



Pennsylvania Support Guideline Revisions

By Shannon Braun

Several changes to the Pennsylvania support guidelines went into effect on January 27, 2006. Some of the changes are minor and will not cause many modifications, but other provisions are more substantial and may warrant modifications to current support orders whether you receive or pay support.

One of the most significant differences includes changes to the schedule whereas the support amounts were modified at various levels and the schedule was increased to include combined net incomes up to \$20,000.00 per month from \$15,000.00 per month. Therefore, a Melzer calculation does not have to be performed unless the parties' net incomes exceed \$20,000.00 per month.

The changes in support amounts at various levels warrant some orders to be reduced and others to be increased depending on the level of the parties' incomes. For example, at income levels of \$3,000 and \$4,000 an increase was implemented. Specifically, under the old guidelines, support for one child, respectively, with the parties' combined income of \$3,000 would have been \$664.00 per month whereas under the new guidelines support at the same level would be \$724.00 per month. Subsequently, at the income

level of \$8,000 net per month the basic support amount was decreased. Whereas, under the old guidelines the support award, for one child, would have been \$1,284 per month, and now under the new guidelines the award is \$1,227 per month.

Another major change implemented was the change in Rule 1910.16-6(a) which was modified to

include allocation of child care expenses incurred by either party instead of just the custodial parent.

Modifications were made to Rule 1910.16-4(a) to clarify how spousal support and alimony pendente lite (APL) should be calculated when shared custody is involved. Specifically, the shared custody

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Notary E-Filing – The New Revolution

By Valerie A. Dolan, RP

“The *Uniform Electronic Transactions Act of 1999*, now law in virtually every state, followed by the federal *Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act of 2000*, laid the groundwork for e-commerce by declaring that electronic documents are as binding and legal as paper documents and cannot be rejected simply because they are in digital format.” *Pennsylvania's E-Revolution in Notarization, The National Notary* (March 2006)

Because the federal government and other institutions had become paperless entities, it was only a matter of time before the need for notaries to find their niche and expand their abilities. Of course, expanding ones abilities also means

more responsibility. The need to be more aware of the actual transactions and people involved in those transactions is essential. The notary must be wary of false identity, fraud and/or forgery more than ever before.

The advantages of e-filing for notaries are: (1) more job opportunities, (2) fees will be increased, (3) greater protection for signers, and (4) security. The following states have already begun an electronic notary program: Utah, Arizona, Texas, Florida, North Carolina and Colorado. Pennsylvania just joined them.

The following are the steps one would take in order to obtain an electronic notary seal: (1) complete and submit eNotary Application; (2) once your application is approved from the Secretary of State and your

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COMMITTEE NOTES

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee works to establish contacts with paralegal programs, colleges, law firms and legal placement agencies to promote the paralegal profession. The PDC assists in providing speakers to area paralegal schools. If you are interested in being a speaker, please contact the PAP Office.

The PAP 2005-2006 *Guide to Greater Philadelphia Area Paralegal Studies Programs* is available. If interested in obtaining a copy, please contact the PAP office. The *Guide*

was prepared for informational purposes only, thus PAP does not endorse any particular paralegal studies program. The school information was provided by each of the participating schools. For information not contained in the *Guide*, it is recommended that readers contact the paralegal schools directly.

The Joan Weldon Scholarship will be awarded at the July luncheon which will take place on July 18, 2006 at 12:30 p.m. at the Loews Hotel, 1200 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Intellectual Property Committee

Kathy Merlino, Chair

Past Meetings:

The IP Committee met on April 27th at Fox Rothschild. Richard Davis of Strayer University provided an update regarding Strayer University's Legal Studies Programs

The IP Committee met on May 18th at Fox Rothschild. Martha Reilly of Fox Rothschild provided attendees with an overview of the new Pennsylvania Trade Secrets Act.

The IP Committee met on June 21st at Fox Rothschild. Barbara Nield of Schnader Harrison provided an overview of PACE issues.

Upcoming Meetings:

July 27th at 12:30 p.m. at Ballard Spahr - Roberta Jacobs Meadway of Ballard Spahr will speak on a topic to be determined.

August 24th at 12:30 p.m. at Stradley Ronon - Kevin Casey of Stradley Ronon will speak on the Court of Appeals

September 28th at 12:30 p.m. at Fox Rothschild - Elizabeth Shamir of First Financial Group-Mass Mutual will discuss "Ten Common Financial Planning Mistakes"

October 26th at 12:30 p.m. at Drinker Biddle & Reath - Daniel Monaco of Drinker Biddle & Reath will speak on a topic to be determined.

November 16th at 12:30 p.m. at Fox Rothschild - Dotti Bollinger of Fox Rothschild will present "Updates in Internet Issues"

December 14th at 12:30 p.m. at a place to be determined we will hold our annual Holiday Luncheon.


Notary E-Filing – The New Revolution

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information entered into their database, they will send an email to the applicant with instructions; (3) complete payment, appear in person at the county recorder (presenting identification and approval letter), who will then enter your information into their program and send an email to the applicant with instructions; and (4) once the email is received, the applicant will then enter the notary system and download their Electronic Notary Seal. *Obtaining an Electronic Notary Seal, The National Notary* (March 2006)

In order to keep up on the latest news regarding Notaries in Pennsylvania and otherwise, please visit www.nationalnotary.org. Training in Philadelphia area will be held (1) Sheraton Four Points, July 15, 2006 and (2) Holiday Inn-Stadium, August 16, 2006. For more information call 1-800-US NOTARY or visit www.nationalnotary.org/training

Valerie is the current President of The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals and a Litigation Paralegal for over ten (10) years and is currently working in the Law Offices of David T. Shulick, Esquire.



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