

CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

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NCGS 50 – 13.4(C1)

- Conference of Chief District Court Judges shall establish requirements for statewide presumptive guidelines
- Applies to all orders of child support including consent orders and retroactive support
- Designed to meet the reasonable needs of children for health, education and maintenance

NCGS 50-13.4(c1) continued

- Considering the earnings, estates and accustomed standard of living of the parties and children
- At least once every 4 years, the Conference shall review the guidelines to ensure that their application results in appropriate orders
- The Conference may modify the guidelines as needed

ECONOMIC DATA

- Dr. Jane Venohr, PhD Center for Policy Research
- 2026 Cost of raising children in an intact family
- 2026 price levels
- 2026 NC labor market

Economic Data continued

- 2026 Federal and state taxes plus FICA
- 2026 federal poverty level for one person \$1,330/month
- Basic subsistence needs of noncustodial parent

CHANGES TO GUIDELINES

- Effective for all actions **heard** on or after January 1, 2027

NEW DEFINITIONS (p. 2)

- Prospective support – due from the date of filing forward
- Cases - Flores v Gutierrez COA (February 2026)
- Nzewunwah v Nzewunwah COA (December 2025)
- Findings required to deviate from filing date
- Retroactive support – 3 years before filing
- Arrears - monies not paid pursuant to a temporary or permanent order

SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE (p. 2)

- 2026 Federal Poverty level for one person - \$1,330/month
- Shaded area starts at \$1,600/month
- New minimum support order - \$100/month

HIGH INCOME ORDERS (p.2)

- New maximum income
- \$50,000/month \$600,000/year
- Requires findings on needs of children and parents' ability to pay
- Schedule of basic child support may be of assistance

GROSS INCOME (p. 3)

- One-time nonrecurring payments - example added
- Percentage of ordered child support to obligor's gross income

ANOTHER POTENTIAL ISSUE (p. 4)

- Responsibility for other children
- Deduction for natural or adopted children in household
- What is definition of “reside”?

NEXT REVIEW

2030