

In the Iowa Supreme Court

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**In the Matter of Adopting
Amendments to the Iowa Child
Support Guidelines, Chapter 9 of
the Iowa Court Rules****Order**

The Iowa Child Support Guidelines Review Committee (Committee) submitted its report* to the supreme court June 1, 2021. The report is the culmination of the Committee's thorough examination of Iowa's child support guidelines, including 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, and review of economic and financial data and studies on child rearing expenditures in relation to family income.

The court invited public comments on the Committee's report and has considered the Committee's recommendations from the report. To ensure that application of the Iowa Child Support Guidelines result in appropriate child support amounts, the court adopts the proposed amendments and updates to the Iowa guidelines.

The amendments to the Iowa Child Support Guidelines and Chapter 9 of the Iowa Court Rules include the following:

- An update of the Schedule of Basic Support Obligations to incorporate the most current economic data.
- Continued use of the low-income adjustment to account for increases in minimum support obligations and to phase in gradual

*The Committee's final report is available on the Iowa Judicial Branch website at: <https://www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/reports/>.

support amounts based on the new underlying economic data and costs of raising children.

- An increase in minimum support obligations to \$50 per month for one child, \$75 per month for two children, and \$100 per month for three or more children.
- 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.
- An update of Iowa Court Rule 9.11(4) on imputation of income to bring it into compliance with recent federal regulations.
- Clarification of the child care variance rule.
- Clarification that the timeframe applicable to uncovered medical expenses is a calendar year.
- Adoption of rule 9.27—Form 3: Child Support Guidelines Financial Information Statement to assist parties, attorneys, and judges in preparing financial information necessary for child support calculations.
- Updates to the Medical Support Table in rule 9.12(4) to be consistent with the revised Schedule of Basic Support Obligations and increases in minimum support amounts.
- 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.

Provided with this order are the amended rules of Chapter 9 in strikethrough and underscore format, the new Schedule of Basic Support Obligations, and related updates to the Medical Support Table, Adjusted Net Monthly Income Computation Grid, Basic Method of Child Support Computation Grid, and the Child Support Guidelines Worksheets. Also provided is the new Child Support Guidelines Financial Information Statement.

The amended rules and revised child support guidelines, tables, grids, and worksheets are effective January 1, 2022.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2021.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By: 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice