

APPENDIX IX-A

CONSIDERATIONS IN THE USE OF CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

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7. Assumptions Included in the Child Support Guidelines

- a. ... no change
- b. ... no change
- c. ... no change
- d. ... no change
- e. ... no change
- f. ... no change
- g. ... no change
- h. *Self-Support Reserve* -- The self-support reserve is a factor in calculating a child support award only when one or both of the parents have income at or near the poverty level. The self-support reserve is 105% of the U.S. poverty guideline for one person. It attempts to ensure that the obligor has sufficient income to maintain a basic subsistence level and the incentive to work so that child support can be paid. A child support award is adjusted to reflect the self-support reserve only if its payment would reduce the obligor's net income below the reserve *and* the custodial parent's (or the Parent of the Primary Residence's) net income is greater than 105% of the poverty guideline. The latter condition is necessary to ensure that custodial parents can meet their basic needs so that they can care for the children. As of February 16, 2001 [February 15, 2000] the self-support reserve is \$173.00 [\$169.00] (this amount is 105% of the poverty guideline for one person).
- i. ... no change
- j. ... no change
- k. ... no change

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14. Shared-Parenting Arrangements

- a. ... no change
- b. ... no change
- c. ... no change
- d. ... no change
- e. If a shared-parenting award is inappropriate due to the PPR's limited household income, a sole-custody award shall be calculated.

Shared-Parenting Primary Household Net Income Thresholds (2.0 x 2001 [2000] Poverty Guideline)		
<u>Total Persons in Household</u>	<u>Weekly Net Income</u>	<u>Annual Net Income</u>
2	<u>\$447</u> [\$433]	<u>\$23,220</u> [\$22,500]
3	<u>\$563</u> [\$544]	<u>\$29,260</u> [\$28,300]
4	<u>\$679</u> [\$656]	<u>\$35,300</u> [\$34,100]
5	<u>\$795</u> [\$767]	<u>\$41,340</u> [\$39,900]
6	<u>\$911</u> [\$879]	<u>\$47,380</u> [\$45,700]
7	<u>\$1,027</u> [\$990]	<u>\$53,420</u> [\$51,500]
8	<u>\$1,143</u> [\$1,102]	<u>\$59,460</u> [\$57,300]

- f. ... no change
- g. ... no change
- h. ... no change
- i. ... no change

j. ... no change

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20. Extreme Parental Income Situations

a. *Obligors With Net Income Less Than the U.S. Poverty Guideline.* If an obligor's net income, after deducting that person's share of the total support award, is less than 105% of the U.S. poverty guideline for one person (net income of \$173 [\$169] per week as of February 16, 2001 [February 15, 2000] or as published annually in the Federal Register), the court shall carefully review the obligor's income and living expenses to determine the maximum amount of child support that can reasonably be ordered without denying the obligor the means of self-support at a minimum subsistence level. If an obligee's income is less than 105% of the poverty guideline, no self-support reserve adjustment shall be made regardless of the obligor's income. When assessing whether an obligee has sufficient net income to permit the application of the self-support reserve for an obligor, the court may consider the effect of the obligee's share of the child support obligation (note that this amount is not calculated on either worksheet). Thus, at the court's discretion, the obligor self-support reserve may not be applied if obligee's net income minus the obligee's child support obligation is less than 105% of the poverty guideline for one person. In all cases, a fixed dollar amount shall be ordered to establish the principle of the parent's support obligation and to provide a basis for an upward modification should the obligor's income increase in the future. In these circumstances, the support award should be between \$5.00 per week and the support amount at \$170 combined net weekly income for the appropriate number of children.

b. ... no change

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