

Presented to the governor April 16, 1993

Signed by the governor April 19, 1993, 2:42 p.m.

CHAPTER 34—S.F.No. 186

An act relating to marriage dissolution; requiring more information on the notice to a public authority; amending Minnesota Statutes 1992, section 518.551, subdivision 5.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1992, section 518.551, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **NOTICE TO PUBLIC AUTHORITY; GUIDELINES.** (a) The petitioner shall notify the public authority of all proceedings for dissolution, legal separation, determination of parentage or for the custody of a child, if either party is receiving aid to families with dependent children or applies for it subsequent to the commencement of the proceeding. The notice must contain the full names of the parties to the proceeding, their social security account numbers, and their birth dates. After receipt of the notice, the court shall set child support as provided in this subdivision. The court may order either or both parents owing a duty of support to a child of the marriage to pay an amount reasonable or necessary for the child's support, without regard to marital misconduct. The court shall approve a child support stipulation of the parties if each party is represented by independent counsel, unless the stipulation does not meet the conditions of paragraph (h). In other cases the court shall determine and order child support in a specific dollar amount in accordance with the guidelines and the other factors set forth in paragraph (b) and any departure therefrom. The court may also order the obligor to pay child support in the form of a percentage share of the obligor's net bonuses, commissions, or other forms of compensation, in addition to, or if the obligor receives no base pay, in lieu of, an order for a specific dollar amount.

The court shall derive a specific dollar amount by multiplying the obligor's net income by the percentage indicated by the following guidelines:

Net Income Per Month of Obligor	Number of Children						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 or more
\$400 and Below	Order based on the ability of the obligor to provide support at these income levels, or at higher levels, if the obligor has the earning ability.						
\$401 - 500	14%	17%	20%	22%	24%	26%	28%

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\$501 - 550	15%	18%	21%	24%	26%	28%	30%
\$551 - 600	16%	19%	22%	25%	28%	30%	32%
\$601 - 650	17%	21%	24%	27%	29%	32%	34%
\$651 - 700	18%	22%	25%	28%	31%	34%	36%
\$701 - 750	19%	23%	27%	30%	33%	36%	38%
\$751 - 800	20%	24%	28%	31%	35%	38%	40%
\$801 - 850	21%	25%	29%	33%	36%	40%	42%
\$851 - 900	22%	27%	31%	34%	38%	41%	44%
\$901 - 950	23%	28%	32%	36%	40%	43%	46%
\$951 - 1000	24%	29%	34%	38%	41%	45%	48%
\$1001 - 4000	25%	30%	35%	39%	43%	47%	50%

Guidelines for support for an obligor with a monthly income of \$4,001 or more shall be the same dollar amounts as provided for in the guidelines for an obligor with a monthly income of \$4,000.

Net Income defined as:

Total monthly income less		*(i) Federal Income Tax
		*(ii) State Income Tax
		(iii) Social Security Deductions
		(iv) Reasonable Pension Deductions
*Standard Deductions apply- use of tax tables recommended	(v) Union Dues	
	(vi) Cost of Dependent Health Insurance Coverage	
	(vii) Cost of Individual or Group Health/Hospitalization Coverage or an Amount for Actual Medical Expenses	
	(viii) A Child Support or Maintenance Order that is Currently Being Paid.	

"Net income" does not include:

(1) the income of the obligor's spouse, but does include in-kind payments received by the obligor in the course of employment, self-employment, or operation of a business if the payments reduce the obligor's living expenses; or

(2) compensation received by a party for employment in excess of a 40-hour work week, provided that:

(i) support is nonetheless ordered in an amount at least equal to the guidelines amount based on income not excluded under this clause; and

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(ii) the party demonstrates, and the court finds, that:

(A) the excess employment began after the filing of the petition for dissolution;

(B) the excess employment reflects an increase in the work schedule or hours worked over that of the two years immediately preceding the filing of the petition;

(C) the excess employment is voluntary and not a condition of employment;

(D) the excess employment is in the nature of additional, part-time or over-time employment compensable by the hour or fraction of an hour; and

(E) the party's compensation structure has not been changed for the purpose of affecting a support or maintenance obligation.

(b) In addition to the child support guidelines, the court shall take into consideration the following factors in setting or modifying child support:

(1) all earnings, income, and resources of the parents, including real and personal property, but excluding income from excess employment of the obligor or obligee that meets the criteria of paragraph (a), clause (2)(ii);

(2) the financial needs and resources, physical and emotional condition, and educational needs of the child or children to be supported;

(3) the standards of living the child would have enjoyed had the marriage not been dissolved, but recognizing that the parents now have separate households;

(4) the amount of the aid to families with dependent children grant for the child or children;

(5) which parent receives the income taxation dependency exemption and what financial benefit the parent receives from it; and

(6) the parents' debts as provided in paragraph (c).

(c) In establishing or modifying a support obligation, the court may consider debts owed to private creditors, but only if:

(1) the right to support has not been assigned under section 256.74;

(2) the court determines that the debt was reasonably incurred for necessary support of the child or parent or for the necessary generation of income. If the debt was incurred for the necessary generation of income, the court shall consider only the amount of debt that is essential to the continuing generation of income; and

(3) the party requesting a departure produces a sworn schedule of the debts,

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with supporting documentation, showing goods or services purchased, the recipient of them, the amount of the original debt, the outstanding balance, the monthly payment, and the number of months until the debt will be fully paid.

(d) Any schedule prepared under paragraph (c), clause (3), shall contain a statement that the debt will be fully paid after the number of months shown in the schedule, barring emergencies beyond the party's control.

(e) Any further departure below the guidelines that is based on a consideration of debts owed to private creditors shall not exceed 18 months in duration, after which the support shall increase automatically to the level ordered by the court. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit one or more step increases in support to reflect debt retirement during the 18-month period.

(f) Where payment of debt is ordered pursuant to this section, the payment shall be ordered to be in the nature of child support.

(g) Nothing shall preclude the court from receiving evidence on the above factors to determine if the guidelines should be exceeded or modified in a particular case.

(h) The guidelines in this subdivision are a rebuttable presumption and shall be used in all cases when establishing or modifying child support. If the court does not deviate from the guidelines, the court shall make written findings concerning the amount of the obligor's income used as the basis for the guidelines calculation and any other significant evidentiary factors affecting the determination of child support. If the court deviates from the guidelines, the court shall make written findings giving the reasons for the deviation and shall specifically address the criteria in paragraph (b) and how the deviation serves the best interest of the child. The provisions of this paragraph apply whether or not the parties are each represented by independent counsel and have entered into a written agreement. The court shall review stipulations presented to it for conformity to the guidelines and the court is not required to conduct a hearing, but the parties shall provide the documentation of earnings required under subdivision 5b.

Presented to the governor April 21, 1993

Signed by the governor April 21, 1993, 3:40 p.m.

CHAPTER 35—S.F.No. 903

An act relating to public employees; authorizing a local police civil service commission to adopt rules allowing the striking of a name on the civil service eligible register after a one-year period; amending Minnesota Statutes 1992, section 419.06.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

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