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2015 Edition

Child Support in Connecticut

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

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This guide links to advance release slip opinions on the Connecticut Judicial Branch website and to case law hosted on Google Scholar.
The online versions are for informational purposes only.

See also:

- [Alimony in Connecticut](#)
- [Bankruptcy and the Family](#)
- [Discovery \(Financial\) in Family Matters](#)
- [Enforcement of Family and Foreign Matrimonial Judgments](#)
- [Glossary of Family Law Terms](#)

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<http://www.jud.ct.gov/policies.htm>

Introduction

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

- “. . . the purpose of a child support order is to provide for the care and wellbeing of minor children, and not to equalize the available income of divorced parents” [Battersby v. Battersby](#), 218 Conn. 467, 473, 590 A.2d 427 (1991).

- “Child support therefore furnishes the custodian with the resources to maintain a household to provide for the care and welfare of the children; in essence, the custodian holds the payments for the benefit of the child.” [Tomlinson v. Tomlinson](#), 305 Conn. 539, 556, 46 A.3d 112 (2012).

- **Purposes of guidelines:** “The primary purposes of the child support and arrearage guidelines are:
 - (1) To provide uniform procedures for establishing an adequate level of support for children, and for repayment of child support arrearages, subject to the ability of parents to pay.
 - (2) To make awards more equitable by ensuring the consistent treatment of persons in similar circumstances.
 - (3) To improve the efficiency of the court process by promoting settlements and by giving courts and the parties guidance in setting the levels of awards.
 - (4) To conform to applicable federal and state statutory and regulatory mandates.” State of Connecticut, Commission for Child Support Guidelines, [Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines](#) (Effective July 1, 2015). *Preamble to Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines* (c)

Section 1: Duty to Support Children

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic resources relating to the duty of parent to support child including child who are adopted or the issue of a subsequently annulled marriage.

DEFINITIONS:

- “The independent nature of a child’s right to parental support was recognized by this court long before that right was codified in our statutes.” [Guille v. Guille](#), 196 Conn. 260, 263, 492 A.2d 175 (1985).
- **Child support order** “does not operate to crystallize or limit the duty of the parent to support his minor child, but merely defines the extent of the duty during the life of the order.” [Roshier v. Superior Court](#), 71 P.2d 918 (1937).
- **Maintenance.** “Under General Statutes . . . [§] 46b-84, the court is authorized to make orders regarding the maintenance of the minor children of the marriage. The word ‘maintenance’ means ‘the provisions, supplies, or funds needed to live on.’ Webster, Third New International Dictionary. It is synonymous with support . . . Such orders may be in kind as well as in money.” [Valente v. Valente](#), 180 Conn. 528, 532, 429 A.2d 964 (1980).

STATUTES:

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
 - § [46b-37](#)(b). Joint duty of spouses to support family
 - § [46b-56](#). Superior court orders re custody and care
 - § [46b-58](#). Custody, maintenance and education of adopted children
 - § [46b-60](#). Orders re children and alimony in annulment cases
 - § [46b-84](#). Parents’ obligation for maintenance of minor child.
 - § [46b-215](#). Relatives obligated to furnish support, when.

CASES:

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Pelrin v. Shemet](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New Haven, No. FA13-4018057-S (Apr. 8, 2015) (60 Conn. L. Rptr. 176) (2015 WL 2166546). “This seemingly anomalous and arguably unjust result may be explained, at least in part, by the possibly unintuitive reality that a guardian does not have a legal duty to support her ward. See *Favrow v. Vargas*, supra. The petitioner is free to support the child voluntarily but cannot be required to continue to do so if she decides not to continue. When a non-parental custodian volunteers to care for a minor child, the parents are accountable to the custodian for the child’s support because the custodian is discharging their legal responsibility to the child for them. If the custodian continues to care for the adult child after emancipation,

she is not discharging a legal obligation of the parents and, therefore, arguably, cannot claim support from them.”

- [Commissioner of Social Services v. Lewis](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, No. FA11-4059024-S (Oct. 21, 2013) (56 Conn. L. Rptr. 937). “In Connecticut there is a specific statutory provision that excludes a sperm donor from an obligation of support, however, at this time there are no statutes that relieve a parent of a child conceived through in vitro fertilization (IVF) from the duty to support. The magistrate found and relied upon a body of law recognizing that in the absence of statutory authority it is in the best interest of the child to be supported by both parents. The magistrate further found that the trend in sister states suggests a disinclination to disqualify an eligible parent from a duty to support. He specifically noted that a number of jurisdictions have held that in the absence of statutorily required written consent, the best interest of children and society are served by recognizing that parental responsibility may be imposed based on conduct evincing actual consent to the artificial insemination procedure.”
- [Kalinowski v. Kropelnicki](#), 92 Conn. App. 344, 350, 885 A.2d 194 (2005). “We agree that the defendant has such a duty to support her minor child. ‘The defendant’s duty to support . . . is a continuing obligation, which ordinarily exists even apart from any judgment or decree of support.’ *Atlas Garage & Custom Builders, Inc. v. Hurley*, 167 Conn. 248, 255, 355 A.2d 286 (1974); see also *Pezas v. Pezas*, 151 Conn. 611, 617, 201 A.2d 192 (1964). ‘A parent has both a statutory and common law duty to support his minor children within the reasonable limits of his ability.’ *Weisbaum v. Weisbaum*, 2 Conn. App. 270, 272-73, 477 A.2d 690 (1984).”
- [Foster v. Foster](#), 84 Conn. App. 311, 322, 853 A.2d 588 (2004). “It is a well established principle that child support is premised upon a parent’s obligation to provide for the care and well being of the minor child. See *Raymond v. Raymond*, 165 Conn. 735, 739, 345 A.2d 48 (1974) (‘t]he needs of the child, within the limits of the financial abilities of the parent, form the basis for the amount of support required’). Although the trial court is given wide discretion to modify child support on the basis of a substantial change in circumstances, interference with visitation alone is insufficient to warrant a reduction in child support. See *id.* (concluding that ‘duty to support is wholly independent of the right of visitation’). Although we do not condone the plaintiff’s actions in this case, the court may not punish the child, who is the beneficiary of child support, for the sins of her mother. See *id.*

Accordingly, because the court incorrectly applied the law regarding a parent's obligation to provide child support, it was an abuse of discretion for the court to have eliminated the defendant's child support obligations on the basis of the plaintiff's chronic interference with visitation. Accordingly, the order eliminating the defendant's child support obligation is vacated."

- [Decamillis v. Hasiotis](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, No. FA00-0630369 (Sep. 11, 2001) (2001 WL 1199924). "It is implicit in the computation of current support orders that each parent's share must be computed, regardless of who requests the support order. Clearly, if either parent's support obligation is not met by providing direct support to a child in that parent's custody or by satisfactory and appropriate voluntary payments, it is not only the court's fight, but its duty, to set a support order."
- [W. v. W.](#), 248 Conn. 487, 497-498, 728 A.2d 1076 (1999). "In the context of parental responsibilities, the duty to support the child is placed fairly on the nonparental party, not solely because of his voluntary assumption of a parental role, but, also because of the misleading course of conduct that induced the child, and the biological parent as the child's guardian, to rely detrimentally on the nonparental party's emotional and financial support of the child."
- [In re Bruce R.](#), 234 Conn. 194, 209, 662 A.2d 107 (1995). "Connecticut child support legislation clearly evinces a strong state policy of insuring that minor child receive the support to which they are entitled."
- [Timm v. Timm](#), 195 Conn. 202, 207, 487 A.2d 191 (1985). "It is further recognized that an order for the support of minor children is not based solely on the needs of the children but takes into account what the parents can afford to pay."

DIGESTS:

Dowling's Digest: *Parent and Child* § 5 Liability of Parent. Support.

Connecticut Family Law Citations:

CHILD SUPPORT, alteration, change, or amendment
—Parents

**WEST KEY
NUMBERS:**

Parent & Child # 3.1. Support and education of child. Rights, duties and liabilities in general

- Father, duty to support
- Mother, duty to support

Divorce # 306. Grounds for award as to support

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- 59 [Am. Jur. 2d Parent and Child](#) (2012).
Support and maintenance of child, In general; Liability for expenses regarding child
 - § 42. Generally; basis for duty
 - § 43. What law governs
 - § 44. —Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
 - § 45. Charter and extent of parental obligation
 - § 46. Obligations as limited to “necessaries”
 - § 47. Amount; Discretion of court
 - § 48. Termination of obligation by act of child
 - § 49. Effect of Agreements on support obligations agreements —Between parents
 - § 50. —For support by third person
 - § 51. Obligations of respective parents-Generally
- 24A [Am. Jur. 2d Divorce and Separation](#) (2008)
§§ 961-1027. Child Support

TEXTS & TREATISES:

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law And Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 38. Child Support
 - § 38:1 Duty to support child
 - § 38:2 Statutory duty to support
 - § 38:3 Comparison of “child support” and “alimony”
 - § 38:4 Child to whom duty of support applies
- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
Chapter 7. Child Support.
Part III: Determining Who is Liable for Child Support

Table 1: Statutory Duty to Support Children

<p>§ 46b-56</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In any controversy before the Superior Court as to the custody or care of minor children, and at any time after the return day of any complaint under section 46b-45, the court may make or modify any proper order regarding the custody, care, education, visitation and support of the children if it has jurisdiction under the provisions of chapter 815p.
<p>§ 46b-58</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The authority of the Superior Court to make and enforce orders and decrees as to the custody, maintenance and education of minor children in any controversy before the court between husband and wife brought under the provisions of this chapter is extended to children adopted by both parties and to any natural child of one of the parties who has been adopted by the other.
<p>§ 46b-60</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In connection with any petition for annulment under this chapter, the Superior Court may make such order regarding any child of the marriage and concerning alimony as it might make in an action for dissolution of marriage. The issue of any void or voidable marriage shall be deemed legitimate. Any child born before, on or after October 1, 1976, whose birth occurred prior to the marriage of his parents shall be deemed a child of the marriage.
<p>§ 46b-61</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases in which the parents of a minor child live separately, the superior court for the judicial district where the parties or one of them resides may, on the [complaint] application of either party and after notice given to the other party, make any order as to the custody, care, education, visitation and support of any minor child of the parties, subject to the provisions of sections 46b-54, 46b-56, 46b-57 and 46b-66. Proceedings to obtain such orders shall be commenced by service of an application, a summons and an order to show cause.
<p>§ 46b-84</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon or subsequent to the annulment or dissolution of any marriage or the entry of a decree of legal separation or divorce, the parents of a minor child of the marriage, shall maintain the child according to their respective abilities, if the child is in need of maintenance.
<p>§ 46b-215</p>	<p>(a)(1) The Superior Court or a family support magistrate may make and enforce orders for payment of support against any person who neglects or refuses to furnish necessary support to such person's spouse or a child under the age of eighteen or as otherwise provided in this subsection, according to such person's ability to furnish such support, notwithstanding the provisions of section 46b-37. If such child is unmarried and a full-time high school student, such support shall continue according to the parents'</p>

	<p>respective abilities, if such child is in need of support, until such child completes the twelfth grade or attains the age of nineteen, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>(4) For purposes of this section, the term "child" shall include one born out of wedlock whose father has acknowledged in writing paternity of such child or has been adjudged the father by a court of competent jurisdiction, or a child who was born before marriage whose parents afterwards intermarry.</p>
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Section 2: Child Support Guidelines

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

Child support and arrearage guidelines: “means the rules, schedule and worksheet established under this section and sections 46b-215a-2c, 46b-215a-3a, 46b-215a-4b and 46b-215a-5c, and 46b-215a-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for the determination of an appropriate child support award, to be used when initially establishing or modifying both temporary and permanent orders.” Conn. Agencies Regs. § [46b-215a-1\(5\)](#) [amended July 1, 2015].

Purposes of guidelines: “The primary purposes of the child support and arrearage guidelines are:

- (1) To provide uniform procedures for establishing an adequate level of support for children, and for repayment of child support arrearages, subject to the ability of parents to pay.
- (2) To make awards more equitable by ensuring the consistent treatment of persons in similar circumstances.
- (3) To improve the efficiency of the court process by promoting settlements and by giving courts and the parties guidance in setting the levels of awards.
- (4) To conform to applicable federal and state statutory and regulatory mandates.” State of Connecticut, Commission for Child Support Guidelines, [Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines](#) (Effective July 1, 2015). Preamble to Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines (c)

Income Shares Model: “The Income Shares Model presumes that the child should receive the same proportion of parental income as he or she would have received if the parents lived together. Underlying the income shares model, therefore, is the policy that the parents should bear any additional expenses resulting from the maintenance of two separate households instead of one, since it is not the child’s decision that the parents divorce, separate, or otherwise live separately.” Ibid. (d)

Section 2a: When Applicable

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE: Bibliographic resources relating to the [Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines](#) (eff. July 1, 2015) including applicability and instructions on using.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Applicability.** "This section shall be used to determine the current support, health care coverage and child care contribution components of all child support awards within the state, subject to section 46b-215a-5c of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. When the parents' combined net weekly income exceeds \$4,000, child support awards shall be determined on a case-by-case basis, consistent with statutory criteria, including that which is described in subsection (d) of section 46b-84 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The amount shown at the \$4,000 net weekly income level shall be the minimum presumptive support obligation. The maximum presumptive support obligation shall be determined by multiplying the combined net weekly income by the applicable percentage shown at the \$4,000 net income level." Conn. Agencies Regs. § [46b-215a-2c\(a\)](#) (2015).

STATUTES:

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
§ [46b-215b](#). Guidelines to be used in determination of amount of support and payment on arrearages and past due support.

REGULATIONS:

- Conn. Agencies Regs. (7/15)
§§ [46b-215a-1](#) et seq.
Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines Regulations
§§ [17b-179\(b\)-1](#). Support standards - child support guidelines

You can visit your local law library or browse the [recently adopted regulations page](#) on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.

CASES:

- [O'Brien v. O'Brien](#), 138 Conn. App. 544, 553, 53 A.3d 1039 (2012). "In any marital dissolution action involving minor children, it is axiomatic that the court must fashion orders providing for the support of those children. There is no exception to this mandate, and certainly none for unallocated awards of alimony and child support, which necessarily include amounts for both child support and spousal support. Indeed, our Supreme Court recently confirmed in *Tomlinson v. Tomlinson*, 305 Conn. 539, 558, 46 A.3d 112 (2012), that an unallocated order 'necessarily includes a portion attributable to child support in an amount sufficient to satisfy the guidelines.' (Emphasis added.)"

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Korsgren v. Jones](#), 108 Conn. App. 521, 529-530, 948 A.2d 358 (2008). "As this court emphasized in *Lefebvre*, § 46b-215a-3(b)(6)(A) of the regulations provides that a deviation is warranted only when the shared parenting arrangement substantially increases or decreases a parent's financial obligation. *Lefebvre v. Lefebvre*, supra, 75 Conn. App. at 669, 817 A.2d 750."
- [Reininger v. Reininger](#), 49 Conn. Sup. 238, 241, 871 A.2d 422 (2005). "When a judgment incorporates a separation agreement in accordance with a stipulation of the parties, it is to be regarded and construed as a contract."
- [Evans v. Taylor](#), 67 Conn. App. 108, 111-112, 786 A.2d 525 (2001). "Although the court noted that it was unclear whether the earnings that were reported by the plaintiff were his actual earnings, it also noted that the defendant had income from various investments that she did not include on her financial affidavit. Further, the court found that pursuant to the financial affidavit of the plaintiff, his 'expenses' were, for the most part, all being paid, despite the fact that the total of those 'expenses' exceeded the amount he had listed as 'income,' which led the court to conclude that the plaintiff's income was at least equal to that of his 'expenses.' In light of that situation, the court calculated the net income of each party using the same method; it substituted the amount listed as 'expenses' on each party's financial affidavit for gross income and deducted the applicable payroll taxes from that amount to arrive at each party's net income."
- [Battersby v. Battersby](#), 218 Conn. 467, 469-470, 590 A.2d 427 (1991). "The statute [46b-215b] does not . . . require the trial courts to apply the Guidelines to all determinations of child support, but creates only a rebuttable presumption as to the amount of child support. It requires only that the trial court consider the Guidelines."
- [Miklos v. Millos](#), 4 Conn. L. Rptr. 185, 186 (Litchfield, 1991). "...the child support guidelines may be applied to motions for modification of support filed in cases where judgment was entered prior to the effective date of the child support guidelines."
- [Favrow v. Vargas](#), 222 Conn. 699, 707-714, 610 A.2d 1267 (1992). *History of the child support guidelines*.

DIGESTS:

- Connecticut Family Law Citations:
CHILD SUPPORT, alteration, change, or amendment
—Guidelines
- Family Support Magistrate Decisions and Digest
II. Child Support Guidelines

III. Support guidelines

WEST KEY NUMBERS:

Divorce # 306-307

TEXTS & TREATISES:

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- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law And Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 38. Child Support
 - § 38:19. Guidelines and formulas for support
 - § 38:52. Connecticut Child Support Guidelines
 - § 38:53. Child Support Guidelines Worksheet—Form
- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
Chapter 7. Child Support.
 - Part V: Using the Child Support Guidelines
 - Part VII: Establishing Permanent Child Support Orders
- Barbara Kahn Stark, [Friendly Divorce Guidebook for Connecticut: Planning, Negotiating and Filing Your Divorce](#) (2003).
Chapter 9. Child Support
 - How to make the Child Support Guidelines work for you, p. 215
 - If the Guidelines do not apply, pp. 215-216
 - Using the Guidelines and schedule of basic child support obligations, pp. 217-228
- [Family Law Practice in Connecticut](#) (1996).
Chapter 11. Child Support by M. Carron
 - I. Calculation of Child Support Obligations under the Guidelines
 - A. Definitions [11.1 - 11.8]
 - B. Calculations
 - Guideline worksheet [11.9]
 - Corrections for low income obligor [11.10]
- Molly E. Christy, *Unjust and inequitable: An argument against strict application of the child support guidelines when the obligor parent and child live in different countries*, 20 [Quinnipiac Prob. L.J.](#) 260 (2005).
- *Calculating And Collecting Child Support: Sixteen Years After The Guidelines...And Counting*, 23 [Family Advocate](#) no. 2 (Fall 2000). Special issue
- *1999 Child Support Symposium*, 33 [Family Law Quarterly](#) no. 1 (Spring 1999).
- Lewis Becker, *Spousal and Child Support and the "Voluntary Reduction of Income" Doctrine*, 29 [Conn. L.R.](#) 647 (1997).

LAW REVIEWS:

Note: Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our law libraries.

Section 2b: Deviation from Guidelines

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

- SCOPE:** Bibliographic resources relating to deviation from the [Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines](#) (eff. July 1, 2015).
- DEFINITIONS:**
- **Deviation criteria:** “means those facts or circumstances described in sections 46b-215a-5c of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which may justify an order different from the presumptive support amounts.” Conn. Agencies Regs. § [46b-215a-1\(10\)](#) (7-15).
 - **Shared physical custody** “means a situation in which the physical residence of the child is shared by the parents in a manner that ensures the child has substantially equal time and contact with both parents. An exactly equal sharing of physical care and control of the child is not required for a finding of shared physical custody.” Conn. Agencies Regs. § [46b-215a-1\(23\)](#) (7-15).
- STATUTES:**
- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
§ [46b-215b\(a\)](#). Guidelines to be used in determination of amount of support and payment on arrearages and past-due support.
- REGULATIONS:**
- Conn. Agencies Regs. (7-15)
§§ [46b-215a-5c](#). Deviation criteria
(b) Criteria for deviation from presumptive support amounts
 - (1) Other financial resources available to parent
 - (2) Extraordinary expenses for care and maintenance of the child
 - (3) Extraordinary parental expenses
 - (4) Needs of a parent’s other dependents
 - (5) Coordination of total family support
 - (6) Special circumstances
 - (A) Shared physical custody
 - (B) Extraordinary disparity in parental income
 - (C) Total child support award exceeds 55% of obligor’s net income.
 - (D) Best interest of the child
 - (E) Other equitable factors
- AGENCY REPORTS:**
- [Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines](#) (eff. July 1, 2015)
Preamble to Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines,
(j) Deviation criteria
 - (4). **Shared physical custody.** “The commission refined the shared physical custody deviation by removing references to ‘custodial’ and ‘noncustodial’ parents and substituting the designations of ‘lower net weekly income’ and ‘higher net weekly income’ parents. The commission also added a provision to allow deviation

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from the presumptive support amount when both parents have substantially equal income. The commission continues to reject the notion of a mathematical formula based on the time spent with each parent to determine support amounts in the shared physical custody context. Application of such a formula would tend to shift the focus away from the best interests of the child and more toward financial considerations, which would be inconsistent with Connecticut law. A finding of shared physical custody should be made only where each parent exercises physical care and control of the child for periods substantially in excess of two overnights on alternate weekends, alternate holidays, some vacation time, and other visits of short duration, which may occasion an overnight stay during the week. While periods substantially in excess of this schedule are required for a finding of shared physical custody, the commission emphasizes that an equal time-sharing is not required for such finding. Courts still must determine what precise level of sharing is sufficient to warrant a deviation from presumptive support amounts. The commission continues to reject a 'bright-line' definitional test as well as a formula approach to shared custody situations to discourage disputes over time-sharing as a means of affecting support amounts. The commission believes the approach continued in these regulations leaves sufficient room for the exercise of judicial discretion while providing a measure of predictability for the parties."

CASES:

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Fox v. Fox](#), 152 Conn. App. 611, 633, 99 A.3d 1206, 1220 (2014). "A party's earning capacity is a deviation criterion under the guidelines, and, therefore, a court must specifically invoke the criterion and specifically explain its justification for calculating a party's child support obligation by virtue of the criterion instead of by virtue of the procedures outlined in the guidelines. The court in the present case did not invoke the defendant's earning capacity as a deviation criterion in calculating the defendant's modified child support obligation, and it did not explain why an obligation calculated in accordance with the defendant's actual income, pursuant to the guidelines, would be inequitable or inappropriate, thus warranting an obligation calculated in accordance with the defendant's earning capacity instead."
- [Kavanah v. Kavanah](#), 142 Conn. App. 775, 66 A. 3d 922 (2013). "In this case, the only criterion stated for the deviation from the child support guidelines was the travel expenses of the defendant. To the extent that the court referenced 'family obligations' we note that such a vague and generalized statement would not support a deviation on its own. See *Baker v. Baker*, 47 Conn. App. 672, 676-77,

707 A.2d 300 (1998) (failure of trial court specifically to identify criteria justifying deviation from child support guidelines warranted reversal and remand for new hearing). The court failed to identify why the defendant's travel costs did not fall into the 'ordinary' category, but rather were 'extraordinary' so as to warrant a deviation from the child support guidelines."

- [Dowling v. Szymczak](#), 309 Conn. 390, 72 A.3d 1 (2013). "But while the guidelines do not indicate that the percentage of income dedicated to child related expenditures will presumptively remain static at income levels exceeding those provided by the schedule, neither do they offer any indication that the percentage will decline at any particular rate in exceptionally high income cases. The legislature and the commission established to oversee the guidelines are the appropriate bodies from which particular standards must originate. See *Battersby v. Battersby*, supra, 218 Conn. at 471, 590 A.2d 427; see also *Maturo v. Maturo*, supra, at 90, 995 A.2d 1 (observing that legislature 'has thrown its full support behind the guidelines')."
- [Wallbeoff v. Wallbeoff](#), 113 Conn. App. 107, 112, 965 A.2d 571 (2009). "Indeed, our Supreme Court has expressly held that with respect to a related regulation requiring identical findings of fact in cases involving child support arrearage, it is an abuse of discretion for a court to deviate from the guidelines without making these findings. *Unkelbach v. McNary*, 244 Conn. 350, 367, 710 A.2d 717 (1998)."
- [Utz v. Utz](#), 112 Conn. App. 631, 637, 963 A.2d 1049 (2009). "The guidelines are used by the court to determine a presumptive child support payment, which is to be deviated from only under extraordinary circumstances.' *Golden v. Mandel*, 110 Conn. App. 376, 386, 955 A.2d 115 (2008)."
- [Brent v. Lebowitz](#), 67 Conn. App. 527, 532, 787 A.2d 621 (2002) [cert. granted, 260 Conn. 902 but limited to the issue "Did the Appellate Court properly conclude that the trial court improperly applied the child support and arrearage guidelines under General Statutes 46b-215b to the arrearage owed by the plaintiff?"]. "Accordingly, support agreements that are not in accordance with the financial dictates of the guidelines are not enforceable unless one of the guidelines' deviation criteria is present, such as when the terms of the agreement are in the best interest of the child."

DIGESTS:

Connecticut Family Law Citations:

CHILD SUPPORT, alteration, change, or amendment

—Guidelines

—deviation

Family Support Magistrate Decisions and Digest

Deviation from Child Support Guidelines

**WEST KEY
NUMBERS:**

*Divorce # 309.6
Parent and Child # 3.3*

**TEXTS &
TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law And Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 38. Child Support
 - § 38:19. Guidelines and formulas for support
 - § 38:22. –Guideline criteria for deviation
 - § 38:29. –Deviation based on agreement
 - § 38:30. –Income beyond the Guideline schedule
- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
Chapter 7. Child Support.
Part V: Using the Child Support Guidelines
 - § 7.32 Determining Deviation Criteria Under the Child Support Guidelines
- [Family Law Practice in Connecticut](#) (1996).
Chapter 11 Child Support by M. Carron
- Barbara Kahn Stark, [Friendly Divorce Guidebook for Connecticut: Planning, Negotiating and Filing Your Divorce](#) (2003). Chapter 9, Child Support
 - Deviation: what if the recommended support is too high or too low for you? pp. 228-229
 - Dealing with Children’s Expenses-The “Budgeting Approach to Deviation”. pp. 230-234

Section 2c: When Not Applicable

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE: Bibliographic resources relating to when the [Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines](#) (July 1, 2015) do not apply.

STATUTES:

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
§ [46b-215b](#). Guidelines to be used in determination of amount of support and payment on arrearages and past due support.

REGULATIONS:

- Conn. Agencies Regs. (7-15)
§ [46b-215a-2b](#). Child support guidelines
 - (a) Applicability
 - (2) Income scope.

You can visit your local law library or browse the [recently adopted regulations page](#) on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.

When the parents' combined net weekly income exceeds \$4,000, child support awards shall be determined on a case-by-case basis, and the current support prescribed at the \$4,000 net weekly income level shall be the minimum presumptive amount.

DIGESTS:

Connecticut Family Law Citations:
CHILD SUPPORT, alteration, change, or amendment
—Guidelines
Family Support Magistrate Decisions and Digest
IV. Child Support Guidelines
V. Support guidelines

CASES:

- [Dowling v. Szymczak](#), 309 Conn. 390, 402-403, 72 A.3d 1 (2013). "It may be that the commission, which updates the guidelines every four years 'to ensure the appropriateness of criteria for the establishment of child support awards'; General Statutes § 46b-215a(a); see also *Maturo v. Maturo*, supra, at 90, 995 A.2d 1; will account for the exceptionally affluent families in this state in future revisions to the guidelines. Until that day, however, the uppermost multiplier will provide the presumptive ceiling that will guide the trial courts in determining an appropriate child support award 'on a case-by-case basis'; Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 46b-215a-2b(a)(2); without the need to resort to deviation criteria. We underscore, however, that, in exercising discretion in any given case, the magistrate or trial court should consider evidence submitted by the parties regarding actual past and projected child support expenditures to determine the appropriate award, with due regard for the principle that such expenditures generally decline as income rises."

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Maturo v. Maturo](#), 296 Conn. 80, 95, 995 A.2d 1 (2010). "Although the guidelines grant courts discretion to make awards on a 'case-by-case' basis above the amount

prescribed for a family at the upper limit of the schedule when the combined net weekly income of the parents exceeds that limit, which is presently \$4000; Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 46b-215a-2b (a) (2); the guidelines also indicate that such awards should follow the principle expressly acknowledged in the preamble and reflected in the schedule that the child support obligation as a percentage of the combined net weekly income should decline as the income level rises. Thus, an award of child support based on a combined net weekly income of \$8000 must be governed by the same *principles* that govern a child support award based on a combined net weekly income of \$4000, even though the former does not fall within the guidelines' *schedule*."

- [Benedetto v. Benedetto](#), 55 Conn. App. 350, 355, 738 A.2d 745 (1999). "The defendant next claims that the trial court improperly ordered child support without any reference to the child support guidelines. This claim is without merit. The court found that the defendant's income exceeded the maximum level in the guidelines and, therefore, the guidelines did not apply."
- [Carey v. Carey](#), 29 Conn. App. 436, 440, 615 A.2d 516 (1992). "Although the trial court correctly recognized that the guidelines generally are not applicable to parents with a weekly net income below the self-support reserve of \$135, the trial court failed to consider the entire mandate of the guidelines. They state that '[e]xcept as provided under the deviation criteria, the guidelines do not apply to a parent whose net weekly income is less than \$135.' (Emphasis added.) Connecticut Child Support Guidelines (b)(2). As a result, even where income does not exceed the self-support reserve, the guidelines are applicable and must be considered 'as provided under the deviation criteria.'

WEST KEY NUMBERS:

Divorce # 309.6
Parent and Child # 3.3

TEXTS & TREATISES:

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law And Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 38. Child Support
§ 38:19. Guidelines and formulas for support
§ 38:22. –Guideline criteria for deviation
§ 38:30. –Income beyond the Guideline schedule
- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
Chapter 7. Child Support.
Part V: Using the Child Support Guidelines
§ 7.32 Determining Deviation Criteria Under the Child Support Guidelines

- [Family Law Practice in Connecticut](#) (1996).
Chapter 11. Child Support
- Barbara Kahn Stark, [Friendly Divorce Guidebook for Connecticut: Planning, Negotiating and Filing Your Divorce](#) (2003).
Chapter 9. Child Support

LAW REVIEWS:

Lewis Becker, *Spousal And Child Support And The "Voluntary Reduction Of Income" Doctrine*, 29 [Conn. L. Rev.](#) 647 (1997).

Section 3: Child Support Pendente Lite

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic resources relating to the awarding of temporary child support including modification and enforcement.

DEFINITIONS:

- “The function of an order for alimony and support pendente lite is to provide support for a spouse who the court determines requires financial assistance, and for any dependent children, until the court makes a final determination of the issues.” [Trella v. Trella](#), 24 Conn. App. 219, 222, 587 A.2d 162 (1991).

STATUTES:

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
 - § [46b-83](#). Alimony, support and use of family home or other residential dwelling unit awarded pendente lite. Voluntary leaving of family home by one parent.
 - § [46b-84\(d\)](#). Parents' obligation for maintenance of minor child. Order for health insurance coverage.
 - § [46b-86\(a\)](#). Modification of alimony or support orders and judgments.

FORMS:

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
 - § 37:5. Motion for temporary child support–Form
 - § 37:6. Motion to determine child support obligation–Form
- Barbara Kahn Stark, [Friendly Divorce Guidebook for Connecticut: Planning, Negotiating and Filing Your Divorce](#) (2003).
- Amy Calvo MacNamara, ed. [Library of Connecticut Family Law Forms](#) (2014).
 - 5-008 Motion for Child Support
 - 5-009 Motion for Alimony and Support
 - 5-011 Claims for Relief Re: Alimony and Child Support
 - 5-035 Motion for Contempt re: Unallocated Alimony and Support
 - 5-038 Motion for Modification of Unallocated Alimony and Support

CASES:

- [Peterson v. Peterson](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Stamford at Norwalk, No. FA09-4015636-S (Sept. 21, 2011). “The court finds that Gen. Stat. §§ 46b–83 and 46b–84 are silent as to the requirement of the parties living separate and apart. Nowhere in these statutes does there exist any requirement that the parties live separate and apart as a condition of a pendente lite alimony order. The court finds that the older decisions citing ‘abandoned’

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and 'living apart' have been rejected by the current decisions that consistently do not mention either phrase. The court finds that there is no current statutory authority or case law authority for the parties living apart as a condition for pendente lite alimony or child support. The court finds that the Superior Court has the authority to enter pendente lite alimony and child support orders when the two parties continue to reside together. *Boyce v. Boyce*, Superior Court, judicial district of Fairfield at Bridgeport, Docket Number FA01-0387600S (January 3, 2002, Bassick, JTR) [31 Conn. L. Rptr. 177]"

- [Misthopoulos v. Misthopoulos](#), 297 Conn. 358, 373, 999 A.2d 721 (2010). "It is well established that the prohibition against retroactive modification of support orders applies to pendente lite support orders. See, e.g., *Trella v. Trella*, supra, 24 Conn.App. at 222, 587 A.2d 162 ('in the absence of express legislative authorization for retroactive modification of unallocated alimony and support pendente lite, the trial court has no authority to order such modification'); see also *Evans v. Taylor*, 67 Conn.App. 108, 117-18, 786 A.2d 525 (2001)."
- [Friezo v. Friezo](#), 84 Conn. App. 727, 732, 854 A.2d 1119 (2004). "Awards of pendente lite alimony and child support are modifiable on the court's determination of a substantial change in the circumstances of the parties. See General Statutes § 46b-86(a)."
- [Prial v. Prial](#), 67 Conn. App. 7, 13, 787 A.2d 50 (2001). "General Statutes § 46b-86 (a) provides that a court may modify an order for alimony or support pendente lite 'upon a showing that the final order for the child support substantially deviates from the child support guidelines established pursuant to section 46b-215 (a)."
- [Evans v. Taylor](#), 67 Conn. App. 108, 118, 786 A.2d 525 (2001). "It was improper for the court to omit the pendente lite arrearage in its final judgment of dissolution even though the defendant may not have specifically requested that in her claims for relief."
- [Wolk v. Wolk](#), 191 Conn. 328, 331, 464 A.2d 780 (1983). "Since the purposes of pendente lite awards and final orders are different, there is no requirement that the court give any reason for changing the pendente lite orders."
- [England v. England](#), 138 Conn. 410, 414, 85 A.2d 483 (1951). "It is within the sound discretion of the trial court whether such an allowance should be made and, if so, in what amount. Its decision will not be disturbed unless it clearly appears that it involves an abuse of discretion."

- [Beaulieu v. Beaulieu](#), 18 Conn. Sup. 497, 498 (1954).
“There should be no distinction between permanent and temporary alimony as respects collection.”
- [Fitzgerald v. Fitzgerald](#), 169 Conn. 147, 152-153, 362 A.2d 889 (1975). “In deciding the motions for temporary orders, the court could rely on the primary duty of the defendant to support his minor children pending the disposition of the first count of the plaintiff’s complaint upon a trial on the merits.”

DIGESTS:

Dowling’s Digest: Parent and Child § 5
Connecticut Family Law Citations: *Pendente Lite Orders*
Family Support Magistrate Decisions and Digest
Words and phrases—Pendente lite

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- 24A [Am. Jur. 2d Divorce and Separation](#) (2008).
§§ 965-968. Temporary support

TEXTS & TREATISES:

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 37. Temporary Child Support
§ 37:2. Comparison with temporary alimony
§ 37:3. Time and method for raising claim
§ 37:4. Preparation of pendente lite claim
§ 37:7. Hearing
§ 37:8. Amount of order; factors to be considered
§ 37:9. Order, stipulation or voluntary compliance
§ 37:10. Enforcement
§ 37:11. Modification
§ 37:12. Effect of prenuptial or other agreements relating to child support
- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
Chapter 7. Child Support.
Part VI: Establishing Temporary Child Support Orders

Section 4: Modifying Child Support

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic resources relating to modification of support including grounds but excluding IV-D child support cases

DEFINITIONS:

- **Modification of child support:** "any final order for the periodic payment of permanent alimony or support or an order for alimony or support pendente lite may at any time thereafter be continued, set aside, altered or modified by said court upon a showing of a substantial change in the circumstances of either party or upon a showing that the final order for child support substantially deviates from the child support guidelines" Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-86\(a\)](#) (2015).

PUBLIC ACTS:

- [Public Act 15-71](#) *An Act Adopting The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act Of 2008* (effective 7/1/2015).
 - §§ 53-60

STATUTES:

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
 - § [46b-86](#). Modification of alimony or support orders and judgments
 - (a) substantial change in circumstances or deviation from child support guidelines as grounds for modification
 - (c) When a motion to modify must be filed with the Family Support Magistrate Division
 - § [46b-215e](#). Initial or modified support order where child support obligor is institutionalized or incarcerated.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

- P.A. 90-188. An act concerning use of guidelines for modification of support orders
 - House Bill No. 5668 (1990)
 - Senate proceedings: 2702-2705, 2754-2755
 - House Proceedings: 3624-3628
 - Hearings, Judiciary Committee: 411-412, 415-416, 421-428, 475, 502-503, 512, 553-554, 556, 589-591, 619-620, 621, 628

REGULATIONS:

You can browse the [recently adopted regulations page](#) on the SOTS website to check for updates.

- Conn. Agencies Regs. (10-00)
 - Title IV-D Program
 - § [17b-179\(m\)-8](#). Review and modification

COURT RULES:

- Connecticut Practice Book (2015 Edition)
 - [Chapter 25](#). Procedure in Family Matters
 - § 25-26. Modification of custody, alimony or support

§ 25-30. Statements to be filed
§ 25-57. Affidavit concerning children

FORMS:

- **Official Forms**
 - [Filing a Motion for Modification](#)
 - [JD-FM-174](#). Motion for Modification (Rev. 2/13)
 - [JD-FM-174H](#). Motion for Modification Help Text
 - [JD-FM-202](#). Request for Leave (Rev. 8/07)
 - Amy Calvo MacNamara, ed. [Library of Connecticut Family Law Forms](#) (2014).
 - 16-005 Motion for Modification of Unallocated Alimony and Support
 - 16-009 Modification Agreement

CASES:

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Fulton v. Fulton](#), 156 Conn. App. 739, 749 (2015). "The parties and the court are entitled to rely on the financial affidavits submitted at the time of the dissolution, which are presumed to be reliable for that purpose. If, however, a party makes a preliminary showing that an affidavit submitted at the time of the dissolution was inaccurate, that the error was not intentional or misleading to the court or another party, and that it would thus be inequitable to rely only on the mistaken information, a postdissolution court may consider factors other than the financial affidavit in deciding whether there has been a substantial change of circumstances."
- [Olson v. Mohamradu](#), 310 Conn. 665, 684, 81 A.3d 215 (2013). "A court that is confronted with a motion for modification under § 46b-86(a) must first determine whether the moving party has established a substantial change in circumstances. In making this threshold determination, if a party's voluntary action gives rise to the alleged substantial change in circumstances warranting modification, the court must assess the motivations underlying the voluntary conduct in order to determine whether there is *culpable* conduct foreclosing a threshold determination of a substantial change in circumstances. If the court finds a substantial change in circumstances, then the court may determine what modification, if any, is appropriate in light of the changed circumstances."
- [Tomlinson v. Tomlinson](#), 305 Conn. 539, 556, 46 A.3d 112 (2012). "Although we recognize that it is fundamental that 'parties are free to contract for whatever terms on which they may agree,' and, accordingly, that '[w]hether provident or improvident, an agreement moved on calculated considerations is entitled to the sanction of the law'; (internal quotation marks omitted) *Crews v. Crews*, 295 Conn. 153, 169, 989 A.2d 1060 (2010); it is equally clear that contracts relating to the maintenance or custody of children 'will not be enforced longer than it appears to

be for the best interests of the child, and parents entering into such a contract are presumed to do so in contemplation of their obligations under the law and the rights of the child.' (Internal quotation marks omitted.) *Guille v. Guille*, supra, 196 Conn. at 264, 492 A.2d 175. Because the parties enter into a contract in contemplation of their obligations under the law, a contractual provision is ineffective to prohibit modification of child support when, as in the present case, there has been a change in custody."

- [Shipman v. Roberts](#), 130 Conn. App. 332, 338-339 (2011). "In the present case, the obligor is incarcerated for the criminal offenses of manslaughter and risk of injury to a child: offenses against the child who was killed. The deceased child is not the subject of the support order nor is she the custodial party. Although we certainly agree with the minor child that the defendant's conduct was traumatizing to the plaintiff and the minor child, they were not the victims of the criminal offenses for which the defendant is incarcerated. Thus, the court properly determined that § 46b-215e does not bar a modification of the defendant's child support obligation."
- [Cannon v. Cannon](#), 109 Conn. App. 844, 851, 953 A.2d 694 (2008). "It is well within the law and the court's discretion to make the modification retroactive to the date that the motion for modification was served, which was July 9, 2003. See *Sabrowski v. Sabrowski*, 105 Conn. App. 49, 57, 935 A.2d 1037 (2007)."
- [Cervizzi v. Cervizzi](#), No. FA 02 007 9710S (Ct.Sup. August 29, 2007. J.D. Rockville at Rockville), 2007 WL 2597615. "The husband claims that as the result of his voluntarily retiring from his principle employment, there has been a substantial change in circumstances justifying a downward modification of his child support order For the foregoing reasons, the motion to modify is denied."
- [Santoro v. Santoro](#), 70 Conn. App. 212, 218, 796 A.2d 567 (2002). "In addition, a child support order cannot be modified unless there is (1) a showing of a substantial change in the circumstances of either party or (2) a showing that the final order for child support substantially deviates from the child support guidelines absent the requisite findings."
- [Priol v. Priol](#), 67 Conn. App. 7, 12, 787 A.2d 50 (2001). "The parties' agreement to revisit the issues of alimony and child support cannot contract away the statutory requirement that the party seeking modification demonstrate a substantial change in circumstances and excuse the failure to comply with the rules of practice with

respect to the filing of such a motion.”

- [W. v. W.](#), 248 Conn. 487, 494, 728 A.2d 1076 (1999). “Therefore, we conclude that regardless of whether the child at issue in the present case is considered a ‘child of the marriage,’ the trial court had subject matter jurisdiction to order pendente lite child support.”
- [Turner v. Turner](#), 219 Conn. 703, 720, 595 A.2d 297 (1991). *Substantial deviation from the child support guidelines (added by P.A. 90-188) applies retroactively.* See [Table 2](#).
- [Brock v. Cavanaugh](#), 1 Conn. App. 138, 141, 468 A.2d 8 (1984). *Support payments are not conditioned upon visitation.* “Furthermore, a support order can only be modified by the court.”
- [Hardisty v. Hardisty](#), 183 Conn. 253, 258-259, 439 A.2d 307 (1981). “Once a trial court determines that there has been a substantial change in the financial circumstances of one of the parties, the same criteria that determine an initial award of alimony and support are relevant to the question of modification.”

WEST KEY NUMBER:

Divorce #309-309.6. Modification of order, judgment or decree as to support
Divorce # 311.5. Retrospective Modifications

DIGESTS:

[Family Support Magistrate Decisions](#) and Digest
VI. Motion for modification
VII. Substantial change of circumstances

ALR Quick Index:

Custody and Support of Children. Change or Modification

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- 24A [Am. Jur. 2d](#) *Divorce and Separation* (2008)
§§ 998-1020.
§§ 1004-1010. Change in circumstances
§ 1005. Nature and sufficiency of change
- *Changes In Circumstances Justifying Modification Of Support Order*, 1 POF 2d 1 (1974).
 - §§ 6-16. Proof of change in circumstances justifying increase in child support payments
 - §§17-29. Proof of change in circumstances justifying decrease in child support payments

TEXTS & TREATISES:

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 37. Temporary Child Support
§ 37:11 Modification
Chapter 39. Modification of child support provisions of

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judgment

- § 39:2. Grounds for modification
- § 39:3. Grounds for modification, deviation from the Child Support Guidelines
- § 39:5. Timing of factors to be considered
- § 39:6. Parties entitled to seek modification
- § 39:9. Modifiability of support payments; limitations
- § 39:12. Specific grounds for modification of support
- § 39:16. Remarriage of either parent
- § 39:17. Death of either parent
- § 39:18. Change in financial circumstances of either parent
- § 39:19. Health of the children
- § 39:20. Changes in cost of living
- § 39:21. Earnings of the child
- § 39:22. Effect of modifications on arrearages; retroactive changes
- § 39:23. Effect of prior modification

- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
Chapter 7. Child Support.
Part IX: Preparing Motions for Modification
- Marion f. Dobbs, [Determining Child and Spousal Support](#) (1995).
Chapter 6. Modification of Support
§§ 6:02-6:17. Changed circumstances
- Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2009).
§ 52.03 Modification of Child Support
[3]. Grounds for modification
[4]. Defenses
[a]. Emancipation of Child
[b]. Frustration of Visitation
[c]. Termination of Parental Rights;
Adoption

PAMPHLETS:

- Connecticut Network for Legal Aid.
[How to Modify Child Support and Alimony Orders](#)

LAW REVIEWS:

Note: Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our law libraries.

- *Calculating And Collecting Child Support: Sixteen Years After The Guidelines...And Counting*, 23 [Family Advocate](#) no. 2 (Fall 2000).
—Alexander S. deWitt, *Making Your Case For Modification*, p. 30.
- Cynthia George, *Combating The Effects Of Inflation On Alimony And Child Support Orders*, 75 [Connecticut Bar Journal](#) 223 (1983).

Table 2: Turner v. Turner

<p>Grounds for modification of alimony or support orders and judgments. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-86(a) (2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • substantial change in circumstances; or • substantial deviation from child support guidelines
<p>“Both the ‘substantial change of circumstances’ and the ‘substantial deviation from child support guidelines’ provision establish the authority of the trial court to modify existing child support orders to respond to changed economic conditions. The first allows the court to modify a support order when the financial circumstances of the individual parties have changed, regardless of their prior contemplation of such changes. The second allows the court to modify child support orders that were once deemed appropriate but no longer seem equitable in the light of changed social or economic circumstances in the society as a whole, as reflected in the mandatory periodic revisions of the child support guidelines. See General Statutes 46b-215a. In light of the similar purposes and language of these provisions, we conclude that the legislature intended both provisions to be applicable to orders entered before the provisions became law.” Turner v. Turner, 219 Conn. 703, 718 (1991).</p>
<p>“In further support of our interpretation of the legislative intent underlying P.A. 90-188, we take judicial notice of a statutory development that occurred in the 1991 legislative session, a few months after the trial court rendered its judgment in this case. While the legislature was considering a bill that would establish a standard by which a court could determine what degree of deviation from the child support guidelines might be considered ‘substantial,’ an attorney for a legal services organization informed the Judiciary Committee that trial courts had construed P.A. 90-188 to preclude its retrospective application to orders entered before the effective date of the act. See Conn. Joint Standing Committee Hearings, Judiciary, March 22, 1991, pp. 888-89, remarks of Amy Eppler-Epstein. [fn10] The legislature subsequently enacted Public Acts 1991, No. 91-76, 1 (P.A. 91-76), which added the following provisions to General Statutes 46b-86 immediately following the text that had been added by P.A. 90-188: ‘There shall be a rebuttable presumption that any deviation of less than fifteen percent from the child support guidelines is not substantial and any deviation of fifteen percent or more from the guidelines is substantial. Modification may be made of such support order without regard to whether the order was issued before, on or after the effective date of this act.’ This act was signed by the governor on May 9, 1991, and became effective on that date. See Public Acts 1991, No. 91-76, 7.” Turner v. Turner, 219 Conn. 703, 718-719 (1991).</p>
<p>“The magistrate concluded, nevertheless, that the express statement of retroactivity added by the 1990 amendment was intended to apply only to the ‘substantial change of circumstances’ provision of 46b-86. We conclude, to the contrary, that these amendments, which were enacted in the same legislative session to enhance the ability of parties to modify support orders, must be construed to create one consistent body of law.” Turner v. Turner, 219 Conn. 703, 718 (1991).</p>

Section 5: Factors Used

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic resources relating to the factors used by the courts in determining and modifying child support.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Earning capacity:** "is an amount which a person can realistically be expected to earn considering such things as his vocational skills, employability, age and health."
[Weinstein v. Weinstein](#), 280 Conn. 764, 772, 911 A.2d 1077 (2007).

STATUTES:

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015).
 - § [46b-84\(d\)](#). Parents' obligation for maintenance of minor child. Order for health insurance coverage.
 - § [46b-215b\(c\)](#). Guidelines to be used in determination of amount of support and payment on arrearages and past-due support.

CASES:

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Maturro v. Maturro](#), 296 Conn. 80, 106, 995 A.2d 1 (2010). "...when there is a proven, routine consistency in annual bonus income, as when a bonus is based on an established percentage of a party's steady income, an additional award of child support that represents a percentage of the net cash bonus also may be appropriate if justified by the needs of the child. When there is a history of wildly fluctuating bonuses, however, or a reasonable expectation that future bonuses will vary substantially, as in the present case, an award based on a fixed percentage of the net cash bonus is impermissible unless it can be linked to the child's characteristics and demonstrated needs."
- [Auerbach v. Auerbach](#), 113 Conn. App. 318, 334-335, 966 A.2d 292 (2009). "It is well established that the trial court may under appropriate circumstances in a marital dissolution proceeding base financial awards on the earning capacity of the parties rather than on actual earned income.... Earning capacity, in this context, is not an amount which a person can theoretically earn, nor is it confined to actual income, but rather it is an amount which a person can realistically be expected to earn considering such things as his vocational skills, employability, age and health....[I]t also is especially appropriate for the court to consider whether the defendant has wilfully restricted his earning capacity to avoid support obligations."
- [Battersby v. Battersby](#), 218 Conn. 467, 471-472, 590 A.2d 427 (1991) "The Guidelines themselves list several factors

that may be relevant to the determination of support amount, including the 'needs of a second or prior family' and 'other reasonable considerations.' "

- [Vickery v. Vickery](#), 25 Conn. App. 555, 562, 595 A.2d 905 (1991). "Finally, the defendant claims that it is impossible for the court to apply the mandates of 46b-84 and 46b-86 and apply the mandates of the guidelines at the same time. This claim is without merit."

**FAMILY SUPPORT
MAGISTRATE
DECISIONS:**

- [Family Support Magistrate Decisions](#) are available through the Law Libraries' website.

**WEST KEY
NUMBERS:**

Divorce # 306. Grounds for award as to support

DIGESTS:

Connecticut Family Law Citations: *Child Support*

**TEXTS &
TREATISES:**

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).

Chapter 38. Child Support

§ 38:12. Factors affecting amount of support required

§ 38:13. Child's need for maintenance

§ 38:14. Statutory factors for determining child's need

§ 38:17. Parent's ability to provide support

§ 38:18. Statutory factors for determining parents' respective abilities

- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).

Chapter 7. Child Support.

Part IV: Considering the Statutory Criteria in Establishing Child Support

Part VII: Establishing Permanent Child Support Orders

- Barbara Stark, [Friendly Divorce Guidebook for Connecticut: Planning, Negotiating and Filing Your Divorce](#) (2003).

Chapter 9. Child Support

"If the guidelines do not apply to you," pp. 215-216

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

Table 3: Statutory Factors in Determining Child Support

Conn. Gen. Stats. § 46b-84 (2015)	
FACTORS RELATING TO PARENTS	Rutkin*
earning capacity	§ 37.18
length of the marriage	§ 37.18
causes for the annulment, dissolution of marriage or legal separation	§ 37.18
age	§ 37.18
health	§ 37.18
station	§ 37.18
occupation	§ 37.18
amount and sources of income	§ 37.18
vocation skills	§ 37.18
employability	§ 37.18
estate	§ 37.18
needs of each of the parties	§ 37.18
in the case of a parent to whom the custody of minor children has been awarded, the desirability of such parent's employment	§ 37.18
FACTORS RELATING TO CHILDREN	
age	§§ 37.12-37.14
health	§§ 37.12-37.14
station	§§ 37.12-37.14
occupation	§§ 37.12-37.14
educational status and expectation	§§ 37.12-37.15
amount and sources of income	§§ 37.12-37.16
vocational skills	§§ 37.12-37.16
employability	§§ 37.12-37.16
estate	§§ 37.12-37.14
needs	§§ 37.12-37.14

*8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).

Section 6: Enforcement

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic resources relating to enforcement of child support orders including both state and federal laws.

SEE ALSO:

- [Enforcement of Family and Foreign Matrimonial Judgments in Connecticut](#)

DEFINITIONS:

- “**Contempt** is a disobedience to the rules and orders of a court which has power to punish for such an offense A **civil contempt** is one in which the conduct constituting the contempt is directed against some civil right of an opposing party and the proceeding is initiated by him.” (emphasis added)” [Stoner v. Stoner](#), 163 Conn. 345, 359, 307 A.2d 146 (1972)
- **IV-D:** “the child support enforcement program mandated by Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act and implementing OCSE [federal Office of Child Support Enforcement] regulations, as implemented in Connecticut under section 17b-179 of the Connecticut General Statutes and related statutes and regulations.” Conn. Agencies Regs. (2000) § [17b-179\(a\)-1\(12\)](#)
- “The fact that the order had not been complied with fully, however, does not dictate that a finding of contempt must enter. It is within the sound discretion of the court to deny a claim for contempt when there is an adequate factual basis to explain the failure to honor the court's order.” [Marcil v. Marcil](#), 4 Conn. App. 403, 405, 494 A.2d 620 (1985).

STATUTES:

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
§ [46b-231](#)(m)(7) Family support magistrates shall enforce orders for child and spousal support entered by such family support magistrate and by the Superior Court in IV-D support cases.
- U.S. Code (2010)
[42 U.S.C. §§ 651-669b](#). Title IV-D of the Social Security Act see [Table 8](#), *infra*

REGULATIONS:

You can visit your local law library or browse the [recently adopted regulations page](#) on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.

- [Conn. Agencies Regulations](#)
Title 17b IV-D Program
§ 17b-179(a)-2. Publication of names of delinquent obligors (10-01)
§ 17b-179(f)-1. Referrals to the federal parent locator service (11-98)
§ 17b-179(i)-1. Non-AFDC application fee (11-04)
§ 17b-179(m)-2. Location of absent parents (10-00)

- § 17b-179(m)-6. Collection of support payments (10-00)
- § 17b-179(m)-7. Medical support (10-00)
- § 17b-179(m)-9. Enforcement of support orders (10-2000)

Title 52 Civil Actions

- § 52-362d-2. Child support liens (11-04)
- § 52-362d-3. Reporting overdue support to consumer reporting agency (11-04)
- § 52-362d-4. Withholding of lottery winnings (10-00)
- § 52-362e-2. Withholding of federal income tax refunds (11-98)
- § 52-362e-3. Withholding of state income tax refunds (11-98)

FORMS:

- **Official Forms**
 - [Filing a Motion for Contempt](#)
 - [JD-FM-173](#). Motion for Contempt (Rev. 2/15)
 - [JD-FM-173H](#). Motion for Contempt/Contempt Citation Help File
- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (2d ed. 2000).
 - § 34.6. Motion for contempt—Form
 - § 34.7. Application for contempt citation and order to show cause—Form
 - § 34.9. Schedule for production at hearing—Form

CASES:

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Kupersmith v. Kupersmith](#), 146 Conn. App. 79, 91, 78 A.3d 860 (2013). "The legislative history makes it clear that the amended language of § 46b-84(a) was enacted with the intention that it would enable a party to address the default of a final order for child support, or alimony; see footnote 8 of this opinion; through utilization of the postjudgment procedures set forth in chapter 906. The intention behind the promulgation of § 46b-84(a), therefore, clearly conflicts with the language in §§52-350a and 52-350f restricting family support judgments.... Because § 46b-84(a) is more specific and was promulgated later, we conclude that where the language of § 52-350a and § 46b-84(a) conflicts, § 46b-84(a) must prevail."
- [Culver v. Culver](#), 127 Conn. App. 236, 247, 17 A.3d 1048 (2011). "Consequently, we conclude that the defendant reasonably knew or should have known that the parties' oral agreement was unenforceable absent proper authorization by the court, and that by not seeking such authorization, he did not exercise the diligence required to establish a claim of equitable estoppel. The defendant cannot seek equitable relief premised on a theory of estoppel due to his own failure to cause the parties' oral

agreement to become a court order. See *Celentano v. Oaks Condominium Assn.*, 265 Conn. 579, 615, 830 A.2d 164 (2003); see also *Novella v. Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co.*, 163 Conn. 552, 565, 316 A.2d 394 (1972)."

- [Barber v. Barber](#), 114 Conn. App. 164, 167, 968 A.2d 981 (2009). "The court concluded, on two grounds, that the plaintiff could enforce her family support agreement in a contract action and not by way of an execution on a judgment....a stipulated family support judgment should be deemed to be a contract because it does not reflect a judicial determination of any litigated right. See *Lind-Larsen v. Fleet National Bank of Connecticut*, 84 Conn. App. 1, 17-18, 852 A.2d 799, cert. denied, 271 Conn. 940, 861 A.2d 514 (2004)."
- [Rivnak v. Rivnak](#), 99 Conn. App. 326, 913 A.2d 1096 (2007). "'Contempt proceedings are a proper means of enforcing a court order of child support. A willful failure to pay court ordered child support as it becomes due constitutes indirect civil contempt.' *Mulholland v. Mulholland*, 31 Conn. App. 214, 220, 624 A.2d 379 (1993), aff'd, 229 Conn. 643, 643 A.2d 246 (1994); see also General Statutes § 46b-215.
- [Sablosky v. Sablosky](#), 258 Conn. 713, 720, 784 A.2d 890 (2001). "The appropriate remedy for doubt about the meaning of a judgment is to seek a judicial resolution of any ambiguity; it is not to resort to self-help."
- [Eldridge v. Eldridge](#), 244 Conn. 523, 529, 710 A.2d 757 (1998). "A good faith dispute or legitimate misunderstanding of the terms of an alimony or support obligation may prevent a finding that the payor's nonpayment was willful. This does not mean, however, that such a dispute or misunderstanding will preclude a finding of willfulness as a predicate to a judgment of contempt. Whether it will preclude such a finding is ultimately within the trial court's discretion."

**FAMILY SUPPORT
MAGISTRATE
DECISIONS:**

- [Family Support Magistrate Decisions](#) are available through the Law Libraries' website.

**WEST KEY
NUMBERS:**

Divorce # 311. Enforcement of order, judgment, or decree as to support

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- 24A [Am. Jur. 2d](#) *Divorce and Separation* (2008).
 §§ 969-997. Enforcement of child support orders or decrees
 §§ 988-997. Contempt
 §§ 978-983. Defenses

§§ 984-987. Setoff or credits

- 23 [Am. Jur. 2d](#) *Desertion and Nonsupport* (2013).
§§ 29-72. Criminal offense of Abandonment, Defense & Nonsupport of Child
- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 34. Enforcement of alimony and child support provisions of judgment
 - § 34:4. Contempt proceedings
 - § 34:5. Contempt procedure
 - § 34:8. Hearing
 - § 34:10. Necessity of counsel in contempt proceedings
 - § 34:11. Excuse or defense to contempt claim
 - § 34:12. Inability to comply
 - § 34:13. Irregularities or uncertainties as to terms of original order
 - § 34:14. Laches and/or estoppel as a defense to contempt
 - § 34:15. Estoppel—in kind payments or other modifications
 - § 34:16. Misconduct by the complaining party
 - § 34:17. Contempt penalties and terms of payment
 - § 34:18. Contempt penalties—incarceration
 - § 34:19. Criminal action based on non-payment of alimony or child support
 - § 34:20. Enforcement of alimony or support obligation against property
 - § 34:35. Claims for interest and/or damages
- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
Chapter 17. Enforcement of Orders.
 - Part II: Filing Motions for Contempt.
 - Part IV: Determining General Relief That May Be Sought in a Motion for Contempt
 - Part V: Crafting Orders to Enforce Alimony and Child Support
- 8A Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law And Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 56. Federal law affecting Connecticut domestic relations practice
 - § 56:3. The federal role in child support enforcement
- 3 Joel M. Kaye et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Practice Book Annotated](#), *Authors' comments* following Form 506.2 (2004).

TEXTS & TREATISES:

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- 5 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2009).
Chapter 48. Interstate Support Proceedings
 - § 48.03. Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
 - § 48.08. Child support actions in state court
 - § 48.09. Enforcing an order across state lines without leaving home
 - § 48.11. Enforcement across national boundaries
 - § 48.12. Non-support as an interstate crime
 - § 48.13. Support enforcement in federal court

LAW REVIEWS:

Note: Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our law libraries.

- *Calculating And Collecting Child Support: Sixteen Years After The Guidelines...And Counting*, 23 [Family Advocate](#) no. 2 (Fall 2000). Special issue.
 - Diane M. Fray, *Strong-Arm Enforcement*, p. 42
 - Janet Atkinson, *Long-Arm Collections*, p.46
 - Darrell Baughn, *Throw The Book At Deadbeat Parents*, p. 49
 - Gary Caswell, *Making Long-Distance Parents Pay Up*, p. 52

Table 4: Connecticut Statutes Enforcing Child Support

<p>"Connecticut child support enforcement legislation clearly evinces a strong state policy of ensuring that minor children receive the support to which they are entitled." In re Bruce R., 234 Conn. 194, 209, 662 A.2d 107 (1995)</p>	
<p>§ 46b-84(a)</p>	<p>"Any postjudgment procedure afforded by chapter 906 shall be available to secure the present and future financial interests of a party in connection with a final order for the periodic payment of child support."</p>
<p>Public Act 15-71 (effective July 1, 2015)</p>	<p>Uniform Interstate Family Support Act Enforcement of out-of-state support orders.</p>
<p>§ 46b-220</p>	<p>Suspension of license of delinquent child support obligor.</p>
<p>§ 52-362</p>	<p>Withholding wage and unemployment compensation for support.</p>
<p>§ 52-362d(a)</p>	<p>"...the State shall have a lien on any property, real or personal..."</p>
<p>§ 52-362d(b)</p>	<p>"The state shall report to any participating consumer reporting agency, as defined in 15 USC 1681a(f), information regarding the amount of such overdue support owed by an obligor if the amount of such overdue support is one thousand dollars or more, on a computer tape in a format acceptable to the consumer reporting agency."</p>
<p>§ 52-362d(c)</p>	<p>"...the Connecticut Lottery Corporation shall withhold from any lottery winnings payable to such person... the amount of such claim for support owed to an individual for any portion of support which has not been assigned to the state and then the amount of such claim for support owed to the state, provided the Connecticut Lottery Corporation shall notify such person that (1) lottery winnings have been withheld as a result of the amount due for such support, and (2) such person has the right to a hearing before a hearing officer designated by the Commissioner of Social Services...."</p>
<p>§ 52-362e</p>	<p>Withholding income tax refunds [state and federal] in amount equal to support arrearage.</p>
<p>§ 53-304(a)</p>	<p>"Any person who neglects or refuses to furnish reasonably necessary support to his spouse, child under the age of eighteen or parent under the age of sixty-five shall be deemed guilty of nonsupport and shall be imprisoned not more than one year...."</p>

Table 5: Federal Statutes & Regulations Enforcing Child Support

Title IV-D of the Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. §§ 651 to 669 (2010)	
<i>"... current federal child support enforcement legislation clearly demonstrates a federal policy of ensuring the financial support of children by their parents." In re Bruce R., 234 Conn. 194, 209 (1995)</i>	
42 USC § 652(a)	Establishes federal agency: Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE)
42 USC § 653	Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS)
42 USC § 654	State plan for child and spousal support
42 USC § 656	Support obligation as obligation to state; discharge in bankruptcy
42 USC § 659	Consent by the United States to income withholding, and similar proceedings of child support and alimony obligations
42 USC § 660	Civil action to enforce child support obligations
42 USC § 661	Regulations pertaining to garnishments
42 USC § 663	Use of Parental Locator Service (PLS) in connection with the enforcement or determination of child custody and in case of parental kidnapping of a child
42 USC § 664	Collection of past-due support from Federal tax refunds
42 USC § 665	Allotments from pay for child and spousal support owed by members of the uniformed services on active duty
42 USC § 666	Requirement of statutorily prescribed procedures to improve effectiveness of child support enforcement
Federal Regulations 45 CFR Part 302-303	
§ 302.33	Services to individuals not receiving Title IV-A assistance
§ 302.35	State parent locator service
§ 302.36	Provisions of services in interstate IV-D cases
§ 302.56	Guidelines for setting child support awards

§ 302.60	Collection of past-due support from Federal tax refunds
§ 302.65	Withholding of unemployment compensation
§ 302.70	Required State laws
§ 302.80	Medical support enforcement
§ 303.3	Location of noncustodial parents in IV-D cases
§ 303.31	Securing and enforcing medical support obligations
§ 303.71	Requests for full collection services by the Secretary of the Treasury
§ 303.72	Requests for collection of past-due support by Federal tax refund offset
§ 303.73	Applications to use the courts of the United States to enforce court orders

Table 6: History of Federal Legislation Dealing with Child Support

1950	Social Security Amendments of 1950	P.L. No. 81-734, 64 Stat. 549	42 USC § 602(a)(11)
1967	Social Security Amendments of 1967	P.L. No. 90-248, 81 Stat. 896	42 USC § 602(a)(17)
1975	Federal Child Support Enforcement Program (Title IV-D)	P.L. 93-647, 88 Stat. 2337	42 USC §§651-669
1984	Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984*	P.L. 98-378, 98 Stat. 1305	42 USC §§651-669
1988	Family Support Act of 1988*	P.L. 100-485 P.L. 100-647	42 USC §§651-669
1993	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993	P.L. 103-66	42 USC §§651-669
1996	Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996	P.L. 104-193	42 USC §§651-669
1998	Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998 Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998	P.L. 105-200 P.L. 105-187	42 USC §658a 18 USC §228 note
1999	Foster Care Independence Act of 1999	P.L. 106-169	42 USC 677 note
2000	National Family Caregiver Support Act	P.L. 106-501	42 USC 3001 note

Table 7: Child Support and Parental Agreements

Cases	
<p>Zitnay v. Zitnay, 90 Conn. App. 71, 75, 875 A.2d 583 (2005).</p>	<p>"In his appeal to this court, the father has raised three issues. He maintains that (1) the shared parenting plan manifested the parents' agreement that neither parent would ever have primary custody of their children, (2) the court impermissibly deviated from the support guidelines because the mother did not satisfy the definition of a custodial parent under the guidelines, and (3) the parents' incomes and their shared parenting responsibilities were approximately equal. We are not persuaded."</p>
<p>Brent v. Lebowitz, 67 Conn. App. 527, 532, 787 A.2d 621, cert. granted, 260 Conn. 902 (2002).</p>	<p>"Accordingly, support agreements that are not in accordance with the financial dictates of the guidelines are not enforceable unless one of the guidelines' deviation criteria is present, such as when the terms of the agreement are in the best interest of the child."</p>
<p>In re Bruce R., 234 Conn. 194, 210-211, 662 A.2d 107 (1995).</p>	<p>"In addition, we repeatedly have recognized that children must be supported adequately . . . This commitment would be undermined if we permitted a consensual petition, which frees the petitioner from any further obligations to support his or her children, to be granted without considering the financial condition of the parents."</p>
<p>Masters v. Masters, 201 Conn. 50, 67-68, 513 A.2d 104 (1986)</p>	<p>"To ensure that the court's ultimate, nondelegable responsibility to protect the best interests of the child is not short-circuited by this process, some courts have devised special provisions for court review, permitting a full de novo hearing under certain specified circumstances."</p>
<p>Guille v. Guille, 196 Conn. 260, 265, 492 A.2d 175 (1985)</p>	<p>"In light of the legislature's evident concern for the rights of minor children in marital dissolution proceedings, we cannot conclude that General Statutes 46b-86 (a) was designed to change the common law and permit divorcing parents, by stipulation incorporated into the divorce decree, to contractually limit their children's right to support."</p>
<p>Burke v. Burke, 137 Conn. 74, 80, 75 A.2d 42 (1950)</p>	<p>"This is because no such contract by a father can restrict or preclude the power of the court to decree what he shall pay for the support of a dependent minor child. A husband and wife cannot make a contract with each other regarding the maintenance or custody of their child which the court is compelled to enforce, nor can the husband relieve himself of his primary liability to maintain his child by entering into a contract with someone else to do so. The welfare of the child</p>

	is the primary consideration.”
In re Juvenile Appeal (85-BC), 195 Conn. 344, 352, 488 A.2d 790 (1985)	“We recognize initially that the established public policy in this state is “[t]o protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through injury and neglect; to strengthen the family and to make the home safe for children. . . .”
In re Juvenile Appeal (83-DE), 190 Conn. 310, 318-319, 460 A.2d 1277 (1983)	“Parents have a constitutionally protected right to raise and care for their own children. <i>Stanley v. Illinois</i> , 405 U.S. 645, 651, 92 S.Ct. 1208, 31 L.Ed.2d 551 (1972). This right is not free from intervention by the state, however, when the continuing <i>parens patriae</i> interest of the state in the well being of children is deemed by law to supercede parental interests.”
State v. Anonymous , 179 Conn. 155, 170-171, 425 A.2d 939 (1979)	“It is important to note in this relation that the ultimate standard underlying the whole statutory scheme regulating child welfare is the ‘best interest of the child’ This furthers the express public policy of this state to provide all of its children a safe, stable nurturing environment.”

Section 7: Out-of-State Child Support Orders in Connecticut Courts

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic resources relating to the recognition, enforcement and modification of foreign matrimonial judgments in Connecticut courts.

SEE ALSO:

- [Enforcement of Family and Foreign Matrimonial Judgments in Connecticut](#)

DEFINITIONS:

- **Foreign Matrimonial Judgment:** “means any judgment, decree or order of a court of any state in the United States in an action for divorce, legal separation, annulment or dissolution of marriage, for the custody, care, education, visitation, maintenance or support of children or for alimony, support or the disposition of property of the parties to an existing or terminated marriage, in which both parties have entered an appearance.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-70](#) (2015).
- **Registry of Support Orders:** “A support order or income-withholding order issued in another state or a foreign support order may be registered in this state for enforcement.” [Public Act 15-71](#), Sec. 45 (effective July 1, 2015).
- **Threshold Requirement:** “The requirement of the **entry of an appearance by both parties** is a ‘threshold requirement for enforcement’ pursuant to the statute [Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-71 (2005)] Even a one time special appearance in another state to contest jurisdiction is sufficient to allow enforcement in Connecticut of a judgment subsequently rendered for support arrearages obtained in the other state The statutory language reflects the intent of the legislature to ensure that both parties have actual notice of an out of state proceeding, and to preclude adoption of foreign judgments obtained by a default in appearance Even states with statutes that specifically preclude enforcement of default judgments will enforce judgments obtained by default where a party has defaulted in pleading after an initial appearance.” [Rule v. Rule](#), 6 Conn. App. 541, 544, 506 A.2d 1061 (1986). [emphasis added]
- **Modification:** “Clearly, when modifying a foreign matrimonial judgment, Connecticut courts must apply the substantive law of the foreign jurisdiction.” [Burton v. Burton](#), 189 Conn. 129, 134, 454 A.2d 1282, 1285 (1983).

PUBLIC ACTS:

- [Public Act 15-71](#) *An Act Adopting The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act Of 2008* (effective 7/1/2015).

STATUTES:

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
 - § [46b-70](#). Foreign matrimonial judgment defined
 - § [46b-71](#). Filing of foreign matrimonial judgment; enforcement in this state
 - § [46b-72](#). Notification of filing
 - § [46b-73](#). Stay of enforcement; modifications; hearing
 - § [46b-74](#). Right to action on foreign judgment unimpaired
 - § [46b-75](#). Uniformity of interpretation
 - § [46b-179](#). Foreign paternity judgments.
- 28 U.S.C. (2014)
 - § [1738B](#) Full faith and credit for child support orders

REGULATIONS:

You can visit your local law library or browse the [recently adopted regulations page](#) on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.

- Conn. Agencies Regs. (2005)
 - Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program
 - § [17b-179\(m\)-5](#). Establishment of support order
 - § [17b-179\(m\)-10](#). Provision of services in interstate IV-D cases
 - Central registry
 - Responding state functions
 - Initiating state functions

CASES:

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Lewis v. Paddy](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New London at New London, No. FA12-4118666-S (Nov. 29, 2012) (55 Conn. L. Rptr. 93) (2012 WL 6634678) "A review of the applicable statutes and case law, supports the position that the Connecticut Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines should be utilized in determining the amount of the child support order but that Wisconsin substantive law is controlling as to the duration of the order.... Likewise, Gen. Stat. § 46b-213q(d), which pertains to the modification of support orders from another state, expressly provides that "[i]n a proceeding to modify a child support order, the law of the state that is determined to have issued the initial controlling order governs the duration of the obligation of support."
- [Cartledge v. Evans](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford at Hartford, No. FA07-4028072 (Apr. 23, 2010) (49 Conn. L. Rptr 731). "This court is aware that numerous courts of this state have held that § 46b-71 governs modification of foreign child support orders.... None of these cases, however, have considered the applicability of § 46b-213q(f) to child support orders where all relevant individuals now live in Connecticut or the mandate of the full faith and credit clause. The court thus concludes that Massachusetts no longer has continued, exclusive jurisdiction over the child support order and that the courts

of this state may now exercise jurisdiction to modify the original Massachusetts child support order, and in doing so the proper substantive and procedural law to be applied now and thenceforth to the setting of the order for payment of current weekly child support is that of the State of Connecticut.”

- [Colby v. Colby](#), 33 Conn. App. 417, 421, 635 A.2d 1241 (1994). “While this court has the authority to determine jurisdiction; . . . we are unable to determine from the record whether the plaintiff here ever filed an appearance in the divorce proceedings in accordance with the Massachusetts rules of civil procedure. The threshold requirement for enforcement of the foreign matrimonial judgment not having been satisfied leaves unresolved the question of the jurisdiction of the trial court. This court is not in a position to hold a hearing to determine this fact and thus remands the case to the trial court for a hearing to determine whether the threshold issue has been met.”
- [Rule v. Rule](#), 6 Conn. App. 541, 545, 506 A.2d 1061 (1986). “The purpose of General Statutes 46b-70 and 46b-71 is to prevent a defendant from avoiding the execution of a valid and enforceable judgment by fleeing the jurisdiction.”

WEST KEY NUMBERS:

Divorce # 403. Foreign divorces, support of children

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- 23 [Am. Jur. 2d](#) *Desertion and nonsupport* (2013).
§§ 73-84. Uniform acts
§§ 73-74. In general
§§ 75-84. Interstate enforcement of support order
- *Interstate Enforcement of Child Support Orders*, 37 Am Jur Trials 639 (1988).
- Kurtis A. Kemper, Annotation, *Construction and Application of Uniform Interstate Family Support Act*, 90 ALR5th 1 (2001).

TEXTS & TREATISES:

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 34. Enforcement of alimony
§ 34.28. Limitations on income withholding
- 8A Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law and Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 55. Foreign Divorces
§ 55:5. Necessity that both parties appeared in foreign action
§ 55:12. Enforcement of foreign judgments—Stays or modification

- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
 - Chapter 2. Jurisdiction.
 - Part X: Applying the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.
 - Part XI: Domesticating and Enforcing Foreign Matrimonial Judgments.
 - Chapter 7. Child Support.
 - Part II: Asserting Jurisdiction for Child Support and UIFSA.

Table 8: Connecticut's Long Arm Statute

Jurisdiction over nonresident party for child support	
<p>Public Act 15-71, Sec. 6 (effective July 1, 2015)</p>	<p>"In a proceeding to establish or enforce a support order or to determine parentage of a child, a tribunal of this state may exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident individual or the individual's guardian or conservator if (1) the individual is personally served with process within this state; (2) the individual submits to the jurisdiction of this state by consent in a record, by entering a general appearance or by filing a responsive document having the effect of waiving any contest to personal jurisdiction; (3) the individual resided with the child in this state; (4) the individual resided in this state and provided prenatal expenses or support for the child; (5) the child resides in this state as a result of the acts or directives of the individual; (6) the individual engaged in sexual intercourse in this state and the child may have been conceived by that act of intercourse; or (7) there is any other basis consistent with the constitutions of this state and the United States for the exercise of personal jurisdiction."</p>
<p>§ 46b-46</p>	<p>"(b) The court may exercise personal jurisdiction over the nonresident party as to all matters concerning temporary or permanent alimony or support of children, only if: (1) The nonresident party has received actual notice under subsection (a) of this section; and (2) the party requesting alimony meets the residency requirement of section 46b-44."</p>
<p>§ 46b-44</p>	<p>"(c) A decree dissolving a marriage or granting a legal separation may be entered if: (1) One of the parties to the marriage has been a resident of this state for at least the twelve months next preceding the date of the filing of the complaint or next preceding the date of the decree; or (2) one of the parties was domiciled in this state at the time of the marriage and returned to this state with the intention of permanently remaining before the filing of the complaint; or (3) the cause for the dissolution of the marriage arose after either party moved into this state."</p>

Section 8: Duration and Termination

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic resources relating to the duration of child support obligations including post majority support

DEFINITIONS:

- **Age of Majority:** "shall be deemed to be eighteen years." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [1-1d](#) (2015).
- **Educational Support Order:** "an order entered by a court requiring a parent to provide support for a child or children to attend for up to a total of four full academic years an institution of higher education or a private occupational school for the purpose of attaining a bachelor's or other undergraduate degree, or other appropriate vocational instruction. An educational support order may be entered with respect to any child who has not attained twenty-three years of age and shall terminate not later than the date on which the child attains twenty-three years of age." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-56c\(a\)](#) (2015).

STATUTES AND PUBLIC ACTS:

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- 2002 Conn. Acts 128 (Reg. Sess.). [An act concerning Educational Support Orders](#) [eff. October 1, 2002].
- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
 - § [46b-56c](#). Educational support orders
 - § [46b-84](#). Parents' obligation for maintenance of minor child. Order of health insurance coverage
 - § [46b-66](#). Review of agreements; incorporation into decree. Arbitration.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES:

- [Legislative History of Public Act No. 02-128: an act concerning educational support orders](#)
- [Legislative history of Public Act No. 94-61: an act concerning post majority support \(high school and certain post secondary education\)](#)
- [Legislative history of Public Act No. 97-321: an act concerning post majority child support \(dependent disabled child\)](#)

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS:

[Office of Legislative Research](#) reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report's publication.

- Susan Price-Livingston, *Post-Majority Child Support Laws*, OLR Research Report No, [2002-R-0101](#) (January 23, 2002).
- Susan Price-Livingston, *Educational Support Orders*, OLR Research Report No, [2004-R-0093](#) (January 23, 2004).

CASES:

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Barbour v. Barbour](#), 156 Conn. App. 383, 400-01, 113 A.3d 77, 87 (2015). "To the extent that the scope of necessary educational expenses could be considered ambiguous, our conclusion that expenses for restaurant meals, lodging and transportation are not within the scope of § 46b-56c is consistent with the statute's legislative history and purpose. Section 46b-56c was enacted by the legislature in 2002 and became effective on October 1, 2002. See Public Acts 2002, No. 02-128.15 Prior to its enactment, the law with respect to postmajority support was well established. 'As a general matter, [t]he obligation of a parent to support a child terminates when the child attains the age of majority, which, in this state, is eighteen. General Statutes § 1-1d....' (Internal quotation marks omitted.) *Crews v. Crews*, 107 Conn.App. 279, 301, 945 A.2d 502 (2008), aff'd, 295 Conn. 153, 989 A.2d 1060 (2010). This rule was modified by the provisions of § 46b-56c, allowing the issuance of an educational support order upon motion of a party and after the making of certain subsidiary findings by a court. *Id.*, at 302, 945 A.2d 502. 'In the absence of a statute or agreement providing for postmajority assistance, however, a parent ordinarily is under no legal obligation to support an adult child.' (Internal quotation marks omitted.) *Id.*"
- [McKeon v. Lennon](#), 147 Conn. App. 366, 375-76, 83 A.3d 639, 644-45 (2013). "Stated another way, '[a] child support order may not extend beyond the child's age of majority unless the parties expressly agree to the contrary.' (Emphasis added.) *Passamano v. Passamano*, 228 Conn. 85, 88 n. 2, 634 A.2d 891 (1993). 'It is now axiomatic that support for a minor child extends to age eighteen only....' (Internal quotation marks omitted.) *Lowe v. Lowe*, 47 Conn.App. 354, 357, 704 A.2d 236 (1997). 'The legislature amended ... § 46b-66 ... in order to provide for the support of postmajority children only if there is an agreement to do so and if it is in writing.... The language of the statute is clear and unambiguous and we cannot by our construction substitute other words for the words in writing.... Absent ... a written agreement by the parties, the court does not have jurisdiction to order payment of child support beyond the age of majority and may not enforce such an order.' (Citations omitted; internal quotation marks omitted.) *Id.*; see also *Bock v. Bock*, 127 Conn.App. 553, 559-60, 14 A.3d 479 (2011) (rejecting argument that court had subject matter jurisdiction over written post-majority educational support agreements under § 46b-66, where there was 'no mention of § 46b-66' and no 'evidence that the agreements were entered into pursuant to § 46b-66').
- [Sutherland v. Sutherland](#), 107 Conn. App. 1, 8-9, 944 A.2d 395 (2008). "We conclude that by crafting a child support

order that provided a single dollar amount for the support of all children, and did not provide a mechanism for dividing the support between the children once the elder child reached the age of majority, the parties clearly and unambiguously provided only for the support of minor children, as required by § 46b-84(a), and did not enter into an agreement for postmajority support. Accordingly, at the time it rendered judgment, the dissolution court did not enter a postmajority support order pursuant to § 46b-66.”

- [Hughes v. Hughes](#), 95 Conn. App. 200, 209-210, 895 A.2d 274 (2006). “Thus, although the attainment of majority by each child may not automatically entitle the plaintiff to a reduction in his alimony and support obligation, it provides a basis for the plaintiff to seek a modification. Because the order as framed by the court does not, by its own terms, require a payment of combined alimony and support beyond the dates on which the children reach the age of majority, and because the order is subject to modification as each child reaches the age of majority, it does not violate the proscription against orders for the payment of support beyond the permissible age.”
- [Eidson v. Eidson](#), No. 646-98-0060, 2002 Ct. Sup. 3503, 3508, 2002 WL 532401 (Mar. 13, 2002). “For example, parents may provide for support of a child beyond the age of eighteen by written agreement which is enforceable by the court notwithstanding that such child is an adult. General Statutes § 46b-66. Child support orders pursuant to dissolution of marriage, legal separation or annulment after July 1, 1994 are extended by statute to age nineteen or completion of high school. General Statutes § 46b-84 (b). Support for a child who is disabled or mentally retarded may extend to age twenty-one. General Statutes § 46b-84 (c). Thus recognition of a foreign order with a duration that extends beyond the Connecticut age of majority is not violative of the public policy of this state since it is mandated by statute.”
- [Keeys v. Keeys](#), 43 Conn. App. 575, 577, 684 A.2d 1214 (1996). “There was no written agreement in this case and the plaintiff concedes that the court lacked jurisdiction to extend postmajority orders until age twenty-two.”
- [Hirtle v. Hirtle](#), 217 Conn. 394, 400-401, 586 A.2d 578 (1991). “a written agreement is a jurisdictional prerequisite to be the valid modification of an order for postmajority support.”
- [Town v. Anonymous](#) (1983-6), 39 Conn. Sup. 35, 38, 467 A.2d 687 (1983). “While current law permits a minor to move out of her parents' home without legal sanction, it

does not compel her parents to pay the bill for whatever lifestyle she may select. Parents who offer a home, food, shelter, medical care and other necessities of life to their minor child have adequately discharged their obligation of support under § 46b-215 and are not subject to orders of support.”

- [Van Wagner v. Van Wagner](#), 1 Conn. App. 578, 583-584, 474 A.2d 110 (1984). “Connecticut public policy does not prohibit the enforcement of a foreign contempt order, requiring a defendant to pay for support of a child beyond the age of eighteen years pursuant to an agreement which is incorporated in a dissolution decree executed in another state and which agreement, as to support payments, is consonant with the laws of that state both as of the date of the dissolution and as of the date of the contempt order.”

**FAMILY SUPPORT
MAGISTRATE
DECISIONS:**

- [Family Support Magistrate Decisions](#) are available through the Law Libraries’ website.

**WEST KEY
NUMBERS:**

*Divorce # 310. Duration and termination of liability for support
Parent & Child # 3.1(4) Adult Children*

DIGESTS:

Connecticut Family Law Citations:
Child Support
Post age 18 support
Post-majority support

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- 24 [Am. Jur. 2d](#) *Divorce and Separation* (2008).
§§ 956-964. Duration and termination of award

**TEXTS &
TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- 8 Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law And Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 38 Child Support
§ 38:31. Duration of support obligations
§ 38:32. Postmajority payments– Agreements and special circumstances
§ 38:33 –Educational support order
- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
Chapter 7. Child Support.
Part VII: Establishing Permanent Child Support Orders
§ 7.42 Determining the Duration of a Child Support Order
Chapter VIII: Providing for the Payment of College Education

Section 9: Child Support and Taxes

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic resources relating to federal tax treatment of child support including dependency exemption, child care credit, child tax credit, and Hope and life-long learning credit.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Tax treatment of child support:** "A payment that is specifically designated as child support or treated as specifically designated as child support under your divorce or separation instrument is not alimony. The amount of child support may vary over time. Child support payments are not deductible by the payer and are not taxable to the payee." Internal Revenue Service [Publication 504](#) for use in preparing 2013 return (2013) [Internal Revenue Code § 71(c)]

STATUTES:

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. (2015).

- § [1](#). Filing tax status
- § [21](#). Child care credit
- § [24](#). Child tax credit
- § [25A](#). Hope and lifelong learning credits
- § [71\(c\)](#). Payments to support children
- § [151\(c\)\(1\)](#). Exemption for dependant
- § [152](#). Dependency exemption
 - (a) definition of dependent
 - (c) multiple support agreements
- § [213](#). Deduction for medical, dental, etc. expenses
 - (d)(5) Special rule in the case of child of divorced parents, etc.
- § [2516](#). Certain property settlements
- § [6015](#). Innocent spouse rule

REGULATIONS:

You can [search the most recent C.F.R.](#) to confirm that you are viewing the most up-to-date regulations.

- 26 CFR (2015)
 - § [1.152-4](#). Special rule for a child of divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart.

FORMS:

Internal Revenue Service Form 8332

[Release of claim to exemption for child of divorced or separated parents](#)

CASES:

- [Lavoie v. Lavoie](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New London at New London, No. FA03-0565151, (Aug. 25, 2014) (2014 WL 4817831). "The plaintiff seeks an order from the court that allows plaintiff to claim the children for his 2012 taxes, and requires defendant to amend her 2012 tax returns without the children as claimed exemptions. '[W]hen confronted with the question of whether a court

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

may allocate tax exemptions, actions for dissolution of marriage are inherently equitable proceedings ... The power to act equitably is the keystone to the court's ability to fashion relief in the infinite circumstances which arise out of the dissolution of a marriage.' *Boyne v. Boyne*, 112 Conn.App. 279, 288, 962 A.2d 818 (2009), citing *Fish v. Fish*, 90 Conn.App. 744, 763-64, 881 A.2d 342 (2005), rev'd in part on other grounds, 285 Conn. 24, 939 A.2d 1040 (2008). The court denies the plaintiff's request based on equitable considerations. The plaintiff was not current in his child support obligations during the 2012 tax year, therefore, fairness dictates that the defendant be allowed to claim the children for tax exemption purposes."

- *Teschendorf v. Teschendorf*, Superior Court, Judicial District of New Haven at New Haven, No. FA10-4040704, (April 16, 2012). "After a review of relevant Connecticut and other states' cases this court concludes the allocation of dependency exemptions is in the nature of support and therefore a proper subject for a postjudgment motion for modification. The *Serrano* court eloquently opined: 'As we have consistently reaffirmed, actions for dissolution of marriage are inherently equitable proceedings ... the [*Serrano*] trial court therefore did not commit error by exercising its equity jurisdiction in an attempt to fashion a just remedy under the circumstances of this case.' Id. at 12. That said however, any contemplated modification cannot contravene the intent of a separation agreement."
- *Ciolino v. Ciolino*, Superior Court, Judicial District of Waterbury at Waterbury No. FA98-0147294, (Jan. 12, 2005) (38 Conn. L. Rptr. 525). "Connecticut's appellate courts have not yet directly addressed whether the allocation of tax deductions is a modifiable post-judgment; however, they have examined these deductions in the context of child support. Our Supreme Court has held that amendments to the Internal Revenue Code have not divested the state courts of their authority to allocate the deduction to a non-custodial parent. *Serrano v. Serrano*, 213 Conn. 1, 566 A.2d 413 (1989). Our Supreme Court has also held that the allocation of tax deductions is one factor to be considered in determining the applicability of the Child Support Guidelines. *Battersby v. Battersby*, 218 Conn. 467, 590 A.2d 427 (1991)."
- *Serrano v. Serrano*, 213 Conn. 1, 566 A.2d 413 (1989). *Court ordered allocation of dependency exemption.*

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- Jason B. Binimow and G. Knapp, Annotation, *Construction and application of 26 U.S.C.A. § 6015(b)(1)(C), requiring that spouse not know of omission of gross income from joint tax return to obtain innocent spouse exemption from liability for tax*, 161 A.L.R. Fed. 373 (2000).

- Jason B. Binimow and G. Knapp, Annotation, *Innocent Spouse Exemption from Liability For Understatement Of Tax*, 154 ALR Federal 233 (1999).

PAMPHLETS:

- *Divorced Or Separated Individuals*, Internal Revenue Service [Publication 504](#) for use in preparing 2013 return (2013).

FLOWCHARTS:

- *Divorced Or Separated Individuals*. Internal Revenue Service Publication 504 for use in preparing 2013 return, (2013).

[Special Rule for Qualifying Child of More Than One Person](#)

[Special rule for divorced or separated parents \(or parents who live apart\)](#)

TEXTS & TREATISES:

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- 8A Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law And Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
 - Chapter 56. Federal law affecting Connecticut Domestic Relations Practice.
 - § 56:9. The innocent spouse rule
 - § 56:10. The dependent child exemption under federal law
 - § 56:11. Federal taxes and child support
- [Connecticut Family Law Practice Guide](#) (Louise Traux, general ed., 2015 ed).
 - Chapter 7. Child Support.
 - Part VII: Establishing Permanent Child Support Orders
 - § 7.49 Allocating Dependency Exemptions
 - Part IX: Preparing Motions for Modification
 - § 7.57 Modifying the Dependency Exemption Allocation
- Barbara Stark, [Friendly Divorce Guidebook for Connecticut: Planning, Negotiating and Filing Your Divorce](#) (2003).
 - Tax filing status, pp. 299-300
 - Tax exemptions, pp. 301-303
 - Tax deductions, p. 304
 - Tax credits, pp. 304-305
- Leon Gabinet and Harold G. Wren, [Tax Aspects of Marital Dissolution](#) (2d ed., rev. 2005).
 - Chapter 7. Spousal and child support
 - § 7:8. Exception of child support
 - § 7:10. Child support arrearages; tax consequences to custodial parents
 - § 7:26. State-federal issues in alimony and child support
 - Chapter 10. Dependency exemptions
 - § 10:7. Planning strategies for dependency

exemption

§ 10:8. Deduction of child's medical expenses

§ 10:9. Child and dependent care expenses

§ 10:10. Earned income tax credit; head-of-household status

LAW REVIEWS:

- Martin J. McMahon, Jr., *Tax Aspects Of Divorce And Separation*, 32 [Family Law Quarterly](#) 221 (1998).
Child support and dependency exemptions, pp. 234-238

Section 10: Bankruptcy and Child Support

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

- SCOPE:** Bibliographic sources relating to the effect of bankruptcy on child support
- SEE ALSO:**
- [Bankruptcy and the Family](#)
- STATUTES:**
- 11 U.S.C. (2014).
 - § [362\(b\)\(2\)](#). Automatic stay
 - § [522](#). Exemptions
 - § [523\(a\)\(5\)](#). Dischargeability of child support payments
 - § [541](#). Property of the estate
- COURT RULES:** Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (2014)
[Rule 4007](#) Determination of dischargeability of a debt
- FORMS:**
- 5 [Federal Procedure Forms, L.Ed](#), *Bankruptcy* §1423 *Complaint to determine dischargeability of debt.*
 - Ronald L. Brown, ed., [Bankruptcy Issues in Matrimonial Cases: A Practical Guide](#) (1992).
 - Form 1 Suggestion and notice of filing of bankruptcy (in state court), p. F-6
 - Form 4 Notice of removal—filed in state court, p. F-10
 - Form 6 Motion for relief from automatic stay—to pursue divorce proceeding , p. F-12
 - Form 8 Motion for relief from automatic stay—to pursue state court remedies to enforce support and collect arrears, p. F-18
 - Form 13 Motion to determine dischargeability—by divorce obligee/creditor—seeking nondischarge of divorce obligations, F-35
- CASES:**
- Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.
- [Boyne v. Boyne](#), 112 Conn. App. 279, 289, 962 A.2d 818 (2009). “Although the court does not have the authority to determine the nature of a debt in contravention of a determination by the federal Bankruptcy Court, it was well within its discretion to indicate in its judgment that it was intending all of the orders to be in the nature of support as guidance to the Bankruptcy Court because ‘[t]he main principle guiding bankruptcy courts in determining whether a debt is non dischargeable alimony, maintenance or support is the intent of the parties or the state court in creating the obligation and the purpose of the obligation in light of the parties’ circumstances at the time.’ 4 W. Collier, *Bankruptcy* (15th Ed. Rev. 2003) § 523.11 [6].”
 - [In re Peterson](#), 410 B.R. 133, 135 (Bkrtcy.D.Conn. 2009) “BAPCPA was intended to strengthen the rights of a spouse and children by redefining their support as a ‘domestic support obligation’ regardless whether ‘established or

subject to establishment before, on, or *after* bankruptcy § 101(14A)(C).”

- [Bettini v. Bettini](#), 19 Conn. L. Rptr. No. 1, p. 7 (May 15, 1997). *Dischargeability of obligations to assign a portion of pension plan benefits.*
- [In Re Sailsbury](#), 779 P2d 878 (Kan. Ct. App. 1989). *Concurrent jurisdiction of state and federal court in determining whether or not an obligation is dischargeable.*
- [Taylor v. Freeland & Kronz](#), 503 U.S. 638 (1992). *Failure to object to debtor’s claimed exemption within 30 days.*
- [Lesser v. Lesser](#), 16 Conn. App. 513, 516, 548 A.2d 6 (1988). *Factors to determine nondischargeable duty.*
- [Matthews v. Matthews](#), 9 FSMD 33 (1995). *Dischargeability of medical and dental payments.*
- [In Re Soderholm](#), 33 B.R. 83 (1983). “Although the plaintiff’s complaint failed to allege that the defendant’s debt to the bank was actually in the nature of child maintenance or support, evidence was offered on that subject without objection Accordingly, I conclude that the defendant’s debt to the bank is actually in the nature of child maintenance and support.”

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- 9D [Am. Jur. 2d Bankruptcy](#) (2006).
§§ 3635-3652 Debts for Domestic-Support Obligations
- 5 [Federal Procedure Forms, L.Ed., Bankruptcy](#) § 9:1092 (1991).
- Joseph E. Edwards, Annotation, *Wife’s Claim To Alimony Or Other Allowances In Divorce Or Separation Suit As Passing, To Trustee In Wife’s Bankruptcy, Under §70(A) Of Bankruptcy Act*, 10 ALR Federal 881(1972).

TEXTS & TREATISES:

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- 8A Arnold H. Rutkin et al., [Connecticut Practice Series, Family Law And Practice with Forms](#) (3d ed. 2010).
Chapter 56. Federal law affecting Connecticut Domestic Relations Practice
§ 56:4. The impact of federal bankruptcy policy on state divorce practice
§ 56:5. —State court measures to remedy the effect of bankruptcy
- 4 Arnold H. Rutkin, Gen. Ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2002).
Chapter 44. The effect of bankruptcy laws on marital dissolutions, agreements and property
§ 44.03. The automatic stay

§ 44.06. Determining the dischargeability of obligations for alimony, support and maintenance

- Judith K. Fitzgerald and Ramona M. Arena, [Bankruptcy and Divorce Support and Property Division](#) (2d ed.1994).
 - Chapter 1. Overview
 - § 1.8. Child support
 - Chapter 2. What is support?
 - § 2.4. Child support
 - § 2.6. Modification of alimony or support awards in state court after discharge in bankruptcy [2002 supp.]
 - Chapter 5. Dischargeability of assigned support
 - Chapter 6. Chapter 13 bankruptcy and support
 - § 6.3. Are arrearages support?
 - § 6.9. Issues concerning the automatic stay
- [Collier on Bankruptcy](#) (15th ed. revised 2002)
 - Chapter 362. Automatic stay
 - § 362.05[2]. Exceptions to the stay; § 362(b)—Alimony, maintenance or support § 362(b)(2)
 - Chapter 522. Exemptions
 - § 522.09[10][a]. Categories of exempt property—Federal exemptions; § 522(d)—Benefits akin to future earnings—The scope of the Section 522(d)(10) exemption
 - § 522.11[5]. Avoidance of judicial liens on exempt property and nonpossessory nonpurchase-money security interests in certain categories of exempt property; § 522(f)—Special rule for alimony, maintenance and support liens
 - Chapter 1328. Discharge
 - § 1328.02[3][c]. Chapter 13's full-compliance discharge; § 1328(a)—Effect of a full-compliance Chapter 13 discharge—Discharge exemption for debts for alimony, maintenance or support; §§ 523(a)(5) and 1328(a)(2)
- Henry J. Sommer and Margaret Dee McGarity, [Collier Family Law and the Bankruptcy Code](#) (1999).
 - Chapter 5. Jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court in domestic relations matters and the applicability of the automatic stay
 - Chapter 6. The dischargeability of marital obligations in bankruptcy
 - Chapter 7. Lien and transfer avoidance in connection with marital or family obligations
 - Chapter 8. Chapter 13 and the divorced or separated debtor
- Barbara Stark, [Friendly Divorce Guidebook for Connecticut: Planning, Negotiating and Filing Your Divorce](#) (2003).

Bankruptcy at the time of your divorce, p. 277s

LAW REVIEWS:

Note: Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our law libraries.

- *Special Issue on Family Law and Bankruptcy*, 31 [Family Law Quarterly](#) no. 3 (Fall 1997).
- *Special Issue: The Impact of Bankruptcy on Divorce*, 14 [Family Advocate](#) no. 3 (Winter 1992). Includes:
 - Janet L. Chubb and Robert F. Holley, *Decoding The Code; A Guide To The Rules And Statutes Governing Bankruptcy*, p. 29.
 - Robert M. Welch, Jr., *Protecting The Rights Of The Creditor Spouse; Whether It Is Called Alimony, Maintenance, Or Support, You Must Master The Federal Criteria Used To Determine If Payments Are Dischargeable*, p. 36

Section 11: Termination of Parental Rights and Child Support

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

- SCOPE:** Bibliographic sources relating to the effect of TPR (Termination of Parental Rights) on child support.
- SEE ALSO:**
- [Termination of Parental Rights](#)
- DEFINITIONS:**
- **TPR:** "A judgment terminating a parent's rights not only severs the emotional and physical ties between parent and child, but also absolves that parent of all future support obligations." [In Re Bruce R.](#), 234 Conn. 194, 200 (1995).
 - **Best Interests of the Child:** "The principal issue in this certified appeal is whether the trial court properly granted the petitioner father's petitions to terminate his parental rights pursuant to General Statutes § 45a-715 et seq. without first considering his financial condition and the financial condition of his children's custodial parent. The trial court granted the petitions to terminate his parental rights pursuant to General Statutes § 45a-717 (f)." *Ibid.*, 196.
 - **State Policy:** "Connecticut child support enforcement legislation clearly evinces a strong state policy of ensuring that minor children receive the support to which they are entitled." *Ibid.*, 209.
 - **Nonconsensual Termination:** "the overwhelming public policy of this state and our nation mandate that the financial condition of the parents be considered in determining the best interest of the child when terminating, pursuant to a consensual petition initiated by the parent, parental rights. As such, we do not reach the question of whether the parents' financial condition must be considered in nonconsensual termination proceedings." *Ibid.* 216.
- STATUTES:**
- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2015)
§ [45a-717\(f\)](#) Termination of parental rights. Conduct of hearing. Investigation and report. Grounds for termination.
- CASES:**
- [In re Bruce R.](#), 234 Conn. 194, 195, 662 A.2d 107 (1995). "The principal issue in this certified appeal is whether the trial court properly granted the petitioner father's petitions to terminate his parental rights pursuant to General Statutes § 45a-715 et seq. without first considering his financial condition and the financial condition of his children's custodial parent. The trial court granted the petitions to terminate his parental rights pursuant to General Statutes § 45a-717 (f)."

LAW REVIEWS

- John J. McGrath, Jr. *A Look at the State of the Law on Consensual Termination of Parental Rights in the Context of the Limitations Contained in In Re Bruce R. and the Evolving Composition of the American Family*, 26 [Quinnipiac Prob. L.J](#) 22 (2012).