

# Child Support Guidelines - Part 1

One of the biggest factors divorcing families must contend with is the impact of child support. New Child Support Guidelines took effect on January 1, 2009. Not only has the equation utilized to calculate the guidelines changed dramatically, but the necessary circumstances for modifying such child support awards has also been given a facelift.

The changes to the guidelines were developed to recognize the number of cases involving never-married parents, increased numbers of working primary caretakers, increased shared parenting arrangements, and increased parenting involvement by principal economic providers. A rebuttable presumption exists that these Guidelines apply in all cases establishing or modifying a child support order. To enable you to advise your clients accordingly, I am providing the more relevant portions of these guidelines below.

The new guidelines continue to use gross income to calculate the appropriate child support, however, gross income is now defined as including, but not limited to: salaries, severance pay, income derived from businesses/partnerships, pensions, annuities, distributions and income from trusts, spousal support received from a person who is not a party to instant order, contractual agreements, and any other form of income or compensation not specifically itemized above.

There are several changes to the Guidelines which will affect the amount your client receives/pays to the custodial parent. Contact me to discuss the impact of the new Guidelines on your client.

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Sincerely,



Diana Sorrentini-Velez  
Cooley, Shrair P.C.

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email: [disv@cooleyshrair.com](mailto:disv@cooleyshrair.com)

phone: 413-735-8008

web: <http://cooleyshrair.com>