



SB23-173 Collaboratively Strengthening Colorado's Child Support System

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Summary

The Colorado Child Support Commission's statutorily-required review of child support guidelines yielded a series of substantive and technical issues that are addressed in SB23-173 (Colorado Child Support Commission Recommendations).

Background

The Commission is statutorily-charged with reviewing child support guidelines, including the schedule of basic child support obligations, and general child support issues. The panel is composed of members of the Colorado Bar Association, judges, parents, representatives of the judiciary, county human services officials, an accountant, and two legislators from different political parties. As part of its review, these Commission members must consider economic data on the cost of raising children and analyze case data on the application of, and deviations from, the guidelines and the schedule of basic child support obligations.

Recommended Statutory Changes

The Commission's recommended improvements to law include, but are not limited to:

- Requiring verbal and written advisement when child support orders are written or modified;
- Providing a timeframe for parents to seek reimbursement for extraordinary medical expenses, including mental health expenses;
- Requiring parents to share the child's health insurance coverage information with each other;
- Modifying the number of hours parents are expected to work to reflect the hours available to hourly workers;
- Requiring a parent to notify child support services and the other parent when lump sum social security payments for the child, based on the obligor's disability, are received;
- Enabling retroactive support to be ordered through the month the child support obligation begins;
- Addressing penalties for fraud and failure to follow income withholding orders;
- Excluding funeral or burial expenses from life insurance settlements relating to past-due child support; and
- Specifying that the Commission must include two child support recipient parents and two child support paying parents.

Proposal Contact

Emily Hanson, CDHS Legislative Liaison, 720-660-8408 or emily.hanson@state.co.us

