

# Director's Response Guidelines Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations

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Oregon Child Support Program  
Child Support Guidelines Review  
February 2026



OREGON  
**CHILD SUPPORT**  
PROGRAM  
SUPPORTING PARENTS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN

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## Introduction

I would like to thank the dedicated people who volunteered to serve on the Guidelines Advisory Committee over the past year. Members took time away from their work and families throughout 2025, contributing their knowledge and experience to the committee’s success. To all the Guidelines Advisory Committee members, **thank you** for helping to ensure our child support guidelines are responsive and relevant to Oregon families.

I would like to offer special thanks to the parents who served as “lived experience representatives” on this Guidelines Advisory Committee. In the past, the committee indirectly incorporated parents’ perspective through attorneys, judges, and child support professionals who were also parents. This is the first time members were selected solely for their experience as parents with child support cases. The contributions of parents, both through surveys and participation in committee and workgroup meetings, have been invaluable.

In the following report, I will address each recommendation put forward in the Guidelines Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations. Like the Guidelines Advisory Committee, I have considered each recommendation with four guiding principles in mind:

- The guidelines must produce fair and equitable awards;
- Rules should be understandable to families and practitioners;
- Calculations should not be complex; and
- Orders must be enforceable.

The next step is to incorporate these decisions into a draft worksheet, which we will use to develop case scenarios. This will allow us to test the assumptions and assess the impacts of the proposals on a wide variety of actual case scenarios. If we find unintended consequences, we may need to revise these decisions. After updating the worksheets and calculator, the recommendations require that we update dozens of forms the Oregon Child Support Program uses to issue and enforce child support orders, and the software we use to generate those forms. If we find the cost or impact of implementing a particular recommendation is prohibitive—a decision we will make considering its anticipated benefit—we may delay that recommendation for the next quadrennial guidelines review. Once again, the members of the Committee and the firms, organizations, and agencies they represent have my deepest thanks. My decisions follow.

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## Income

### Minimum Orders

*I accept the Guidelines Advisory Committee's recommendation to:*

Reduce the minimum order from \$100 per month to \$50 per month.

Additional comments: Reducing the minimum order to \$50 per month maintains a minimum order consistent with the Committee's wishes and brings Oregon more in alignment with minimum orders in other states.

### Self-Support Reserve

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Increase the self-support reserve to 130% of the federal poverty guideline, updated annually.

## Alleging Income

### **When a Parent's Financial Circumstances Are Unknown**

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Use 34 hours per week at the lowest minimum wage rate when unable to determine a parent's actual or potential income.

### **When a Parent is Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Use 34 hours per week at the lowest minimum wage rate when alleging income for a parent receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Additional comments: I find that using 34 hours per week at the lowest minimum wage is an improvement over the existing rule and appreciate the committee working through various options to reach this recommendation.

## Rule clarity and consistency

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Revise the structure of the guidelines rule on income, OAR 137-050-0715, to more clearly state its purpose and provide clear guidance on the appropriate use of generic income determinations. Clarify that needs-based public assistance, in general, should not be counted as income. Use consistent language to describe when provisions may or must be applied.

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## Health Care Coverage

### **Should the priority for private health care coverage be removed?**

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Stop prioritizing private health care coverage over public. Allow parents to satisfy the requirement to provide health care coverage by providing public coverage (such as Oregon Health Plan).

## Should there be a change to the 4% cap?

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Maintain the current 4% cap for health care coverage costs and stop automatically issuing National Medical Support Notices to the employers of parents who receive support who are ordered to provide health care coverage.

## Should medical support guidelines include the cost for dental, vision, prescription drug, and mental health?

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Add guidance in the health care coverage rule, OAR 137-050-0750, to clarify that although dental, vision, prescription drugs, and mental health coverage are not ordered as standalone items, the costs should be included in the calculation when provided.

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## Child Care Costs

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Add a provision in the child care costs rule, OAR 137-050-0735, making it explicitly clear that a rebuttal to include child care costs that exceed the caps is permissible.

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## Parenting Time

*I accept the Committee's recommendation to:*

Update rule language to permit counting blocks of time of 12 hours or less as a half day where appropriate.

I also accept the Committee's recommendation to:

Improve commentary explaining how to determine whether a parenting time order or agreement is "current" and clearly state that an order can be modified if overnights are not being exercised as agreed or ordered.

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## Design

*I accept the additional design recommendations to:*

Review for possible options to either rewrite both the stand-alone and full calculator or rewrite the parenting time calculator so it uses one technology instead of two and can be embedded in WordPress instead of running on a different server.

Update the labels used to identify participants in the public calculator. Suggestions included making **parent's names** mandatory and adding Parent A and Parent B, in addition to existing **relationship** designations.

Rewrite the cash medical question in the public-facing calculator for additional clarity.