



The Family Law Review

A publication of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia 2009 Special Edition

Child Support Modifications in an Ever Changing Economy – The Role of the 2007 Child Support Statutory Revisions in Modifications

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The October 2009 national unemployment rate is 9.8 percent, and Georgia's October 2009 unemployment tops at 10.1 percent. More and more Georgians are facing a need to reduce expenses, including reduction of an obligation to remit child support pursuant to Court Order. This coupled with significant budget cuts in 2009 to the Georgia Courts operating budget, and anticipated drastic cuts to the court budgets slated for 2010, raise concern that a child support obligor in need of a reduction in child support may be unable to obtain a hearing to be granted relief. The current statute provides specific avenues for obligors to seek modification depending on the circumstances, including but not limited to expedited proceedings in the event of involuntary loss of income.

O.C.G.A. §19-6-15(j) Involuntary loss of income

The 2007 statutory revisions to O.C.G.A. §19-6-15 specifically provide for an expedited hearing in the event an obligor experiences an involuntary job loss or reduction of income in excess of 25 percent; however, you have to specifically plead for and request an expedited hearing. Additionally, the modification, if awarded, relates back to the date of service on the obligee.¹

O.C.G.A. §19-6-15(j) (emphasis added) states:

(1) In the event a parent suffers an involuntary termination of employment, has an extended involuntary loss of average weekly hours, is involved in an organized strike, incurs a loss of health or similar involuntary adversity resulting in a loss of income of 25 percent or more, then the portion of child support attributable to lost income shall not accrue from the date of the service of the petition for modification, provided that service is made on the other parent. It shall not be considered an involuntary termination of employment if the parent has left the employer without good cause in connection with the parent's most recent work.

(2) In the event a modification action is filed pursuant to this subsection, the court shall make every effort to expedite hearing such action.

See Modification on page 9

Editor's Corner

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We are pleased to present you with this special edition of the Family Law Review. Due to the timeliness of this information and as part of our ongoing effort to educate our members, this special edition was created. From time to time, we will create special edition

newsletters when there is a need to communicate important information to the section.

Please look for a regular full edition of the Family Law Review in the early part of 2010. *FLR*

If you would like to contribute to The Family Law Review, or have any ideas or suggestions for future issues, please contact Marvin L. Solomiany, co-editor, at msolomiany@kssfamilylaw.com, or Randy Kessler, co-editor, at rkessler@kssfamilylaw.com

The opinions expressed within *The Family Law Review* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the State Bar of Georgia, the Family Law Section, the Section's executive committee or the editor of *The Family Law Review*.

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Chair's Comments



by Tina Shadix Roddenbery
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We have provided you this special edition of the Family Law Review at the request of Hon. Louisa Abbot.

Judge Abbott, as chair of the Child Support Guidelines Statute Review Subcommittee, requested the Section call special attention to the recent changes in the Child Support Guidelines. The Guidelines' low income deviation amendment became effective Sept. 1, 2009. This amendment substantially changes the low income deviation. She also asked the Section remind its members of the right to an expedited hearing in an involuntary loss of income case, given so many individuals are suffering job losses. We are so fortunate to have Judge Abbot lead this subcommittee and to encourage our section in this manner. Thank you Judge Abbot for your efforts and attention to these important issues.

We also wanted to again announce the new Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.2 regarding the time when domestic relations financial affidavits and child support worksheets must be filed as this is a significant change from the old Rule.

Finally, we wanted to provide you the registration information about the unique Professionalism CLE we have planned in conjunction with the State Bar Midyear meeting on Jan. 7, 2010. We hope you find this special edition timely and helpful to your practice. *FLR*

NUTS AND BOLTS OF FAMILY LAW VIDEO REPLAY

Dec. 15, 2009

Bar Center, Third Floor

104 Marietta St. NW

Atlanta, GA

<http://www.iclega.org/programs/7263.html>

2010 Family Law Institute

by Tina Shadix Roddenbery

Join family law lawyers, superior court judges, and justices from the Supreme Court of Georgia at the 2010 Family Law Institute. The Institute will be held at the Sandestin Hilton in Sandestin, Fla., May 27-29, 2010.

Paul Johnson from Savannah has put together an innovative program. The theme of the seminar is handling a domestic relations case from start to finish. He has written a creative fact pattern which covers tough issues we face in our work. Throughout the 3-day program he will presenting the fact pattern by video, which he will film prior to the Institute.

The first day of the seminar will cover topics such as the initial client interview, planning case strategy and a temporary hearing (when the time allotted is short). The second day will address making mediation successful, ethical and criminal issues, unusual custody issues (religious differences, sexual orientation, for example) and equitable division. The final day covers taking the case to final trial, drafting the final judgment/settlement agreement and protecting your client after entry of the final judgment and decree. The last hour of the program will cover case law update and recent developments.

Look for a mailing from ICLE after the first of the year with details about registration and hotel reservations.

Amendment to Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.2

By John L. Collar, Jr.
Boyd Collar, L.L.C.

The Supreme Court of Georgia amended Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.2, effective Sept. 17, 2009, relating to the filing of domestic relations financial affidavits, child support worksheets for temporary hearings, trials, child support modification actions and uncontested matters. Below is a summary of the amendment to Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.2.

Generally, the party requesting a temporary or final hearing in any action for temporary or permanent child support, alimony, equitable division of property, modification of child support or alimony or attorneys fees, shall file with the Clerk of Court and serve the opposing party his/her domestic relations financial affidavit 15 days prior to the hearing.

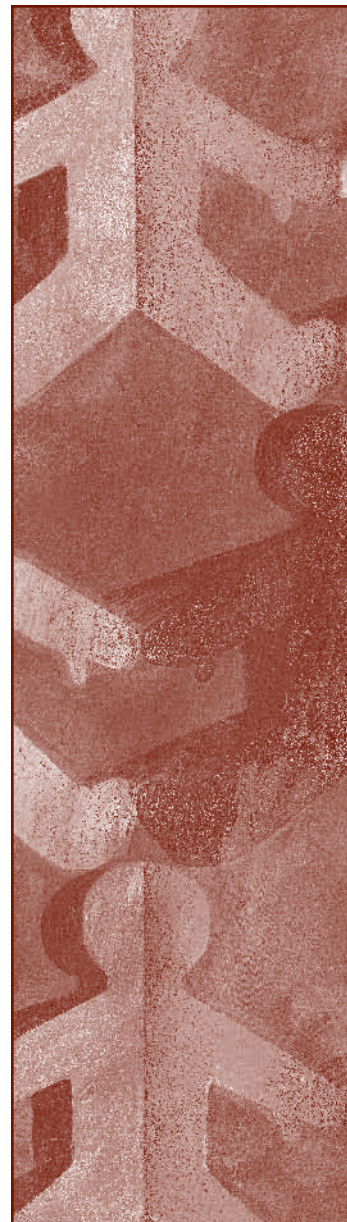
If the case involves child support, the child support worksheet and related schedules shall be completed insofar as possible and filed with the clerk and served on the opposing party contemporaneously with the filing of the domestic relations financial affidavit required above, i.e., 15 days prior to any hearing. Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.2 specifically provides that online submission of the child support worksheet and schedules does not suffice and that they must be filed with the Clerk of Court.

If an emergency action is filed, the domestic relations financial affidavit, child support worksheet and related schedules may be filed and served on or before the date of the hearing or at such other time as the Court orders.

Domestic relations financial affidavits are not required to be filed in cases where complete separation agreements or consent orders resolve all issues except the issue of divorce, unless the Court orders otherwise. If the issue of child support is involved, the parties must attach to the proposed final judgment a completed worksheet and Schedule E, whether Schedule E applies or not. Additionally, the separation agreement must include the parties' gross and adjusted incomes. The remaining applicable schedules shall be filed with the clerk at the time of filing the uncontested action.

The Office of Child Support Services is exempt from filing financial affidavits.

Notice of the date of any temporary hearing shall be served on the opposing party not less than 15 days prior to the date of the hearing, unless the Court orders otherwise. Within five days of service of the



domestic relations financial affidavit, child support worksheet and schedules (where applicable), unless the Court shortens or enlarges the time, the opposing party shall file with the clerk and serve the other party his or her domestic relations financial affidavit specifying his or her financial circumstances, the child support worksheet and schedules, completed insofar as possible.

The parties are required to file with the clerk and serve each other their domestic relations financial affidavit, child support worksheet and schedules (where applicable) at least ten days prior to any Court ordered mediation or other alternative dispute resolution proceeding.

If a party has previously filed and served their domestic relations financial affidavit, child support worksheet and schedules and later amends these documents, any amendments shall be served upon the opposing party at least ten days prior to final hearing or trial and shall be filed with the Clerk of Court at or before trial.

Either party, for good cause shown, may petition the Court for an order sealing the domestic relations financial affidavits, child support worksheets, schedules and any other financial information. Social security numbers or account numbers are not required to be included in any document filed with the Court. Each account shall be specified by financial institution and a partial account number. No party shall be required to include full account numbers.

If any party fails to furnish the above financial information, the Court, in its discretion, may subject the offending party to the penalties of contempt and, a continuance of the hearing may be granted until the required financial information is furnished. The Court may also create other sanctions or remedies it deems appropriate in the Court's discretion.

Even though Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.2, as amended, has more clearly defined time limits (set forth above), the Court can still decide a matter if the Court determines the financial information was known or reasonably available to the other party, or if a continuance would result in a manifest injustice to a party.

The Supreme Court did not modify or alter the domestic relations financial affidavit form or the child support worksheet and its related schedules. You can easily access Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.2 by going to the following link: www.gasupreme/rules. Hope the above helps in your daily practice. **FLR**



John L. Collar Jr. is a shareholder with Boyd Collar, L.L.C., in Atlanta, a firm specializing in divorce and family law. He is a graduate of Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, is currently the legislative liaison for the State Bar of Georgia, Family Law Section and is a

member of the Florida Bar Association. He is listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 2008 and can be reached at jcollar@bcntlaw.com.

The Revised Low Income Deviation: A Brief History and Overview

by Regina Quick
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Effective Sept. 1, 2009, with the amendment of O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(i)(2)(B), the low income deviation has been modified in its entirety. The new law embodies significant substantive changes for the family law practitioner. The low income deviation now:

- Eliminates the definition of “low income person” and the accompanying arbitrary gross income threshold necessary for entitlement to request the low income deviation;
- Clarifies the status of Title XVI SSI in the analysis of the finder of fact, i.e., that such monies are not evidence of earning capacity but may be considered in a determination of whether or not to grant a low income deviation;
- Introduces ability to pay as a factor in the determination of whether or not to grant a request for low income deviation creating a deviation-specific balancing test for the finder of fact; and
- Increases the minimum child support order to \$100 for one child and \$50 for each additional child.

The idea of a low income deviation originated with the Georgia Child Support Commission in 2005 and was intended to specifically address situations where the noncustodial parent would not have the ability to pay. However, the Georgia Child Support Commission and its staff

constantly review the child support laws in Georgia to ensure that the child support guidelines are working in the best interests of children and being implemented in courts throughout the state in a uniform and fair manner. With the prospects of looming economic problems on Georgia’s horizon and in response to criticism that the child support guidelines were disproportionately impacting individuals at lower socioeconomic levels, Judge Louisa Abbott, as chair of the Statute Review Subcommittee, established a Study Committee in 2008 chaired by Judge Debra Bernes of the Court of Appeals of Georgia. The Low Income Deviation Study Committee was specifically charged to examine the issue of whether or not the low income deviation was adequately adjusting the presumptive amount of child support for low income noncustodial parents to ensure that parent’s ability to pay. It is important to note that the guidelines then contained neither a definition nor mention of “ability to pay.” Case law under the former guidelines utilized a balancing test to review the sufficiency of the child support award amount and a mandate that the trial court compare need and ability to pay and an award consistent with that comparison. *Arrington v. Arrington*, 261 Ga. 547, 407 S.E. 2d 758 (1991).

The Low Income Deviation Study Committee presented its findings and recommendations for changes to the full

Commission on Nov. 13, 2008. Subsequently, HB 145 was introduced in the 2009 session of the General Assembly by Rep. Ed Lindsey, also a member of the Child Support Commission. The legislation passed with only one dissenting vote in both the House and the Senate and was signed by Gov. Sonny Perdue on April 21, 2009.

The newest specific deviation is set forth below:

(B) LOW INCOME.

(i) If the noncustodial parent requests a low income deviation, such parent shall demonstrate no earning capacity or that his or her pro rata share of the presumptive amount of child support would create an extreme economic hardship for such parent. A noncustodial parent whose sole source of income is supplemental security income received under Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act shall be considered to have no earning capacity.

(ii) In considering a noncustodial parent’s request for a low income deviation, the court or the jury shall examine all attributable and excluded sources of income, assets, and benefits available to the noncustodial parent and may consider all reasonable expenses of the noncustodial parent, ensuring that such expenses are actually paid by the noncustodial parent and are clearly justified expenses.

(iii) In considering a noncustodial parent’s request for a low income deviation, the court or the jury shall then weigh the income and all attributable and excluded sources of income, assets and benefits and all reasonable expenses of each parent, the relative hardship that a reduction in the amount of child support paid to the custodial parent would have on the custodial parent’s household, the needs of each parent, the needs of the child for whom child support is being determined, and the ability of the noncustodial parent to pay child support.

(iv) Following a review of such noncustodial parent’s gross income and expenses, and taking into account each parent’s adjusted child support obligation and the relative hardships on the parents and the child, the court or the jury may consider a downward deviation to attain an appropriate award of child support which is consistent with the best interest of the child.

(v) For the purpose of calculating a low income deviation, the noncustodial parent’s minimum child support for one child shall be not less than \$100 per month, and such amount shall be increased by at least \$50 for each additional child for the same case for which child support is being ordered.

(vi) A low income deviation granted pursuant to this subparagraph shall apply only to the current child support amount and shall not prohibit an additional amount being ordered to reduce a noncustodial parent’s arrears.

(vii) If a low income deviation is granted pursuant to this subparagraph, such deviation shall not prohibit the court or jury from granting an increase or decrease to the presumptive amount of child support by the use of any other specific or nonspecific deviation.

Procedurally, the low income deviation is no different than any other deviation in that whether or not to utilize the calculation is discretionary, not

CHILD SUPPORT SCHEDULE E
Deviation (Special Circumstances)

Deviations for Special Circumstances

If a parent wants to claim any Deviation(s) from the Presumptive Amount of Child Support, complete Schedule E and the "Findings of Facts" questions in this schedule below. If a parent does not want to claim any Deviation(s), do not complete this schedule. If Schedule E is completed, amounts from Lines 10(c), 11, 12(a) and 13 must be added together and the answer entered on Line 14 of this schedule. If a parent's amount from Line 14 of this schedule on Line 16 of the Worksheet, (The answer on Line 14 may be negative or positive amounts.)

A. For each section completed, provide monthly amounts or other information as required by the instructions.

The Court or Jury has discretion to allow or not allow the noncustodial parent to receive a Low Income Deviation that will reduce the Presumptive Amount of Child Support. If a Low Income Deviation does not apply in this case, continue to Line 2(a) of this Schedule.

Weighting Considerations:
Before requesting a Low Income Deviation, please read the statute at O.C.G.A. §19-8-15(b)(2)(B), or review the User Guide for the appropriate criteria for this deviation.

If weighing the income sources of both parents:
Does the noncustodial parent requesting a low income deviation have no earning capacity? Or, does his/her pro rata share of the presumptive amount of child support create an extreme economic hardship for such parent?
What will be the relative hardship to the reduction in the amount of child support based on the custodial parent's household? The needs of each parent? The needs of the children for whom child support is being determined? The ability of noncustodial parent to pay child support?

NOTE: The Low Income Deviation is identified in the statute as a downward deviation and is treated as a subtraction when included with all other deviations on Line 14 of this schedule. The Court/Jury may consider this deviation to attain an appropriate award of child support. The minimum order amount requirement will apply if this deviation is granted. By use of this deviation, the Court/Jury is not prohibited from granting an increase or decrease to the presumptive amount of child support by use of another deviation.

Only Court or Jury may enter an amount (and/or column (c) or (d)).

Place a check mark in the box at the left to show you are requesting a Low Income Deviation and continue to Line 14 of this schedule; otherwise, leave the check box blank and continue to the next section of this schedule.		(a) Mother	(b) Father	(c) Mother	(d) Father
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Low Income Deviation Amount. (Write a positive Low Income Deviation amount requested under "included all parent's income" for Mother and/or Father. Amount will enter all the available low income deviation. Do not enter a "0" when there is no low income deviation requested.)	\$	\$	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Compare requested deviation amount with minimum order amount. (Go to Worksheet, Line 5, identify Presumptive Amount of Child Support for noncustodial parent. Subtract requested deviation amount entered in Line 14 above from presumptive amount of child support. Write that answer on the line under noncustodial parent's column (a) or other column. Answer can be a positive "+" or negative "-" number. Continue at Line 14.)	\$	\$	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calculate Deviate on Amount based on Minimum Order Requirement. (Go to Worksheet, Line 5, identify Presumptive Amount of Child Support for noncustodial parent. Next, find the minimum order amount that applies to the number of children in the jurisdiction when the Low Income Deviation is included. (These are the minimum order amounts: 1 child=\$100, 2 children=\$150, 3 children=\$200, 4 children=\$250, 5 children=\$300, 6 children=\$350, 7 children=\$400, 8 children=\$450, 9 children=\$500, 10 children=\$550, 11 children=\$600, 12 children=\$650.) Subtract minimum order amount from presumptive amount of child support, and write that answer on the line under noncustodial parent's column (a) or other. Answer can be a positive "+" or negative "-" number.) Continue at Line 14.)	\$	\$	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Income Deviation Amount: (using answers entered in Lines 1(b) and 1(c)) Enter under requested parent's column (a) or other (b) or other (c) or other (d) the low income deviation amount. The amount will be subtracted as a downward deviation from the presumptive amount of child support. (If you have other deviations, all of the deviations are added or subtracted from each other to total a deviation amount, use "+" at the top of the line. If the minimum deviate amount on Line 1(c) above is larger than the presumptive amount of child support on Line 9 of the Worksheet, that is an indication that the Low Income Deviation may not be appropriate for this case and it may be best to consider using a different deviation.)	\$	\$	\$	\$

DISCRETIONARY CHECK BOX FOR COURT OR JURY ONLY: Court or Jury: Place a check mark in the box at the left to show you are excluding or changing the deviation amount(s) displayed in Line 14; otherwise, leave the check box blank and continue to the next section of this schedule. If this Discretionary Check Box is checked, enter a new "Discretionary amount allowed by Court/Jury" AS AN AMOUNT TO BE SUBTRACTED or as a zero (\$0.00) under the noncustodial parent's column for (a) Mother and/or (b) Father. The amount(s) entered under column (b) and/or (c) will then be used to total with all other deviation(s) in Line 14 of this Schedule.

Explanation for Requesting a Low Income Deviation: Write in box below any additional explanation as to why the noncustodial parent should be granted a Low Income Deviation. (Questions at Boxes B, C and D must also be answered for this deviation.) This instruction does not apply to the Court or Jury.

GEORGIA Standard Paper Child Support Calculation Form - Worksheet E, Version 8
Page 1 of 4

mandatory. Primary consideration shall be given to the best interest of the child in any deviation from the presumptive amount of child support. The latest version of the calculator should now be downloaded from www.georgiacourts.org/csc. Attorneys should now be using the newly enhanced and released Version 8 which contains specific instructions for the consideration of the low income deviation. Older versions should be deleted and contain an automatic calculation feature, the inapplicable self-support reserve and the erroneous minimum child support amount. Note specifically that the litigant must request the deviation and the “opt in” box must be checked on Schedule E in order for the calculation to be made and then populate on the child support worksheet. The web-based version of

the calculator (guided and unguided) will not contain the enhancements necessary to be in compliance with the new Guidelines and will no longer be available for saving NEW worksheets initiated. All worksheets saved on or before June 1, 2009, will be available to the public for retrieval, revision and submission to the court. **FLR**



Regina M. Quick practices family law in Athens. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia Family Law Section and founding member and former Chair of the Family Law Section of the Western Circuit Bar Association. In 2008, she served the Georgia Child Support

Commission as a member of both the Low Income Deviation Study Committee and the Electronic Worksheet Task Force and may be reached at rmqpc@mindspring.com.

Past Family Law Section Chairs

Edward Coleman.....	2008-09	John C. Mayoue	1992-93
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Hon. Martha C. Christian	1993-94	Jack P. Turner	1977-78

Modification continued from page 1

(3) The court may, at its discretion, phase in the new child support award over a period of up to one year with the phasing in being largely evenly distributed with at least an initial immediate adjustment of not less than 25 percent of the difference and at least one intermediate adjustment prior to the final adjustment at the end of the phase-in period.

To attempt to limit the accrual of past due support, the obligor must *file and serve* a complaint for modification on the parent receiving child support. The parties agreeing to a temporary or permanent reduction outside of a court action is not controlling, and arrearages accrue despite an “agreement,” be it oral or written. Once the obligor files and serves the receiving party with a complaint for modification, specifically pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(j), the obligor puts him or herself in a position potentially to reduce the support obligation retroactively back to the date of service. This is important in assisting a client who involuntarily lost his or her job or experienced involuntary income deduction of 25 percent or more. However, similar to a reduction pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k), at the discretion of the court the reduction may be phased in if the reduction amounts to more than a 25 percent reduction in the child support obligation. See O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(j)(3).

O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k), Modification.

In addition to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(j), it is important in these economic times to be clear regarding the 2007 statutory changes to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k) regarding modifications in general.² Modification may only be awarded when there is a finding of a substantial change in *either* parent’s income *or* financial status. O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k)(1),³ and may only be sought by each parent every two years except when the noncustodial parent fails to exercise or exercises more parenting time than awarded, or when the modification is pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(j). See O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k)(2). In the event of a difference between the previous child support award and the modified child support award of 15 percent or more, there

may be a phase in period for the award pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k)(3).⁴

In modification cases, a jury may be demanded, but, clearly, demand of a jury would further delay a ruling on modification. At a bench trial or jury trial, evidence may be provided of “the change of circumstances, income and financial status of either parent, or in the needs of the child” and how it is in the best interest of the children. O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k)(4). The court’s order shall include the basis for the modification. O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k)(4). The prevailing party may seek fees pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k)(5), and, specifically, if the custodial parent is the prevailing parent because of a failure to exercise parenting time, fees are required.⁵

Conclusion

In these trying economic times, it is important to be well-versed on the statutory provisions that the law provides to assist litigators in gaining relief for their clients. Plead with certainty the legal basis for the modification requested to gain expedient relief for an obligor. *FLR*



Rebecca Crumrine is a senior associate practicing in the domestic relations and family law section at Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C. Currently an adjunct professor at John Marshall School of Law, she serves on the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section. She can be reached by sending an

e-mail to rcrumrine@dmqlaw.com.

(Endnotes)

- 1 In addition to proving the involuntary loss of income, the obligor still needs to provide the court that the reduction serves the best interest of the child.
- 2 Please be aware pursuant to O.C.G.A. §19-6-15(k)(3)(C), “All IV-D case reviews and modifications shall proceed and be governed by Code Section 19-11-12. Subsequent changes to the child support obligation table shall be a reason to request a review for modification from the IV-D agency to the extent that such changes are consistent with the requirements of Code Section 19-11-12.”
- 3 O.C.G.A. §19-6-15(k)(1) states:

Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a parent shall not have the right to petition for modification of the child support award regardless of the length of time since the establishment of the child support award unless there is a substantial change in either parents’ income and financial status or the needs of the child.

4 O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(k)(3) states:

(A) If there is a difference of at least 15 percent but less than 30 percent between a new award and a Georgia child support order entered prior to Jan. 1, 2007, the court may, at its discretion, phase in the new child support award over a period of up to one year with the phasing in being largely evenly distributed with at least an initial immediate adjustment of not less than 25 percent of the difference and at least one intermediate adjustment prior to the final adjustment at the end of the phase-in period.

(B) If there is a difference of 30 percent or more between a new award and a Georgia child support order entered prior to Jan. 1, 2007, the court may, at its discretion, phase in the new child support award over a period of up to two years with the

phasing in being largely evenly distributed with at least an initial immediate adjustment of not less than 25 percent of the difference and at least one intermediate adjustment prior to the final adjustment at the end of the phase-in period.

5 O.C.G.A. § 19-6-1 5(k)((5) states:

In proceedings for the modification of a child support award pursuant to the provisions of this Code section, the court may award attorney's fees, costs, and expenses of litigation to the prevailing party as the interests of justice may require. Where a custodial parent prevails in an upward modification of child support based upon the noncustodial parent's failure to be available and willing to exercise court ordered visitation, reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and expenses of litigation shall be awarded to the custodial parent.

Family Law Section Offers New Professionalism CLE

The Family Law Section is excited to host a 1 hour Professionalism CLE and reception in conjunction with the State Bar Midyear Meeting at the W Atlanta–Midtown.

The CLE will be a unique opportunity to hear a diverse group of superior court judges from around the state discuss how they deal with professionalism issues which occur in their domestic relations cases. The seven judges who will respond to questions are:

- Hon. Bensonetta Tipton Lane, Atlanta Judicial Circuit
- Hon. D. Jay Stewart, Atlantic Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Daniel J. Craig, Augusta Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Adele P. Grubbs, Cobb Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Willie E. Lockette, Dougherty Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Bonnie Chessher Oliver, Northeastern Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Gregory A. Adams, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit

This is the first time our section has put together a seminar in conjunction with the State Bar Midyear meeting. We have several goals in hosting this seminar. First, we want to offer a quality program with content that interests and benefits our members. Second, we seek to provide an opportunity for contact and interaction between family law attorneys and

judges. Third, we want to encourage more of our members to attend the annual State Bar Midyear meeting. And finally, we always look for ways to promote a diverse, inclusive, collegial atmosphere for the exchange of ideas. We hope you can join us.

The CLE will be held on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010, from 4–5 p.m., immediately followed by a cocktail reception from 5–6 p.m. The cost for the seminar and reception is \$30 per person if you register before Dec. 25 and \$60 if register after Dec. 25. The cost for the reception only is \$10 if you register before the deadline of Dec. 25 and \$40 if you register after Dec. 25. If you have all your professionalism hours but want to spend time with the judges, please register for the reception only, as the judges will be there.

To register, you may go online to the State Bar website, www.gabar.org, and click on the notice about the meeting, which is located on the homepage. The seminar and reception sign up can be found at the bottom left of the registration form under the heading Section Events – look for listings entitled Family Law CLE & Reception and Family Law Reception Only.

Or you may cut out this form, fill it out and mail it with your payment to Michelle Garner, 2010 Midyear Meeting, State Bar of Georgia, 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303-2743. See you there!

2010 State Bar of Georgia Midyear Meeting

Please use this form to register by checking all events you plan to attend.
Registration is required for all events, including "no charge" functions.

Registration Form

Attendee Information

Bar Number _____

Name _____

Nickname _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

e-mail _____

Special Needs

Dietary Restrictions _____

ADA: If you have a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call our ADA coordinator at 404-527-8700.

Refund Policy

Meeting registration cancellation deadline: Friday, Dec. 25, 2009. The State Bar of Georgia will accept only written requests for refund of registration fees. No refunds will be made after Dec. 25.

Board Functions

	<i>Before Dec. 25</i>	<i>After Dec. 25</i>	
<input type="radio"/> BOG Dinner (<i>everyone welcome</i>)	\$100 _____	\$130 _____	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> BOG Meeting	N/C _____	N/C _____	

CLE Programs

<input type="radio"/> Casemaker Training (10 a.m.)	\$25 _____	\$55 _____
<input type="radio"/> Casemaker Training (3 p.m.)	\$25 _____	\$55 _____
<input type="radio"/> Get a Job! Tips for the Unemployed and Underemployed Lawyer	\$95 _____	\$125 _____
<input type="radio"/> Nuts and Bolts of Military and Veterans Law	\$95 _____	\$125 _____
<input type="radio"/> Risk Prevention in a Competitive Legal Market	\$95 _____	\$125 _____
<input type="radio"/> The Trial of Leo Frank (Video Replay)	\$95 _____	\$125 _____

Section Events

<input type="radio"/> Appellate Practice Lunch	(member) \$30 _____	\$60 _____
	(non member) \$45 _____	\$75 _____
<input type="radio"/> Criminal Law Meeting	N/C _____	N/C _____
<input type="radio"/> Family Law CLE & Reception	\$30 _____	\$60 _____
<input type="radio"/> Family Law Reception Only	\$10 _____	\$40 _____
<input type="radio"/> Fiduciary Law Lunch	\$15 _____	\$45 _____
<input type="radio"/> General Practice & Trial Lunch	\$75 _____	\$105 _____
<input type="radio"/> Health Law Lunch	\$20 _____	\$50 _____

<input type="radio"/> Intellectual Property Law Lunch	\$30 _____	\$60 _____
<input type="radio"/> Judicial Law Reception	\$5 _____	\$35 _____
<input type="radio"/> Product Liability Reception	N/C _____	\$30 _____
<input type="radio"/> Real Property Law CLE	N/C _____	\$30 _____
<input type="radio"/> Real Property Law Reception	N/C _____	\$30 _____
<input type="radio"/> School & College Law Lunch	N/C _____	\$30 _____
<input type="radio"/> Taxation Law Lunch	\$30 _____	\$60 _____

Lawyers Foundation Events

<input type="radio"/> Board of Trustees Meeting	N/C _____	N/C _____
<input type="radio"/> Fellows Meeting	N/C _____	N/C _____
<input type="radio"/> Fellows Reception	\$80 _____	\$110 _____

YLD Events

<input type="radio"/> General Session	N/C _____	N/C _____
<input type="radio"/> Signature Fundraiser	<i>1 ticket</i>	<i>2 or more tickets</i>
- Host Committee	\$150 _____	\$135 _____
- Host Committee*	\$135 _____	\$135 _____
- General Admission	\$100 _____	\$85 _____
- General Admission*	\$85 _____	\$85 _____

* price for public interest/government/transitional attorneys

Other

<input type="radio"/> Commitment to Equality	\$35 _____	\$65 _____
<input type="radio"/> Awards Reception (<i>Women & Minorities in the Profession Committee</i>)		
<input type="radio"/> Reception Honoring State Bar President	N/C _____	N/C _____

Total Fees Enclosed: _____

Credit Card Information

Please bill my: Visa MasterCard AMEX

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on the card (Please print) _____

Signature _____

Payment Information

Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted. Please make checks payable to State Bar of Georgia and mail to Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings, 2010 Midyear Meeting, State Bar of Georgia, 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303. "No charge" and credit card orders may be faxed to 404-527-8717.



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