

Application of the 2021 Child Support Guidelines —One Year Later

Answers and approaches to the challenging child support questions that developed from actual cases

The 2021 Massachusetts Child Support Guidelines became effective on October 4, 2021. As practitioners and jurists have begun using them in actual cases, issues and questions have arisen about their application. Some are not addressed in the text of the Guidelines and others are subject to interpretation and debate. There can be confusion about which approach to employ in any given case, particularly in high income cases or those which present issues of both child support and alimony. How to get to the “right” child support number is often a challenge, demanding effective advocacy from family law practitioners.

The major changes effectuated by the 2021 Guidelines are reviewed in this fast-paced seminar. A panel of seasoned family law practitioners and members of the 2021 Child Support Guidelines Task Force identify and discuss hot topics concerning the Guidelines’ application. You have the opportunity to pose questions to gain valuable insight on how to navigate challenging child support issues.

Agenda

- Recap of the Major Changes to the Guidelines and Child Support Worksheet
- Review of Various Options for an Award of Child Support
- Effectively Advocating for and Against an Award of Support Utilizing “Excess Income”
- When Is Deviation Appropriate?
- Arguments for and Against the Exercise of Discretion
- Are There Cases in Which an Award of Child Support Is Not Appropriate?
- What Childcare Costs Are Relevant in the Application of the Guidelines?
- Effectively Advocating for and Against an Award of Unallocated Support
- When Is It Appropriate to Determine Alimony First and Then Apply Guidelines to the Adjusted Incomes (*Calvin C. v. Amelia A.*)?
- How Parenting Schedules Affect the Application of the Child Support Formulas
- “Ask the Experts” Q&A Session

Faculty

Linda A. Ouellette, Esq., *Kates & Barlow, PC, Boston*, Chair
 David M. Friedman, Esq., *Verrill Dana LLP, Boston*
 Anna S. Richardson, Esq., *Veterans Legal Services, Boston*
 Amanda Vanderhorst, Esq., *Kates & Barlow, PC, Boston*



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Dates & Location

Register at www.mcle.org

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Thursday, September 29, 2022
 2:00 pm–5:00 pm
 Program Number: 2230067WBC

REBROADCAST

Friday, October 14, 2022
 9:30 am–12:30 pm
 Program Number: 2230067RBC

REBROADCAST

Monday, October 24, 2022
 2:00 pm–5:00 pm
 Program Number: 2230067RB1

ON DEMAND WEBCAST

View after Monday, October 24, 2022
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