

SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

Opinion Delivered October 22, 2015

IN RE SUPREME COURT
COMMITTEE ON CHILD
SUPPORT; ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER NUMBER 10(III)(g)

PER CURIAM

The Supreme Court Committee on Child Support submitted its report to the court, including the following recommendations: (1) a proposed revision to Administrative Order Number 10(III)(g) on health insurance, (2) revisions to the family support charts, and (3) study of the guideline models.

Regarding the first recommendation, the proposed revision regarding health insurance is to add the underlined text:

Administrative Order Number 10

.....

Section III. Calculation of Support.

.....

g. Health Insurance. In addition to the award of child support, the court order shall provide for the child's health care needs, which normally would include health insurance if available to either parent at a reasonable cost. Health insurance coverage shall be considered reasonable if the cost of dependent coverage does not exceed 5% of the net income of the parent who is to provide such coverage. In applying the 5% standard for the cost of health insurance, the cost of dependent coverage is the difference between self-only and self with dependents or family coverage or the cost of adding the child(ren) to existing coverage.

The purpose of this amendment is to provide an income-based threshold to determine that the cost of health insurance is reasonable. We approve this recommendation and adopt the amendment, effective immediately.

The committee advised the court that the study of guideline models, in particular, consideration of following the national trend and moving from the percentage-of-obligor income model to an income shares model, is still ongoing. We agree that this study needs to continue, and we await the committee's report.

Finally, we decline to make any change to the support charts at this time.

We thank the committee for its report on these recommendations and its hard work on these important issues.