

**SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE**

PUBLICATION REPORT

RECOMMENDATION 152

The Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee (Committee) is proposing amendments to Pa.R.C.P. Nos. 1910.16-1, 1910.16-2, 1910.16-3, 1910.16-3.1, 1910.16-4, 1910.16-6, and 1910.16-7. The amendments are being proposed as part of the quadrennial support guideline review mandated by federal and state law and the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure. Consistent with the support guideline reviews in 2008 and 2012, the Committee engaged the assistance of Jane Venohr, Ph.D. from the Center for Policy Research, Denver, Colorado, who had been contracted by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to serve as a technical and economic adviser.

In addition to advising the Committee on technical issues of support and the current economic climate, Dr. Venohr prepared a report outlining her research, which was utilized by the Committee during this support guideline review process. Dr. Venohr's report entitled "2015-2016 Pennsylvania Child Support Guideline Review: Economic Review and Analysis of Case File Data" is available for public inspection on the Committee's website (<http://www.pacourts.us/courts/supreme-court/committees/rules-committees/domestic-relations-procedural-rules-committee>).

In conducting the quadrennial review, the Committee not only considered the economic data provided by Dr. Venohr, but also, the practical everyday experiences of litigants, attorneys, judges and domestic relations personnel involved in the domestic relations process. With that said, no significant changes to the support guidelines rules or underlying policies are being proposed by the Committee, excepting the support guidelines schedules and the Self-Support Reserve. The methodology, Income Shares Model, and the economic data set for child-rearing expenditures, Betson Rothbarth-3, continue to be the foundation of the support guideline schedules and have been for at least the past three quadrennial reviews.

Dr. Venohr's economic data for the updated schedules recommended by the Committee in this Recommendation is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), September 2015 data. The 2012 guideline review utilized economic data from the September 2011 CPI. Dr. Vehnor's analysis of the intervening four years demonstrated a relatively small increase in the economic price levels. As a result of the methodology and economic data set remaining constant, the slight upward change in price levels is the impetus for a slight increase in the support schedules.

It should be noted that Recommendation 146 proposed an amendment to Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910-16-4(d) prior to the publication of this Recommendation. Recommendation 146 is currently in the rulemaking process; however, as Recommendation 146 has not been adopted by the Court at the time of publication of this Recommendation, the current rule is used in this Recommendation and illustrates the changes to the current rule based on the proposed support guidelines. Should the Court adopt and promulgate Recommendation 146, this Recommendation will be revised to reflect any changes to Pa.R.C.P. No. 1910-16-4(d).