

**61.30 Child support guidelines; retroactive child support.--**

(1)(a) The child support guideline amount as determined by this section presumptively establishes the amount the trier of fact shall order as child support in an initial proceeding for such support or in a proceeding for modification of an existing order for such support, whether the proceeding arises under this or another chapter. The trier of fact may order payment of child support which varies, plus or minus 5 percent, from the guideline amount, after considering all relevant factors, including the needs of the child or children, age, station in life, standard of living, and the financial status and ability of each parent. The trier of fact may order payment of child support in an amount which varies more than 5 percent from such guideline amount only upon a written finding explaining why ordering payment of such guideline amount would be unjust or inappropriate. Notwithstanding the variance limitations of this section, the trier of fact shall order payment of child support which varies from the guideline amount as provided in paragraph (11)(b) whenever any of the children are required by court order or mediation agreement to spend a substantial amount of time with the primary and secondary residential parents. This requirement applies to any living arrangement, whether temporary or permanent.

(b) The guidelines may provide the basis for proving a substantial change in circumstances upon which a modification of an existing order may be granted. However, the difference between the existing monthly obligation and the amount provided for under the guidelines shall be at least 15 percent or \$50, whichever amount is greater, before the court may find that the guidelines provide a substantial change in circumstances.

(c) For each support order reviewed by the department as required by s. 409.2564(11), if the amount of the child support award under the order differs by at least 10 percent but not less than \$25 from the amount that would be awarded under s. 61.30, the department shall seek to have the order modified and any modification shall be made without a requirement for proof or showing of a change in circumstances.

(2) Income shall be determined on a monthly basis for the obligor and for the obligee as follows:

(a) Gross income shall include, but is not limited to, the following items:

1. Salary or wages.
2. Bonuses, commissions, allowances, overtime, tips, and other similar payments.
3. Business income from sources such as self-employment, partnership, close corporations, and independent contracts. "Business income" means gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce income.
4. Disability benefits.
5. All workers' compensation benefits and settlements.
6. Unemployment compensation.
7. Pension, retirement, or annuity payments.
8. Social security benefits.
9. Spousal support received from a previous marriage or court ordered in the marriage before the court.

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10. Interest and dividends.
11. Rental income, which is gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce the income.
12. Income from royalties, trusts, or estates.
13. Reimbursed expenses or in kind payments to the extent that they reduce living expenses.
14. Gains derived from dealings in property, unless the gain is nonrecurring.

(b) Income on a monthly basis shall be imputed to an unemployed or underemployed parent when such employment or underemployment is found to be voluntary on that parent's part, absent physical or mental incapacity or other circumstances over which the parent has no control. In the event of such voluntary unemployment or underemployment, the employment potential and probable earnings level of the parent shall be determined based upon his or her recent work history, occupational qualifications, and prevailing earnings level in the community; however, the court may refuse to impute income to a primary residential parent if the court finds it necessary for the parent to stay home with the child.

(c) Public assistance as defined in s. 409.2554 shall be excluded from gross income.

(3) Allowable deductions from gross income shall include:

(a) Federal, state, and local income tax deductions, adjusted for actual filing status and allowable dependents and income tax liabilities.

(b) Federal insurance contributions or self-employment tax.

(c) Mandatory union dues.

(d) Mandatory retirement payments.

(e) Health insurance payments, excluding payments for coverage of the minor child.

(f) Court-ordered support for other children which is actually paid.

(g) Spousal support paid pursuant to a court order from a previous marriage or the marriage before the court.

(4) Net income for the obligor and net income for the obligee shall be computed by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income.

(5) Net income for the obligor and net income for the obligee shall be added together for a combined net income.

(6) The following schedules shall be applied to the combined net income to determine the minimum child support need:

Combined

Child or Children

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Monthly Available Income	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
650.00	74	75	75	76	77	78
700.00	119	120	121	123	124	125
750.00	164	166	167	169	171	173
800.00	190	211	213	216	218	220
850.00	202	257	259	262	265	268
900.00	213	302	305	309	312	315
950.00	224	347	351	355	359	363
1000.00	235	365	397	402	406	410
1050.00	246	382	443	448	453	458
1100.00	258	400	489	495	500	505
1150.00	269	417	522	541	547	553
1200.00	280	435	544	588	594	600
1250.00	290	451	565	634	641	648
1300.00	300	467	584	659	688	695
1350.00	310	482	603	681	735	743
1400.00	320	498	623	702	765	790
1450.00	330	513	642	724	789	838
1500.00	340	529	662	746	813	869
1550.00	350	544	681	768	836	895
1600.00	360	560	701	790	860	920
1650.00	370	575	720	812	884	945
1700.00	380	591	740	833	907	971
1750.00	390	606	759	855	931	996
1800.00	400	622	779	877	955	1022
1850.00	410	638	798	900	979	1048
1900.00	421	654	818	923	1004	1074
1950.00	431	670	839	946	1029	1101
2000.00	442	686	859	968	1054	1128
2050.00	452	702	879	991	1079	1154
2100.00	463	718	899	1014	1104	1181
2150.00	473	734	919	1037	1129	1207
2200.00	484	751	940	1060	1154	1234
2250.00	494	767	960	1082	1179	1261
2300.00	505	783	980	1105	1204	1287
2350.00	515	799	1000	1128	1229	1314
2400.00	526	815	1020	1151	1254	1340
2450.00	536	831	1041	1174	1279	1367
2500.00	547	847	1061	1196	1304	1394
2550.00	557	864	1081	1219	1329	1420
2600.00	568	880	1101	1242	1354	1447
2650.00	578	896	1121	1265	1379	1473

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2700.00	588 912	1141	1287	1403	1500
2750.00	597 927	1160	1308	1426	1524
2800.00	607 941	1178	1328	1448	1549
2850.00	616 956	1197	1349	1471	1573
2900.00	626 971	1215	1370	1494	1598
2950.00	635 986	1234	1391	1517	1622
3000.00	644 1001	1252	1412	1540	1647
3050.00	654 1016	1271	1433	1563	1671
3100.00	663 1031	1289	1453	1586	1695
3150.00	673 1045	1308	1474	1608	1720
3200.00	682 1060	1327	1495	1631	1744
3250.00	691 1075	1345	1516	1654	1769
3300.00	701 1090	1364	1537	1677	1793
3350.00	710 1105	1382	1558	1700	1818
3400.00	720 1120	1401	1579	1723	1842
3450.00	729 1135	1419	1599	1745	1867
3500.00	738 1149	1438	1620	1768	1891
3550.00	748 1164	1456	1641	1791	1915
3600.00	757 1179	1475	1662	1814	1940
3650.00	767 1194	1493	1683	1837	1964
3700.00	776 1208	1503	1702	1857	1987
3750.00	784 1221	1520	1721	1878	2009
3800.00	793 1234	1536	1740	1899	2031
3850.00	802 1248	1553	1759	1920	2053
3900.00	811 1261	1570	1778	1940	2075
3950.00	819 1275	1587	1797	1961	2097
4000.00	828 1288	1603	1816	1982	2119
4050.00	837 1302	1620	1835	2002	2141
4100.00	846 1315	1637	1854	2023	2163
4150.00	854 1329	1654	1873	2044	2185
4200.00	863 1342	1670	1892	2064	2207
4250.00	872 1355	1687	1911	2085	2229
4300.00	881 1369	1704	1930	2106	2251
4350.00	889 1382	1721	1949	2127	2273
4400.00	898 1396	1737	1968	2147	2295
4450.00	907 1409	1754	1987	2168	2317
4500.00	916 1423	1771	2006	2189	2339
4550.00	924 1436	1788	2024	2209	2361
4600.00	933 1450	1804	2043	2230	2384
4650.00	942 1463	1821	2062	2251	2406
4700.00	951 1477	1838	2081	2271	2428
4750.00	959 1490	1855	2100	2292	2450
4800.00	968 1503	1871	2119	2313	2472

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4850.00	977 1517	1888	2138	2334	2494
4900.00	986 1530	1905	2157	2354	2516
4950.00	993 1542	1927	2174	2372	2535
5000.00	1000 1551	1939	2188	2387	2551
5050.00	1006 1561	1952	2202	2402	2567
5100.00	1013 1571	1964	2215	2417	2583
5150.00	1019 1580	1976	2229	2432	2599
5200.00	1025 1590	1988	2243	2447	2615
5250.00	1032 1599	2000	2256	2462	2631
5300.00	1038 1609	2012	2270	2477	2647
5350.00	1045 1619	2024	2283	2492	2663
5400.00	1051 1628	2037	2297	2507	2679
5450.00	1057 1638	2049	2311	2522	2695
5500.00	1064 1647	2061	2324	2537	2711
5550.00	1070 1657	2073	2338	2552	2727
5600.00	1077 1667	2085	2352	2567	2743
5650.00	1083 1676	2097	2365	2582	2759
5700.00	1089 1686	2109	2379	2597	2775
5750.00	1096 1695	2122	2393	2612	2791
5800.00	1102 1705	2134	2406	2627	2807
5850.00	1107 1713	2144	2418	2639	2820
5900.00	1111 1721	2155	2429	2651	2833
5950.00	1116 1729	2165	2440	2663	2847
6000.00	1121 1737	2175	2451	2676	2860
6050.00	1126 1746	2185	2462	2688	2874
6100.00	1131 1754	2196	2473	2700	2887
6150.00	1136 1762	2206	2484	2712	2900
6200.00	1141 1770	2216	2495	2724	2914
6250.00	1145 1778	2227	2506	2737	2927
6300.00	1150 1786	2237	2517	2749	2941
6350.00	1155 1795	2247	2529	2761	2954
6400.00	1160 1803	2258	2540	2773	2967
6450.00	1165 1811	2268	2551	2785	2981
6500.00	1170 1819	2278	2562	2798	2994
6550.00	1175 1827	2288	2573	2810	3008
6600.00	1179 1835	2299	2584	2822	3021
6650.00	1184 1843	2309	2595	2834	3034
6700.00	1189 1850	2317	2604	2845	3045
6750.00	1193 1856	2325	2613	2854	3055
6800.00	1196 1862	2332	2621	2863	3064
6850.00	1200 1868	2340	2630	2872	3074
6900.00	1204 1873	2347	2639	2882	3084
6950.00	1208 1879	2355	2647	2891	3094

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7000.00	1212 1885	2362	2656	2900	3103
7050.00	1216 1891	2370	2664	2909	3113
7100.00	1220 1897	2378	2673	2919	3123
7150.00	1224 1903	2385	2681	2928	3133
7200.00	1228 1909	2393	2690	2937	3142
7250.00	1232 1915	2400	2698	2946	3152
7300.00	1235 1921	2408	2707	2956	3162
7350.00	1239 1927	2415	2716	2965	3172
7400.00	1243 1933	2423	2724	2974	3181
7450.00	1247 1939	2430	2733	2983	3191
7500.00	1251 1945	2438	2741	2993	3201
7550.00	1255 1951	2446	2750	3002	3211
7600.00	1259 1957	2453	2758	3011	3220
7650.00	1263 1963	2461	2767	3020	3230
7700.00	1267 1969	2468	2775	3030	3240
7750.00	1271 1975	2476	2784	3039	3250
7800.00	1274 1981	2483	2792	3048	3259
7850.00	1278 1987	2491	2801	3057	3269
7900.00	1282 1992	2498	2810	3067	3279
7950.00	1286 1998	2506	2818	3076	3289
8000.00	1290 2004	2513	2827	3085	3298
8050.00	1294 2010	2521	2835	3094	3308
8100.00	1298 2016	2529	2844	3104	3318
8150.00	1302 2022	2536	2852	3113	3328
8200.00	1306 2028	2544	2861	3122	3337
8250.00	1310 2034	2551	2869	3131	3347
8300.00	1313 2040	2559	2878	3141	3357
8350.00	1317 2046	2566	2887	3150	3367
8400.00	1321 2052	2574	2895	3159	3376
8450.00	1325 2058	2581	2904	3168	3386
8500.00	1329 2064	2589	2912	3178	3396
8550.00	1333 2070	2597	2921	3187	3406
8600.00	1337 2076	2604	2929	3196	3415
8650.00	1341 2082	2612	2938	3205	3425
8700.00	1345 2088	2619	2946	3215	3435
8750.00	1349 2094	2627	2955	3224	3445
8800.00	1352 2100	2634	2963	3233	3454
8850.00	1356 2106	2642	2972	3242	3464
8900.00	1360 2111	2649	2981	3252	3474
8950.00	1364 2117	2657	2989	3261	3484
9000.00	1368 2123	2664	2998	3270	3493
9050.00	1372 2129	2672	3006	3279	3503
9100.00	1376 2135	2680	3015	3289	3513

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9150.00	1380 2141	2687	3023	3298	3523
9200.00	1384 2147	2695	3032	3307	3532
9250.00	1388 2153	2702	3040	3316	3542
9300.00	1391 2159	2710	3049	3326	3552
9350.00	1395 2165	2717	3058	3335	3562
9400.00	1399 2171	2725	3066	3344	3571
9450.00	1403 2177	2732	3075	3353	3581
9500.00	1407 2183	2740	3083	3363	3591
9550.00	1411 2189	2748	3092	3372	3601
9600.00	1415 2195	2755	3100	3381	3610
9650.00	1419 2201	2763	3109	3390	3620
9700.00	1422 2206	2767	3115	3396	3628
9750.00	1425 2210	2772	3121	3402	3634
9800.00	1427 2213	2776	3126	3408	3641
9850.00	1430 2217	2781	3132	3414	3647
9900.00	1432 2221	2786	3137	3420	3653
9950.00	1435 2225	2791	3143	3426	3659
10000.00	1437 2228	2795	3148	3432	3666

For combined monthly available income less than the amount set out on the above schedules, the parent should be ordered to pay a child support amount, determined on a case-by-case basis, to establish the principle of payment and lay the basis for increased orders should the parent's income increase in the future. For combined monthly available income greater than the amount set out in the above schedules, the obligation shall be the minimum amount of support provided by the guidelines plus the following percentages multiplied by the amount of income over \$10,000:

Child or Children					
One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
5.0%	7.5%	9.5%	11.0%	12.0%	12.5%

(7) Child care costs incurred on behalf of the children due to employment, job search, or education calculated to result in employment or to enhance income of current employment of either parent shall be reduced by 25 percent and then shall be added to the basic obligation. After the adjusted child care costs are added to the basic obligation, any moneys prepaid by the noncustodial parent for child care costs for the child or children of this action shall be deducted from that noncustodial parent's child support obligation for that child or those children. Child care costs shall not exceed the level required to provide quality care from a licensed source for the children.

(8) Health insurance costs resulting from coverage ordered pursuant to s. 61.13(1)(b), and any noncovered medical, dental, and prescription medication expenses of the child, shall be added to the basic obligation unless these expenses have been ordered to be separately paid on a percentage basis. After the health insurance costs are added to the basic obligation, any moneys prepaid by the noncustodial parent for health-related costs for the child or children of this action shall be deducted from that noncustodial parent's child support obligation for that child or those children.

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(9) Each parent's percentage share of the child support need shall be determined by dividing each parent's net income by the combined net income.

(10) Each parent's actual dollar share of the child support need shall be determined by multiplying the minimum child support need by each parent's percentage share.

(11)(a) The court may adjust the minimum child support award, or either or both parents' share of the minimum child support award, based upon the following considerations:

1. Extraordinary medical, psychological, educational, or dental expenses.
2. Independent income of the child, not to include moneys received by a child from supplemental security income.
3. The payment of support for a parent which regularly has been paid and for which there is a demonstrated need.
4. Seasonal variations in one or both parents' incomes or expenses.
5. The age of the child, taking into account the greater needs of older children.
6. Special needs, such as costs that may be associated with the disability of a child, that have traditionally been met within the family budget even though the fulfilling of those needs will cause the support to exceed the proposed guidelines.
7. Total available assets of the obligee, obligor, and the child.
8. The impact of the Internal Revenue Service dependency exemption and waiver of that exemption. The court may order the primary residential parent to execute a waiver of the Internal Revenue Service dependency exemption if the noncustodial parent is current in support payments.
9. When application of the child support guidelines requires a person to pay another person more than 55 percent of his or her gross income for a child support obligation for current support resulting from a single support order.
10. The particular shared parental arrangement, such as where the child spends a significant amount of time, but less than 40 percent of the overnights, with the noncustodial parent, thereby reducing the financial expenditures incurred by the primary residential parent; or the refusal of the noncustodial parent to become involved in the activities of the child.
11. Any other adjustment which is needed to achieve an equitable result which may include, but not be limited to, a reasonable and necessary existing expense or debt. Such expense or debt may include, but is not limited to, a reasonable and necessary expense or debt which the parties jointly incurred during the marriage.

(b) Whenever a particular shared parental arrangement provides that each child spend a substantial amount of time with each parent, the court shall adjust any award of child support, as follows:

1. In accordance with subsections (9) and (10), calculate the amount of support obligation apportioned to the noncustodial parent without including day care and health insurance costs in the calculation and multiply the amount by 1.5.

2. In accordance with subsections (9) and (10), calculate the amount of support obligation apportioned to the custodial parent without including day care and health insurance costs in the calculation and multiply the amount by 1.5.
3. Calculate the percentage of overnight stays the child spends with each parent.
4. Multiply the noncustodial parent's support obligation as calculated in subparagraph 1. by the percentage of the custodial parent's overnight stays with the child as calculated in subparagraph 3.
5. Multiply the custodial parent's support obligation as calculated in subparagraph 2. by the percentage of the noncustodial parent's overnight stays with the child as calculated in subparagraph 3.
6. The difference between the amounts calculated in subparagraphs 4. and 5. shall be the monetary transfer necessary between the custodial and noncustodial parents for the care of the child, subject to an adjustment for day care and health insurance expenses.
7. Pursuant to subsections (7) and (8), calculate the net amounts owed by the custodial and noncustodial parents for the expenses incurred for day care and health insurance coverage for the child. Day care shall be calculated without regard to the 25-percent reduction applied by subsection (7).
8. Adjust the support obligation owed by the custodial or noncustodial parent pursuant to subparagraph 6. by crediting or debiting the amount calculated in subparagraph 7. This amount represents the child support which must be exchanged between the custodial and noncustodial parents.
9. The court may deviate from the child support amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 8. based upon the considerations set forth in paragraph (a), as well as the custodial parent's low income and ability to maintain the basic necessities of the home for the child, the likelihood that the noncustodial parent will actually exercise the visitation granted by the court, and whether all of the children are exercising the same shared parental arrangement.
10. For purposes of adjusting any award of child support under this paragraph, "substantial amount of time" means that the noncustodial parent exercises visitation at least 40 percent of the overnights of the year.
  - (c) A noncustodial parent's failure to regularly exercise court-ordered or agreed visitation not caused by the custodial parent which resulted in the adjustment of the amount of child support pursuant to subparagraph (a)10. or paragraph (b) shall be deemed a substantial change of circumstances for purposes of modifying the child support award. A modification pursuant to this paragraph shall be retroactive to the date the noncustodial parent first failed to regularly exercise court-ordered or agreed visitation.
- (12)(a) A parent with a support obligation may have other children living with him or her who were born or adopted after the support obligation arose. If such subsequent children exist, the court, when considering an upward modification of an existing award, may disregard the income from secondary employment obtained in addition to the parent's primary employment if the court determines that the employment was obtained primarily to support the subsequent children.
  - (b) Except as provided in paragraph (a), the existence of such subsequent children should not as a general rule be considered by the court as a basis for disregarding the amount provided in the guidelines. The parent with a support obligation for subsequent children may raise the existence of such subsequent children as a justification for deviation from the guidelines. However, if the existence

of such subsequent children is raised, the income of the other parent of the subsequent children shall be considered by the court in determining whether or not there is a basis for deviation from the guideline amount.

(c) The issue of subsequent children under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) may only be raised in a proceeding for an upward modification of an existing award and may not be applied to justify a decrease in an existing award.

(13) If the recurring income is not sufficient to meet the needs of the child, the court may order child support to be paid from nonrecurring income or assets.

(14) Every petition for child support or for modification of child support shall be accompanied by an affidavit which shows the party's income, allowable deductions, and net income computed in accordance with this section. The affidavit shall be served at the same time that the petition is served. The respondent, whether or not a stipulation is entered, shall make an affidavit which shows the party's income, allowable deductions, and net income computed in accordance with this section. The respondent shall include his or her affidavit with the answer to the petition or as soon thereafter as is practicable, but in any case at least 72 hours prior to any hearing on the finances of either party.

(15) For purposes of establishing an obligation for support in accordance with this section, if a person who is receiving public assistance is found to be noncooperative as defined in s. 409.2572, the IV-D agency is authorized to submit to the court an affidavit attesting to the income of the custodial parent based upon information available to the IV-D agency.

(16) The Legislature shall review the guidelines established in this section at least every 4 years beginning in 1997.

(17) In an initial determination of child support, whether in a paternity action, dissolution of marriage action, or petition for support during the marriage, the court has discretion to award child support retroactive to the date when the parents did not reside together in the same household with the child, not to exceed a period of 24 months preceding the filing of the petition, regardless of whether that date precedes the filing of the petition. In determining the retroactive award in such cases, the court shall consider the following:

(a) The court shall apply the guidelines in effect at the time of the hearing subject to the obligor's demonstration of his or her actual income, as defined by subsection (2), during the retroactive period. Failure of the obligor to so demonstrate shall result in the court using the obligor's income at the time of the hearing in computing child support for the retroactive period.

(b) All actual payments made by the noncustodial parent to the custodial parent or the child or third parties for the benefit of the child throughout the proposed retroactive period.

(c) The court should consider an installment payment plan for the payment of retroactive child support.