XXXXX XXXXX checked status and said they had talked to the non-custodial parent and he indicated he was un-employed and could not pay child support. The case was reported to "special collections"

9/11 -- XXXXX XXXXX indicated that DCSW had tried reaching the non-custodial parent.

7/10/2012 -- I received a notice from DCSW indicating they had received my request / paperwork and that my application had been processed and they were notifying the non-custodial parent that he must make payments.

15. From: JV  
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013, 7:29 PM  
Subject: comment on proposal to increase child support

Dear Child Support Guidelines Review Panelists:

I spent my premarital savings and ended a career in order to put my spouse through medical residency while we had children, and I spent almost eight years as the full-time parent. We moved to Roanoke for my spouse's physician career.

When I had zero income and she had \$231,000 annual income from her (still-current) hospital employer, my spouse deserted the home and filed for divorce. It was treated in court as a no-fault divorce (and it certainly was not my fault). The Court ruled to grant her return to the marital home (forcing my departure) and to grant her primary physical custody of our two elementary-school-age children.

I am building a new career in Roanoke. I still do not make the \$35,000 annual income imputed to me by the Court, as I piece together part-time teaching and writing jobs.

I maintain a rented home with three bedrooms, including one for my 11yo son and one for my 8yo daughter, on a street where many of their classmates live, and in the same greater neighborhood as the marital home.

And I am paying child support of \$373/month.

I urge you please to keep in mind the multitude of cases where the non-primary-custodial parent (1) wishes joint custody but was denied it, while still being a fit parent, and (2) therefore maintains expenses of a home for the children and other expenses

## **Comments for the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel**

such routine expenses during "visitations," as well as vacations and trips to visit grandparents, etc.

Please vote to recommend against an increase in formulas for child support payments.