

Virginia Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

May 22, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

5600 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060 – York River Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

The Honorable Bryan K. Meals
The Honorable Tanya Felton, Chair
H. Van Smith, Esq.
Erica Baez, Esq.
Lindsay Hartz, Esq.
Lauren Roaseau

Panel Staff Present:

Leslie Montgomery, Panel Administrator
Taylor Ashe, DCSE
Matt Gomez, DCSE
Shannon Woods, DCSE
Josh Ours, Office of Attorney General

Members Not Present:

Senator Saddam Salim
Delegate James A. (Jay) Leftwich, Jr.
Delegate Katrina E. Callsen
Delegate Karrie K. Delaney
Nupur Bal, Esq.
Jennifer Miller
Christian Paasch
Alana Tucker, Director of the Division
of Child Support

Members of the Public Present:

none

Other Attendees (Virtual):

Patrick Giallorenzo, Office of Senator Saddam Salim

Quorum:

1. To make quorum, 8 panel members are needed.
2. Only 6 panel members were in attendance. Voting items are moved to the next Panel meeting scheduled for August 7, 2025.

Notes:

1. Welcome:

- a. Madam Chair, Tanya Felton, welcomed panel members and attendees and commenced the meeting.

2. Introduction of New Panel Administrator

- a. Leslie Montgomery will be replacing Taylor Ashe as the Panel Administrator.

3. Senate Bill (SB) 805 Review and Action Items

- a. It was discussed whether panel members would like this year's report to reiterate a 2021 report legislative recommendation to update Va. Code § 20-108.1 regarding imputation of income. The draft report will include language for the panel's consideration and vote.

- i. Brief is due November 15.**
 - ii. Full Recommendations Report is due in December.**
- b. The panel discussed SB 805, Enactment Clause #2.

"That the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel, in collaboration with the Division of Child Support Enforcement, shall examine the current outstanding amount of child support arrearages and make recommendations to the General Assembly about measures the General Assembly can consider regarding (i) helping child support obligors pay outstanding arrearages and (ii) whether existing penalties that place restrictions on such obligors' drivers licenses or other professional restrictions unnecessarily impair the obligor's ability to repay outstanding child support arrearages. The Child Support Guidelines Review Panel shall report its conclusions to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice by November 15, 2025."

- i. Examine the current amount of child support arrearages**
 - 1. The panel discussed general information on arrearages.
 - ii. Recommendations on helping obligors pay arrearages**
 - 1. Current DCSE interventions were discussed.
 - a. Family Engagement Services
 - i. Addressing barriers
 - ii. Right-sized orders
 - iii. Assessing ability to pay
 - b. Review and Adjustment
 - c. Judicial Reviews
 - iii. Penalties that unnecessarily impair ability to pay, such as**
 - 1. Driver's license suspension
 - a. Guidelines for driver's license suspensions were discussed.
 - b. If someone is willing to work with DCSE, this can be mitigated. Options include:
 - i. Pay arrears in full
 - ii. Sign a payment agreement
 - iii. Sign up for DCSE's Family Engagement Services or Intensive Case Monitoring
 - iv. Courts can offer restricted licenses
 - 2. Professional License suspension.
 - iv. Additional Questions posed by the panel**
 - 1. How does REAL ID affect DCSE's ability to enforce orders?
 - 2. How does the rise of autonomous vehicles (and ridesharing) affect driver's license suspension?
 - a. How are other states handling this (such as California)?
 - 3. What documents and information are provided to newly obligated parents and parents facing license suspension?
 - a. DCSE provided examples
 - b. Information is also available on the DCSE public website

4. Is there an assessment of the reason for accumulated arrearages?
5. Can DCSE share data from Family Engagement Services?
6. Does DCSE have the ability to levy cryptocurrency?
7. Does DCSE have the ability to levy Zelle and Venmo?
8. What are other states doing to reduce arrearages?
9. Is there any data on the effectiveness of purge payments?
10. How can the panel address differences in standards of living throughout the Commonwealth?

4. Dr. Venohr's One-Pager Response to Dr. Comanor

- a. Everyone will read on their own and send questions to administrator.

5. Dr. Comanor Alternate Guidelines Request

- a. Dr. Comanor would be able to provide a report for a cost:
 - i. It would be a considerable amount of work
 - ii. It is impossible to have this completed for the December report
 - iii. This item should be considered for the next panel

6. Mr. Ashe's Responses to 2/27/25 Panel Questions

- a. 2017 Census Data
 - i. Panel members can let the Panel Administrator know about Virginia census data needs.
- b. Economist Location
 - i. DCSE is exploring the possibility of economists in Virginia.
- c. Board of Appointments language
 - i. Mr. Paasch's request
 1. The Board of Appointments offered no comment.
- d. Child Support Percent of Expenditures Estimate
 - i. Dr. Venohr provided a general response in her report.

7. Administrative Matters

- a. Confirm all-virtual meeting dates (Vote)
 - i. July 10th, 2025
 - ii. September 25th, 2025
 - iii. **Due to lack of quorum, no vote occurred.**
- b. Review Panel emails
- c. Update on DCSE data collection, as per the panel's requirements this cycle
 - i. That is our last and most significant collection:
 1. Must consider imputed income
 2. Sample of 30 days
 3. 60 days of payment data
 4. Look at trends for arrearages
 5. There might be preliminary data for July, but this will be completed by September.
- d. Questions, including public comment/ questions
 - i. No members of the public were present
- e. Attendance for Next Meeting
 - i. Many have already replied that they will not be able to attend

ii. Consider rescheduling

1. A survey for availability will be sent out to panel members.

8. Adjourn