

In the Iowa Supreme Court

**Request for Public Comment)
on Proposed Amendments to)
the Iowa Child Support)
Guidelines, Chapter 9 of the)
Iowa Court Rules)**

Order

On June 1, 2020, the Iowa Supreme Court established the 2020 Iowa Child Support Guidelines Review Committee (Committee) to assist the court with its four-year review of Iowa’s Child Support Guidelines as required by federal law and state statute. The court’s fundamental charge to the committee is to ensure that application of the Iowa child support guidelines results in appropriate child support award amounts. The Committee has timely submitted its report and recommendations to the court.

The Committee’s thorough examination of Iowa’s child support guidelines included a review of the history of Iowa’s guidelines, consultation with a nationally recognized expert on child support guidelines, review and consideration of constituent communications with the court, comparison of Iowa’s child support obligations with the support obligations of surrounding states, analysis of case data on the number of deviations from the guidelines, review of economic and financial data and studies on child rearing expenditures in relation to family income, and whether updates or changes to chapter 9 of the Iowa Court Rules are warranted.

Prior to taking further action, the supreme court seeks public comment on the Committee’s report and recommendations.

The Committee makes 15 separate recommendations that are outlined in its detailed report provided with this order. Many of the recommendations propose amendments to chapter 9 of the Iowa Court Rules containing the Iowa

Child Support Guidelines, including the following:

- Update of the Schedule of Basic Support Obligations.
- Continued use of current low-income adjustment.
- Increase in minimum support obligations.
- Clarification of treatment of temporary spousal support in calculating gross income.
- Amendment of rules 9.5(2)(f) and (h) for deduction for prior medical support for other children.
- Update of Iowa Court Rule 9.11(4) on imputation of income.
- Clarification of variance for child care expenses.
- Clarification of timeframe applicable to uncovered medical expenses.
- Adoption of rule 9.27—Form 3: Child Support Guidelines Financial Information Statement.
- Update to the Medical Support Table in rule 9.12(4).
- Update to the Adjusted Net Monthly Income Computation grid in rule 9.14(1).
- Corresponding amendments to the Child Support Guidelines Worksheets—Forms 1 and 2 in rule 9.27.

The Committee studied but recommends no changes to the guidelines for suspension of child support during extended periods of visitation with the noncustodial parent, treatment of student loans in calculation of net income, and steps used in calculating support amounts in split physical custody cases.

The supreme court's request for public comment does not imply that the court will adopt any proposed amendment without further consideration. The court will fully consider and act on the proposed amendments during its 2021 Administrative Term.

The proposed amendments to Iowa Court Rule chapter 9 and the Iowa Child Support Guidelines are provided with this order and are available on the judicial branch website at <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/supreme-court/orders/>. In addition, copies of the proposed amendments are available at the office of the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court.

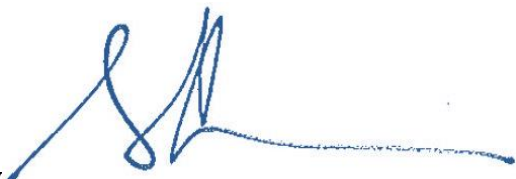
Any interested organization, agency, or person may submit written comments. Comments about a proposed rule amendment must refer to the specific recommendation number of the Committee’s report (for example, “Recommendation 3, Increase minimum support obligation”). Email comments must be sent to **rules.comments@iowacourts.gov**, state “**Child Support Guidelines**” in the subject line of the email, and be sent **as an attachment to the email in Microsoft Word format**. Instead of submission by email, comments may be delivered in person or mailed to the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.

Any comments received may be posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.

The deadline for submitting comments is 11:59 p.m. on August 13, 2021.

Dated this 14th day of June, 2021.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By 

Susan Larson Christensen Chief Justice

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