

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Arizona Child Support Guidelines Adopted

PHOENIX – The Arizona Judicial Council adopted the restyled and updated Arizona Child Support Guidelines, as proposed by the Child Support Guidelines Review Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the Arizona Supreme Court’s Family Court Improvement Committee. The Subcommittee reviews Arizona’s child support guidelines every four years under federal and state mandates (45 CFR §302.56(e) and [ARS §25-320\(D\)](#)). In Arizona, this task has been delegated to the Arizona Supreme Court. The Court implemented the guidelines by Administrative Order today.

Subcommittee meetings were open to the public and Subcommittee membership included a mother who pays child support, a father who receives child support, private practice attorneys, government attorneys and staff who work on Title IV-D cases, Community Legal Services, an experienced document preparer, a sitting county court clerk, and several experienced family court judges. A forensic accountant and a Certified Public Accountant who works on family court matters also participated in the meetings and regularly provided input on tax and other financial issues.

The Subcommittee considered statistically sound data commissioned for this review. The average change in child support between the current guidelines and the new guidelines was less than one percent before adjustments, such as for parenting time. The impact of parenting time on support was considered and the most common parenting plans are reflected in the guidelines adjustments.

In addition to substantive updates, the new guidelines were reorganized to group topic areas together, to better follow the order in which information appears in the child support calculator, and to include a table of cross-references between the former guidelines and the new guidelines.

The Subcommittee also rewrote the guidelines in plain English to avoid legalese where possible and updated examples using non-gender specific terms.

The Arizona Supreme Court provided final approval through Administrative Order 2021-56, making the final child support guidelines effective on January 1, 2022. The Subcommittee's materials are posted at <https://www.azcourts.gov/familylaw/Child-Support-Guidelines>. The final child support guidelines are included in the Administrative Order, posted online at <https://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/22/admorder/Orders21/2021-56%20PDF.pdf>.

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