

CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

Effective October 1, 1989, and pursuant to G.S. 50-13.4(c), the advisory child support guidelines for the computation of child support obligations of each parent as adopted by the Conference of Chief District Judges shall operate as presumptive guidelines. That is, the percentages set out in Section A shall be applied in computing child support obligations, unless the Court makes findings to vary the amount based on the factors set out in Section B.

The child support guidelines and factors for varying from the guidelines as adopted by the Conference of Chief District Judges are as follows:

A. A parent's support obligation for that parent's child or children shall be computed as follows:

One child.....	17% of the parent's gross income
Two children.....	25% of the parent's gross income
Three children.....	29% of the parent's gross income
Four children.....	31% of the parent's gross income
Five or more children.....	34% of the parent's gross income

B. The amount of a parent's support obligation may vary from the amount as computed above based on one or more of the following factors:

- (1) The special needs of the child, including physical and emotional health needs, educational needs, day-care costs, or needs related to the child's age.
- (2) Any shared physical custody arrangements or extended or unusual visitation arrangements.
- (3) A party's other support obligations to a current or former household, including the payment of alimony.
- (4) A party's extremely low or extremely high income, such that application of the guidelines produces an amount that is clearly too high in relation to the party's own needs or the child's needs.
- (5) A party's intentional suppression or reduction of income, hidden income, income that should be imputed to a party, or a party's substantial assets.
- (6) Any support that a party is providing or will be providing other than by periodic money payments, such as lump sum payments, possession of a residence, payment of a mortgage, payment of medical expenses, or provision of health insurance coverage.
- (7) A party's own special needs, such as unusual medical or other necessary expenses.
- (8) Any other factor the court finds to be just and proper.

C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a court determining a parent's child support obligation shall hear evidence and from the evidence find the facts relating to the reasonable needs of the child for support and the relative ability of each parent to pay support.

NOTE: *These guidelines are published jointly by the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts and the North Carolina Department of Human Resources as required by G.S. 50-13.4(c). For additional information regarding the use of the child support guidelines, refer to G.S. 50-13.4(c).*