



42nd National Child Welfare Law Conference

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) hosted its annual gathering of child welfare law, policy, and advocacy professionals for three days in Anaheim, California with the theme of "Promoting Excellence, Building Community, Advancing Justice". Georgia was well-represented with a strong delegation of child welfare leaders from government, non-profit, and private entities!



The unedited voices
of young people who have been in care:

Youth Voice

Written by Monique Gautreaux

"I'm dropping out!" I proclaimed, walking into my Advanced Placement U.S. History class. "I'm dropping out and I'm just gonna get my G.E.D. and I'm just gonna go to tech school and be *sad!*"

It was the spring semester of my junior year, and I still had no idea what I wanted to do. Well - I take that back. I knew exactly what I wanted to do. Were it up to me, and not money, I would have pursued theatre arts wholeheartedly. It was my absolute *passion to bring art to life on a stage.*

But it seemed like I could not win. Everywhere I turned, well-meaning people gave me well-meant "advice," like "You can't make money in theatre," or "How are you going to pay back student loans for a theatre degree?" So, in the face of the thought that I might stay poor

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August is Child Support Month!



**By Patricia K. Buonodono,
Attorney and Child Welfare
Law Specialist**

Georgia's Child Support Guidelines are set forth in O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15. While many people are confused about the Guidelines, that is often because the person using them has not read them. When I first went to work as the staff attorney for the Child Support Commission, my co-worker asked, "Why don't attorneys read the Guidelines?" Good question! Every term is defined, there is a list of steps on how to calculate child support, how to calculate income, and much more. So my first bit of wisdom is to tell you to read the Guidelines, and pay attention to § 19-6-15(b), which tells you how to calculate child support.

Child support is an essential part of child welfare. Too many "neglect" cases are actually cases where single parents are overwhelmed by poverty and not receiving support from the noncustodial parent. The Georgia Department of Human Services has established Child Support Accountability Courts in every Judicial Circuit in Georgia. The Accountability Courts provide intensive supervision by the Court Coordinator, and needed assistance with obtaining GEDs, jobs, substance assessment and treatment, and much more. If you know a noncustodial parent who is chronically unable to pay support, refer them to the Child Support Accountability Court.

I'm hopeful it will be helpful to you to list some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about child support, and answer them.

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OCA wishes all students and teachers in Georgia a great school year!

"Change a Child's Story"

Georgia CASA held its annual conference earlier this month with Judge Glenda Hatchett as the keynote speaker. OCA Director Rachel Davidson and CASA Director of Advocacy and Program Development Angela Tyner, along with Court Improvement Program Director Jerry Bruce and DFCS Deputy Director and General Counsel Chris Hempfling spoke about "Addressing Barriers to Advocacy." Northeast Georgia CASA volunteer Jeff Sprinkle, was recognized as the 2019 CASA Volunteer of the Year!



CII: Striving for Excellence

The Court Improvement Initiative (CII) met this month in Athens. The CII jurisdictions participated in the newest round of Georgia's Multi-Disciplinary Child Abuse and Neglect Institute (MDCANI). The two-day immersion training covers the law and best practices of a dependency case from the initial review hearing through final permanency. The previous round of MDCANI trainings covered the laws and best practices pertaining to pre-removal situations through the first 75 days of a dependency case.



OCA Director Rachel Davidson and Troup County Juvenile Court Judge Michael Key presenting on the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

A highlight of the new trainings included a youth panel moderated by OCA Director Rachel Davidson during which members of the MAAC Empowerment Policy Council

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★ HAVE A GREAT ★

LABOR DAY

★★ WEEKEND ★★

OCA will be closed on Monday, September 2nd to observe this state holiday.



INSIGHTS FROM THE ESCAP EXPERIENCE



Oluremi Abiodun,
Florida State University
College of Law

This summer I had the privilege of working in Fulton County Juvenile Court with Judge Boyd. His courtroom alternates between delinquency and dependency each week, so I was able to interact with a wide array of issues affecting children. While working with him, I observed all court proceedings, did research based on motions that the court received, and did an extensive research project on children's constitutional rights in termination of parental rights cases.

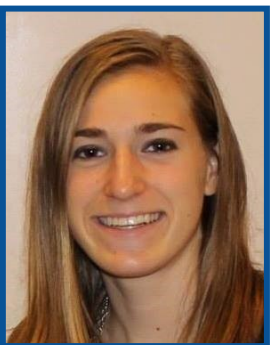
My favorite project this summer was determining whether a judge should hear a Motion to Suppress evidence or a Bind Over Hearing first. I read the complaint and realized that my recommendation would impact whether a child would have his case heard in juvenile court or with adult proceedings in Superior Court. My research influenced the kind of evidence that would be admissible in his case. I went to every hearing after recommending that the Motion to Suppress be heard first just to see how my, seemingly behind the scenes, research can and does affect what happens in court and most importantly, what happens to our children.

On a more relaxed note, I looked forward to reaching into Judge Boyd's secret stash of stuffed animals and stickers to give gifts to children being adopted or who were just squirmy and restless in the courtroom.

This summer, what surprised me was how complex the field of child advocacy can be. Specifically, in child welfare proceedings, there are so many stakeholders present whose perspectives must be taken into consideration before Judge Boyd makes a ruling. A ruling that will affect the trajectory of that child's life. I also spent a lot of time working with crossover youth, children with both dependency and delinquency cases, and seeing how delinquency and dependency are a lot more interconnected than I knew prior to this internship.

It is exciting that my research has impacted Fulton County Juvenile Court by informing the judge's decisions. This summer, I wrote extensively on children's constitutional rights in termination of parental rights cases;

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Lauren Paul,
University of Georgia

This summer was an amazing period of professional growth, and I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to be a part of the ESCAP program! Although I gained so much knowledge and insight through the research I conducted, I believe that I gained even more from the mentorship and support of the staff, both at the Barton Center and the DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center. My advice to future interns would be to utilize the supports available to you through the ESCAP program. There are many incredibly knowledgeable and kind individuals who are willing to sit down with you and share their experiences, which was an invaluable part of my summer. It would be impossible to condense all that I have learned into just a few sentences, but one of my primary insights was the value of inter-disciplinary collaboration. It truly does take the expertise of people in multiple fields- from attorneys, to social workers, to families and community members- to effectively safeguard the welfare and rights of children. I am very excited to continue being a part of the diverse community of child advocates in Georgia.



Four Pathways of Access to Mental Health Services in Georgia Highlighted by Voices for Georgia's Children

A child's mental health from the very beginning can affect everything from their physical health to success in school, work, and society. However, parents and caregivers can often be left overwhelmed and confused about where to find help when caring for youth, especially when it comes to the youth's mental health.

Voices for Georgia's Children has created resources to highlight statewide services that help infants, children, and teens to have good mental health. In a video, Voices highlight the four pathways to access the following services:

- ✓ **Early Screening and Services**
- ✓ **Education System Services**
- ✓ **Health Care Coverage**
- ✓ **No Insurance or Low Income Disabled**

Click [here](#) to view the video and learn more about available resources at the various ages of youth. Voices also published these four guidelines to help parents and caregivers identify what services are available and from which government entity. Visit Voices' website [here](#) to learn more about the four pathways to access mental health services for children in Georgia.

Early Screening & Services

AGES COVERED	STATUS	POPULATION SERVED	PROGRAM NAME	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
0 - 2 Years	Developmental Delays	Open to All	Babies Can't Wait	Department of Public Health
0 - 2 Years	Developmental Delays	Income Based	Early Head Start	Federal Head Start Office
0 - 4 Years	Children First Screening	Open to All	Children First	Department of Public Health
0 - 18 Years	No Developmental Delay	Open to All	Your Pediatrician	Health Insurance/ Self Pay

Education Systems Services

AGES COVERED	STATUS	POPULATION SERVED	PROGRAM NAME	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
0 - 5 Years	No Developmental Delay	Income Based	Head Start	Federal Head Start Office
3 - 5 Years	Developmental Delays	Open to All	Preschool Special Education	GA Department of Education/Local School
3 - 21 Years	Behavior or Learning Challenges	Open to All	Psycho-educational Evaluation - IEP or 504 Plan	Local School System
Pre-K - High School	Positive Behavior Training	Open to All (Where Implemented)	Positive Interventions and Supports	GA Department of Education
Elementary - High School	School Based Health Center	Open to All (Where Implemented)	Federally Qualified Health Centers/Local Hospital/Local Pediatricians/etc.	Local School System
Elementary - High School	On-site Mental Health Providers	Open to All (Where Implemented)	Georgia Apex	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Elementary - High School	None of the Above	Open to All	Ask School Personnel	Local School System

Health Care Coverage

AGES COVERED	COVERAGE PROVIDER	POPULATION SERVED	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
0 - 18 Years	Medicaid	Income Based	Department of Community Health
0 - 18 Years	PeachCare for Kids	Income Based	Department of Community Health
0 - 26 Years	Private Insurance	Open to All	Office of Insurance Commissioner
Foster Care	Medicaid using Amerigroup	All Foster Care	Department of Community Health
Juvenile Secure Detention	State Funded DJJ Staff and contracted providers	Detained by State	Department of Juvenile Justice

No Insurance or Low Income Disabled

AGES COVERED	COVERAGE PROVIDER	POPULATION SERVED	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
0 - 21 Years	None	Uninsured	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
0 - 21 Years	Medicaid	Low Income Disabled	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities



CII, cont'd...

cil educated the child welfare community in the room on their lived experiences and recommendations on improving permanency outcomes for other youth who are currently in foster care.

The new curriculum provided a focus on how to navigate various issues along the journey of permanency, such as mental health, substance use, and domestic violence. During the two-day training, over 160 attendees engaged in various discussions to apply the recently learned best practices to hypotheticals related to permanency hearings, termination of parental rights hearings, and post-termination of parental rights reviews. Also, outgoing Court Improvement Initiative Chair Judge Bradley Boyd was recognized for his steadfast leadership as he prepares for retirement—congratulations, Judge Boyd!



As Court Improvement Initiative Chair Judge Bradley Boyd approaches retirement, he said farewell to his colleagues.



Members of the MAAC Empowerment Youth Policy Council share their lived experiences making a meaningful impact in the training.



CII Judges, MDCANI faculty, staff, and trainees celebrating a successful kick-off to the training.

VOICE cont'd...

forever, I was scared away from a dream I'd had for ages. This is why I announced that I would abandon my plans for something many called "more feasible".

Claire Cox, my teacher, looked up at me, dumbfounded. "No, you're not," she stated. "You're not dropping out; you don't need to. You're going to graduate high school, and you're DEFINITELY not going to tech school; I know you don't want that. You're way too smart to not do what you love."

So, I gathered myself. She was right, and it only took those few words of support to reignite my flame.

There were many other times when Miss Cox gave me much needed guidance. Once, she stayed with me after class to go over colleges that I would be able to get into, and afford. At one point, she collected all the scholarship applications she could find and stuck them in a folder for me, saying, "You WILL get college paid for. Promise." She *believed in me, and, in my lowest moments, that mattered the most.*

I am so incredibly lucky to have had a support system that included people like Miss Cox. People who, despite my circumstances, believed in me, even when the rest of the world did not. In fact, I'm lucky that my support system included those other well-meaning people, who cared enough about me to give well-meant advice. Every one of them helped guide my decision to wholeheartedly follow my passion. They drove me to travel all the way to Middletown, Connecticut, where I am currently attending Wesleyan University on a full scholarship, with a planned Psychology and Theatre Arts double major.

Looking back, I'm so glad my cards fell where they did. Had I been placed in a different home on my entrance into care, I would not have been able to achieve this goal. Without the permanency I've had for the last two years, I would not have been able to bond with people like Miss Cox, or do the work required to be ranked valedictorian of my high school class, or attend a top-ranked liberal arts university. I would not have been able to pursue my happiness.



SUPPORT, cont'd...

FAQs

- 1. Why do I have to pay child support if we have 50/50 custody?** Because at this time, our law does not allow for any kind of parenting time formula when calculating support. According to our Guidelines, the noncustodial parent pays what the child support worksheet shows. However, there are two ways to address this. First, O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(c)(1) provides that the parents can make an agreement to change the child support amount if it is found to be in the best interest of the child. Second, subsection (i) of the Guidelines provides for deviations from the presumptive amount of support. One of the deviations provided is for parenting time. Deviations are discretionary with the Court. There is no set formula for a parenting time deviation; the person requesting it lists it on Schedule E of the worksheet, and if the Judge thinks the deviation is too high, may override the requested amount.
- 2. The custodial parent isn't using the money for the kids.** This is a frequent complaint. As long as the custodial parent is providing the children with a roof over their heads, food and utilities, they certainly are using the child support for the children.
- 3. How can I get out of paying child support?** If you are a parent in Georgia, you have a legal obligation to support your child. The child support is for the benefit of the children, and the custodial parent does not have the right to waive child support.
- 4. He married a rich woman. He should pay me more support! Or alternatively, she married a rich doctor – why do I still have to pay so much support?** A new spouse's income is not included in calculating child support because your children are not their responsibility.
- 5. Does child support go down if I have another baby?** It might. There are two considera- See [SUPPORT, Page 8](#)

Upcoming Events



- ✓ **September 12:** Georgia Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect at the Atlanta Century Marriott. More info [here](#).
- ✓ **September 19:** Child Welfare Virtual Expo 2019. More info [here](#).
- ✓ **September 23-25:** 2019 Georgia Suicide Prevention Conference in Pine Mountain, GA at The Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens. More info [here](#).
- ✓ **September 28:** Free Mental Health Fair by Northside NAMI at Mount Pisgah UMC in Atlanta, GA. More info [here](#).
- ✓ **September 28:** Fatherhood Celebration by Georgia Division of Child Support Services in Lawrenceville, GA. More info [here](#).
- ✓ **September 11, 17, 23, and 25:** Family Forums hosted by the DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities. More info [here](#).
- ✓ **October 3-4:** 2019 Embark Georgia Leadership Conference at Columbus State University. More info [here](#).
- ✓ **November 13-15:** The Summit: Georgia's Child Welfare Conference at The Hotel at Avalon in Alpharetta, GA. More info [here](#).



What

Child Abuse & Neglect
Prevention Planning for the
state of Georgia

When

August- September 2019

Where

In all the 14 DFCS regions

Hosted by: Prevention and Community
Support Section of the Georgia Division
of Family and Children Services and
Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Leaders from across Georgia's state departments and nonprofit agencies are working together to update the state's Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan. **We invite you to attend a planning conversation session in your area-**

**Professional and Service
Providers' Meeting**
(e.g. human service professionals,
agency staff, educators, etc.)

-OR-

**Caregivers and Community
Members' Meeting**
(parents, representatives from the faith,
civic and business sectors, etc.)

Find and Register for a Meeting Near You!

Abuse.PublicHealth.GSU.EDU/CANPP

Please help us by also sharing this invitation widely with anyone you think may be interested in attending.

Please direct questions to Deborah Chosewood
Deborah.Chosewood@dhs.ga.gov



DID YOU KNOW?!?!

The last Child Abuse & Neglect
Prevention Plan for the state of
Georgia was release in 1993, 26
YEARS AGO! Do you remember what
you were doing in 1993, were some of
you even born yet? [View 1993 Plan.](#)



SUPPORT, cont'd...

tions for other children you support, both of which can be found on Schedule B of the Child Support Worksheet. One is if you have a court order for child support, and you are actually paying the support. The amount of the support is an adjustment to your income. The other adjustment, which is discretionary with the judge, is if you are supporting another child in your home. You have to answer a series of five questions to see if the child qualifies. Stepchildren do not qualify because they have two parents with an obligation to support them.

6. What if we each have custody of one of the kids?

This is referred to as “split custody” and it is addressed in O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(a)(21). In split parenting, each parent is the custodial parent of the child who lives with them, and the noncustodial parent of the child who lives with the other parent. So there is a child support worksheet for each parent. The parent with the highest amount of child support due pays the difference between their obligation and that of the other parent.

7. Is there a formula for shared parenting? (See question number 1 above). The Child Support Commission has assembled a subcommittee to study whether or not Georgia should have a parenting time formula. More to come on this!

8. Daycare costs so much! Why do I have to pay for that? Traditionally, work related child care expenses have been a part of the child support calculation. However, in 2017 the Legislature changed the statute to add subsection (h)(1)(F)(2), which allows in certain situations for work related child care to be handled outside of the child support calculation.

9. I never married the mother – do I still have to pay? My name is on/not on the birth certificate! Under Georgia law, both parents have an obligation to support their children, whether married to the other parent or not. Your name on the birth certificate is irrelevant. Under Georgia law, if you have a child

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Youth That Inspire!

Chelea McLaurin was recognized at a graduation celebration hosted by Cobb County DFCS in June of this year. This month, she was featured by CNN as a positive athlete in her community!



Chelea entered foster care in middle school and overcame many obstacles to exceed her goals and go to the Savannah College of Art and Design where she will continue her dance career this fall.

Chelea’s advice to youth in foster care who are going through trying times: “You’re not your circumstance. You are all of your possibilities.” “Nothing can stop you. Keep believing in what you believe in. Don’t let anyone else tell you otherwise because you know who you are at the end of the day.”



Check out the feature on CNN [here](#).



OLUREMI, cont'd...

we have heard termination of parental rights cases throughout the summer. I have researched whether the state providing hormones is "medically necessary" to dependent transgender children who were using hormones prior to coming into care. I have researched issues which helped to reunify parents with their children. I do believe that my research on children's constitutional rights can inform both DFCS and courtroom daily practices by promoting a deeper understanding of children's constitutional rights to protection and familial relations.

All in all, this summer has been a welcomed challenge. There was a great balance between high expectations and freedom to get work done in settings and at times that worked best for us. The initial training was very informative and welcoming as a student who does not attend Emory. Doing legal research throughout the summer has been tough because it has really pushed my thinking and perspective. It is not an easy process, but I appreciate the consistent feedback from ESCAP and Judge Boyd on my work. I also thoroughly appreciate the constant investments that ESCAP made in making sure that interns were exposed to as many facets of child advocacy work throughout the summer through presentations, trainings, networking, and field trips. I would highly recommend ESCAP to anyone passionate about children's issues and interested in learning more about this area of the law. I am grateful for the specific investment that Emory made in myself and believe that this summer is also a long-term investment in the future of child-welfare through all of the interns, like myself, who look forward to working in this field in the near future.

VOICE, cont'd...



Monique and her AP U.S. History Teacher, Claire Cox-Segars, who Monique selected as her STAR teacher in 2019.

However, as I said before, I'm lucky. Incredibly lucky. I'm one of the only foster kids I know who has lived in a permanent home. Many do not get the chance I had to focus on their futures and pursue their goals. Many do not have someone who believes in them when the world does not.

So, today, I ask you to do something small: believe in someone. In the foster system, permanency is a huge issue, and it can be hard to tackle something so large. In the meantime, though, take the time to believe in the child whose future is unsure. Believe in the child living in adverse circumstances. Believe in the child you might not believe in. Sometimes, it makes all the difference.

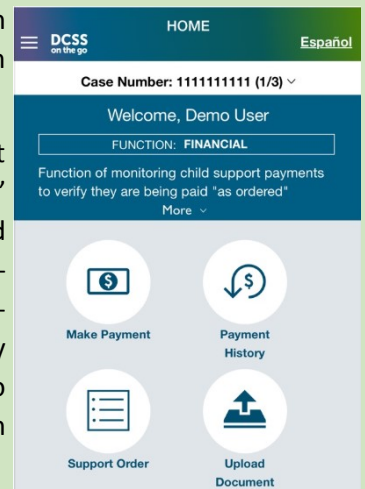
DCSS on the Go!



In light of Child Support Awareness Month, we

should keep in mind the tools available to obtain information about our child support cases without needing to stop by your local DCSS office. Did you know that you can receive information about your case online and through your mobile phone?

The Georgia Division of Child Support Services has a free "DCSS On the Go" mobile app that engages custodial and noncustodial parents in self-service options by allowing them to securely access their child support cases on any mobile device. It provides easy access to case details and general information about DCSS programs and services.





Top Things Educators Should Know About Student in Foster Care

Upon entering foster care, a youth works with many professionals such as a DFCS caseworker, CASA, GAL, attorney, and judge.

Children and youth come into foster care through no fault of their own and have experienced abusive and/or neglectful environments.

Maintaining confidentiality and sensitivity is very important.

Youth often enter foster care with gaps in their education.

School may be the only consistent environment for youth in foster care.

Trauma and adverse youth experiences may impact a student's learning and behavior.

Youth in foster care have many strengths (i.e. talents, resilience, friendships, and relationships with other supportive adults).

Students in foster care want to be empowered with decision making and engage in goal setting.

Students in foster care can go to college when they receive the support they need and are connected with the right resources.

Click [here](#) to learn more from:
The "Educators Guide to Supporting Students in Foster Care"



Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Posters

During the 2019 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 12 (Act 129) which requires public schools to post signs displaying the child abuse reporting hotline, 1-855-GA-CHILD. Prevent Child Abuse Georgia developed the posters below. The posters with the child abuse reporting hotline are available in English and Spanish and can be downloaded [here](#).

Ensure The Safety of a Child by Reporting Suspected Abuse.

I am a mandated reporter.

I am a VOICE for children.

I don't need all the facts, it's DFCS' job to investigate.

I'll call.

I only need to SUSPECT abuse to report it.

Report concerns or suspected abuse to:
1-855-422-4453

1-855-GA-CHILD

Sometimes a family may just need RESOURCES!

Connect Caregivers with Support
1-800-CHILDREN
(1-800-244-5373)

Call or Search by Location www.PCAGeorgiaHelpline.org

1-800-CHILDREN
1-800-244-5373

Includes Resources for:

- Caregiver Support
- Counseling and Support Groups
- Afterschool and Child Programs
- Domestic Violence Resources
- Child Abuse Resources
- Housing and Basic Needs

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

IT'S OK TO TELL if someone hurts you!

Si una persona te hace daño, no tengas miedo de contárselo a alguien confiable.



GO
to a safe place
Busca un lugar seguro

TELL
a trusted adult, teacher, counselor
Avisa a un adulto, maestro, o consejero confiable

OR CALL
Child Protective Services
1-855-GA-CHILD
(1-855-422-4453)



O llama a los servicios de protección de niños
1-855-GA-CHILD

For questions or support call
Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita ayuda llame al

1-800-CHILDREN
(1-800-244-5373)

The purpose of the law requiring mandatory reporting (O.C.G.A. 19-7-5(c)(1)) is to **protect and prevent** further abuse and their adverse effects as well as bring protective services into the home with the hopes of improving the child's welfare and preserve the family when possible. Click [here](#) for information on mandated reporter training options.



SUPPORT, cont'd...

with someone to whom you are not married, you still have the obligation to support your child, but you have no parental rights to that child whatsoever. The biological parent of a child born outside of wedlock must file a legal action called a Legitimation in order to gain their parental rights to that child, including custody and visitation.

10. The judge said she was going to impute my income. What does that mean? It means if you do not have or present reliable evidence of your income, the Court may impute income to you based on a number of factors such as past earnings and ability to earn. But the law changed in 2018 so that the judge now has to consider the specific circumstances of the parent, "including such factors as the parent's assets, residence, employment and earnings history, job skills, educational attainment, literacy, age, health, criminal record and other employment barriers, and record of seeking work, as well as the local job market, the availability of employers willing to hire the parent, prevailing earnings level in the local community, and other relevant background factors in the case."

11. My ex is on SS disability and my child gets a check – how does this play into the child support calculation? What if the check is more? If the noncustodial parent receives Social Security Disability and the child receives a monthly check based on that parent's disability, the amount received by the child is subtracted directly from the child support amount. If the check is less than the full amount, the disabled parent must pay the difference. If the check is more than the child support amount, the money stays with the child.

12. What is the difference between an adjustment, an additional expense, and a deviation?

(a) An adjustment shows as a deduction from the parents' gross income. Adjustments included in the Guidelines are found at O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(f)(5) and include self-employment taxes, preexisting child support orders, and qualified children in theoretical orders (when you are supporting another child in your home). Adjustments to gross income are entered on Schedule B of the child support worksheet and reduce the amount of gross income for each parent.

(b) Additional expenses include health insurance and work related child care that are prorated between the parents. That means the prorated amounts of these expenses are added to each parent's share of the Basic Child Support Obligation (BSCO). The amounts actually paid by each parent are then deducted from their individual share of the BSCO. Additional expenses in the guidelines statute are found at O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(h) and are entered on Schedule D of the child support worksheet.

(c) A deviation represents an expense related to the children in the case that is subtracted from or added to the presumptive amount of child support. All deviations are entered on Schedule E of the Worksheet, display as a total on line 14 of Schedule E, and display on Line 10 of the Child Support Worksheet. All deviations are subject to judicial discretion and, if applied, must be supported by required findings of fact and by the application of the best interest of the child standard. No deviation can be made which seriously impairs the ability of the custodial parent to maintain minimally adequate housing, food, and clothing for the children being supported in the order and to provide other basic necessities, as determined by the court or the jury.

13. Why did the Excel calculator go away? For the most part, our State's judges wanted something online that they could calculate on their iPads and other devices. Microsoft continuously put out different versions of Excel, which were very expensive to make compatible with the calculator and earlier versions of Excel. With the online calculator, users no longer have to make sure they are using the correct version of the worksheet, and all the data can be stored (securely) in the Cloud. Try it, you'll like it! It's located at <http://csc.georgiacourts.gov>.



Registration is Open!



November 13-15, 2019 • The Hotel at Avalon

The Georgia Office of the Child Advocate, Supreme Court of Georgia's Committee on Justice for Children, and the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services are pleased to announce that registration is open for The Summit: Georgia's Child Welfare Conference to be held on November 13-15, 2019 at the Alpharetta Conference Center at The Hotel at Avalon.

October 1st is the last day for the early registration rate. Please visit the conference website [here](#) where you can find additional information on registration fees, hotel reservations, conference agenda and workshops, speakers, and much more. If you have any registration questions, please contact AK Consulting Group at anette@akconsultinggroup.org or 850-523-4200. **Keep in mind that the reservation cut-off date for The Hotel at Avalon is October 11th.**

If you are interested in being a sponsor and/or exhibitor, please click [here](#) for more information. Please submit your completed request form(s) to Elyssa@akconsultinggroup.org by **September 10th.**

*Georgia Office of the Child Advocate
for the Protection of Children*
Rachel Davidson, Director
<https://oca.georgia.gov>
7 MLK Jr. Blvd, Ste. 347
Atlanta, GA 30334

*For general inquiries, assistance, or to file
a complaint:*

- Phone: (404) 656-4200
- Internet: <https://oca.georgia.gov/webform/request-oca-assistance-or-investigation>

*To submit an article for the newsletter:
Jansen Head: jhead@oca.ga.gov*

Join us on Social Media!



Facebook: @GeorgiaOfficeoftheChildAdvocate



Twitter: @georgia_oca



Instagram: @georgia_oca



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/gaoca/>



YouTube: "Georgia OCA"