

Virginia Child Support Guidelines Review Panel

September 25, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

The Honorable Tanya Felton, Chair
Senator Saddam Salim
Jennifer Miller
H. Van Smith, Esq.
Nupur Bal, Esq.
The Honorable Bryan K. Meals
Erica Baez, Esq.
Lauren Roaseau
Christian Paasch
Lindsay Hartz, Esq.
Lindsay Harp
Delegate Katrina E. Callsen
Alana Tucker, Director, Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE)

Members Not Present:

Delegate James A. (Jay) Leftwich, Jr.
Delegate Karrie K. Delaney

Members of the Public Present:

Patrick Giallorenzo, Office of Senator Salim
Nels Akerson

Panel Staff Present:

Leslie Montgomery
Donna Guthrie
Matthew Gomez
Tonya Moore
Shannon Woods

Quorum:

1. To make quorum, eight panel members are needed.
2. Thirteen panel members were in attendance, so there was voting.

Notes:

1. Welcome:

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

2. SB 805 Enactment Clause #2– Recommendations:

- a. Driver’s License Suspension (Va. Code § 46.2-320.1; § 63.2-1937)
 - i. The Panel considered whether to remove the statutory language “...or in an amount of \$5,000 or more” regarding license suspension for child support arrearages.
 - 1. Support was expressed for eliminating the threshold to allow more discretion and to focus on compliance over punishment
 - 2. Concerns included potential unintended consequences, such as disproportionate impacts in high-dollar cases or inequities across regions
 - 3. The Panel agreed that enforcement would continue to emphasize the 90-day delinquency period rather than dollar amounts
 - ii. Motion: to remove the \$5,000 threshold.
 - iii. Vote: Motion passed (voice vote)
- b. Reminder to General Assembly – “Ability to Pay” Principle
 - i. The Panel discussed including language in the report reminding the General Assembly of obligors’ ability to pay under federal law (45 C.F.R. § 302.56).
 - ii. Resolution: Incorporate 2021 recommendations into the report rather than adding new commentary.

3. Quadrennial Executive Summary – Recommendations:

- a. Use of Virginia Economist
 - i. The Panel recommended subsequent Child Support Guidelines Review Panels use a Virginia based economist rather than an out-of-state economist.

- ii. Motion: Recommend use of a Virginia economist for future Child Support Guidelines Review Panels.
- iii. Vote: Motion passed (voice vote).

b. 35-Hour Work Week for Imputing Income

- i. The Panel recommended imputing income at 35 hours per week instead of 40, based on Virginia data from the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics.
- ii. Concerns about retroactivity were discussed and if there would be an increase in requests for reviews of support orders. It was agreed that implementation would not apply retroactively.
- iii. Motion: Recommend 35-hour work week for imputing income, effective prospectively.
- iv. Vote: Motion passed (voice vote).

c. Current Percentage of Goods

- i. The Panel discussed revisiting the adult goods calculation percentages used to establish child support guideline support payment amounts.
- ii. Recommendation was flagged for review by the next panel.
- iii. Motion: Recommend subsequent Child Support Guidelines Review Panel evaluates lowering the adult goods calculation percentages.
- iv. Vote: Motion passed (voice vote).

d. Amendment to § 20-60.3 (Contents of Support Orders)

- i. The Panel discussed improving statutory requirements in § 20-60.3 to ensure clarity and plain language on notices (including the Child Support Order).
- ii. Panel members discussed the need for clearer and more concise child support notices and that consequences of not paying support should be listed at the beginning of the notice. It was noted that current court forms are too long and confusing.
- iii. If statutory changes occur, the Supreme Court's forms committee should also update the forms.
- iv. Recommendation was made that before involving the Forms Committee, the Panel should first refine recommendations, since

the issue may be more about implementation and readability than statutory amendment.

- v. Motion: Recommend statutory requirements in § 20-60.3 be amended to include the use of plain language and have the warnings for nonpayment of support up front after the support obligation information. The Supreme Court's forms Committee makes the changes to the forms if the amendment passes.
- vi. Vote: Motion passed (voice vote).

e. 2021 Quadrennial Recommendations (Compliance Issue)

- i. The Panel discussed the need to adopt 2021 recommendations to comply with federal Office of Child Support Services requirements.
- ii. Motion: Adopt 2021 child support guidelines review panel recommendations concerning the noncustodial parent's ability to pay and that this change is required for compliance purposes with federal requirements.
- iii. Vote: Motion passed (voice vote).

4. Administrative Matters:

- a. Reports: The first report is due November 15, 2025. Draft will be circulated to panel members by the panel administrator. The second report will follow.
- b. Meetings: No additional meetings are scheduled. Future business may be addressed by email.
 - i. The Panel reviewed statutory restrictions on consecutive all-virtual meetings (Va. Code § 2.2-3708.3).
- c. Review Panel emails
 - i. There were no emails to review.
- d. Questions, including public comment/questions:
 - i. No public comments or questions were received.

5. Adjournment