Simple Excel Worksheet to Analyze Impact of the Combined Effects of Alternative Self-Support Reserves, New Parenting-Time Adjustment and Updated Table

Submitted to:

State of Minnesota Department of Human Services

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this briefing is to provide the Minnesota Child Support Task Force an Excel calculator that can be used to examine the impact of alternative self-support reserves on guidelines-determined amounts. The calculator also considers the impact of an updated table and the new parenting-time adjustment.

LIMITATIONS OF THE EXCEL CALCULATOR

The calculator has been tested for cases involving one, two and three children; combined incomes of less than \$15,000 per month; and less than 45 percent time sharing.¹ It has not been programmed or developed to consider each and every adjustment (*e.g.*, it does not consider the adjustment for non-joint children). The programming and testing required for this is beyond the scope of this task. Any errors should be reported to Jessica Raymond, who staffs the Task Force. If the errors are substantial, the calculator may not be a useful tool. Instead, Task Force members should rely on the case examples in this document to compare the impact of alternatives.

ALTERNATIVE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVES

There are two types of alternatives to the self-support reserve.

- The amount of the self-support reserve.
 - The current Minnesota guidelines provides a self-support reserve of 120% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for one person. The 2018 FPL is \$1,011.67. Multiplying that by 120% yields \$1,214 per month.
- Making the self-support reserve a deduction from the income for each parent as well as
 deducting it from the income of all parents regardless of their income level. This is shown in
 Line 2c in the worksheet on the next page.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN THE CALCULATOR

The calculator considers two other changes to the guidelines calculation.

- The parenting-time adjustment that will become effective as of August 1, 2018.
- An updated table (*i.e.*, Option B.4), which was included in the January briefing and considers the following assumptions that are also listed in the January briefing.
 - USDA measurements of child-rearing expenditures for the Midwest as shown in Table 4 of the 2017 USDA report.²

¹ It was tested using 25 case scenarios. All of Excel-calculations were within \$5 of the State online calculator, two-thirds of the differences were \$1or less.

² Lino, Mark, et al. (2017). *Expenditures on Children by Families: 2015 Annual Report*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition and Policy Promotion. Miscellaneous Publication No. 1528-2015, Washington, D.C. Available at http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/publications/crc/crc2015.pdf

- The child's healthcare, childcare, and education expenses are removed.
- The USDA report shows measurements in 2015 price levels. For Option B.4, these amounts are updated to December 2017 price levels for the Midwest Region, which was the most current information available at the time the January briefing was prepared. Between December 2017 and April 2017, price levels have increased by 1.5 percent. In other words, adjusting the table to the most current price level would have a negligible increase.
- The age-adjusted amounts are translated into an average for all ages.
- A Minnesota child support table is developed by taking average expenditures for each of the three income ranges and interpolating between income ranges.
- The amounts shown in Table 4 of the USDA report are for one child in a two-child household. The USDA equivalence scale to arrive at the one child amount (1.4) is used to increase the one-child amount to a two-child amount. The amount (1.4) is the lowest equivalence scale found among several studies examining the cost of raising children.³ An equivalence scale developed by the National Academy of Science is used for three or more children (*i.e.*, the equivalence scale is: the sum of the number of adults and 0.7 X number of children taken to the 7th power).⁴

³ Judicial Council of California. (2010.) *Review of Statewide Uniform Child Support Guideline*. San Francisco, California. See page 14.

⁴ Citro, Constance F. and Robert T. Michael, Editors (1995). *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*. National Academy Press. Washington, D.C.

EXCERPT OF CALCULATOR

Version date: May 22, 9:30am The purpose of this spreadsheet is to illustrate the impact of alternative self-support reserves (SSR) and treatment of the SSR. It is not intended to calculated support for every circumstances. Such a tool requires significant time for development and testing. Instructions: Please fill in the yellow only. This does not affect the calculation. The user may use it to track case type, "Min. wage case." CASE Number of Joint Children Parent A Parent B Combined Income 1,500 \$ 1a. Monthly Income Received 1,500 Grey-shaded areas 1b. Children's SS/VA benefits derivied from.... \$ \$ have not been 1c. Potential income \$ \$ automated. d. Spousal maint. orders obligated to be paid \$ \$ 1e. Child support orders obligated... 1f. Monthly gross income (1a + 1b + 1c + 1d)\$ 1,500 | \$ \$ 1,500 **Adjustments** 2a. Number of nonjoint children in the home... 0 0 2b. Deduction for Nonjoint children in the home 0 0 The existing 2c. Self-Support Reserve guidelines provides SSR is ____ of the Federal Poverty Level for 1 Person? \$ 1,214 \$ 1,214 a SSR of 120% of \$ 1,500 \$ 3. Parental income for determining child support (PICS) 1,500 PICS w/ SSR Deducted 286 \$ \$ 286 \$ 4. Percentage share of combined (PICS) 100.0% 100.0% 0.0% 100.0% PICS w/ SSR Deducted 100.0% 0.0% 5. Combined basic support obligation-Existing w/o SSR deducted \$ 500 Existing w/ SSR deducted \$ 75 Proposed w/o SSR deducted \$653 Proposed w/ SSR deducted \$327 6. Pro rata basic support obligation -500 \$ Existing w/o SSR deducted Existing w/ SSR deducted \$ 75 \$ Proposed w/o SSR deducted \$ 653 \$ \$ \$ Proposed w/ SSR deducted 327 **Basic Support Obligations:** 20% Percent of child(ren)'s time with parent 80%

7. Basic Support Obligation after Parenting Expense:	
Existing w/ existing PTA	\$ 440
Existing w/o SSR deducted & new PTO	\$ 492 \$ -
Existing w/ SSR deducted & new PTO	\$ 74 \$ -
Proposed w/o SSR deducted & new PTO	\$ 643 \$ -
Proposed w/ SSR deducted & new PTO	\$ 322 \$ -
Lines 8-13 (Child Care, Medical Support and SS/VA Adjustment)
14. Computing a Final Obligation:	
15a. Monthly Gross Income	\$ 1,500 \$ -
Ability to pay calculation	
Self-support reserve	\$ 1,214 \$ 1,214
15b. Income available for support	\$ 286 \$ (1,214)
16. Monthly child support obligation_no adjustment necessar	у Х
17. Amount of Reduction	
Lines 18-20: Medical support and childcare adjustment	
21. Monthly child support obliation after adjustment	
Presumptive Minimum Order (Basic Support Only)	
FINAL Order Amounts	
Existing with current SSR & current PTO	\$ 286
Existing w/o SSR deducted & new PTO	\$ 286 \$ -
Existing w/ SSR deducted & new PTO	\$ 75 \$ -
Proposed w/o SSR deducted & new PTO	\$ 286 \$ -
Proposed w/ SSR deducted & new PTO	\$ 286 \$ -

CASE EXAMPLES

The case examples are based on the following fictional personas:

- Pat is an elementary school teacher and has a gross monthly income of \$4,167.00 (\$50,000 per year).
- Leslie is a bank teller and has a gross monthly income of \$2167.00 (\$12.50 per hour).
- Brett is a cashier at a local grocery store and has a gross monthly income of \$1,647.00 (minimum wage of \$9.50 per hour).
- Sidney is a baggage handler at the airport and has a gross monthly income of \$2,264.00 (\$13.06 per hour).
- Sam is on MFIP with her child and has no income for the purpose of child support calculation.
- Casey is a barista at a coffee shop and has a gross monthly income of \$1,647.00 (minimum wage of \$9.50 per hour).

The 2018 state minimum wage is \$9.65 per hour for large employers (enterprise with annual receipts of \$500,000 or more) and \$7.87 for smaller employers. As of April 2018, Minnesota employees worked an average of 38.5 hours per week in wholesale trade, 28.1 hours per week in retail trade, 33.3 hours per

week in transportation and warehousing, and 19.3 hours in restaurants and other eating establishments.⁵

Exhibit 1: Monthly Earnings from State Minimum Wage by Weekly Hours							
	30 hours per week 35 hours per week 40 hours per week						
\$7.87 per hour	\$1,023	\$1,194	\$1,364				
\$9.65 per hour	\$1,254	\$1,464	\$1,673				

The case scenarios consider self-support reserves equivalent to:

- 120% of the FPL (\$1,214 per month);
- 135% of the FPL (\$1,366 per month), which is the maximum of any state and is used by New York; and
- 165% of the FPL (\$1,669 per month).

Most states relate their SSR to the FPL. A notable exception is Arizona that adopted a SSR equivalent to 80% of full-time earnings from the state's minimum wage in the year that the order was established (Arizona's minimum wage is \$10 per hour in 2018, so this results in a SSR of \$1,387 for Arizona in 2018).

For incomes below the SSR, the minimum order applies. The current Minnesota minimum order is:

- \$50 per month for one or two children;
- \$75 per month for three or four children; and
- \$100 per month for five or six children.

		Number of Children	Percent of Child's Time	Self-Support Reserve (% of Federal Poverty Level for 1 Person)		
1	Pat and Leslie	1	15%	120% FPL	135% FPL	165% FPL
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			530	530	963
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			598	598	1,086
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			539	523	919
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			655	655	1,046
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			654	660	1,014

⁵ Minnesota Employment and Economic Development. (April 2018.) *Current Employment Statistics* https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/ces/Results.aspx

			Percent of Child's Time	Self-Support Rese Level	erve (% of Feder for 1 Person)	al Poverty
2	Pat and Leslie	2	30%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			838	838	838
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			847	847	847
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			754	748	733
•	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			823	823	823
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			833	843	817
3	Pat and Leslie	3	20%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			963	963	963
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,069	1,069	1,069
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			943	932	908
•	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,030	1,030	1,030
,	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			1,029	1,039	1,002
4	Brett and Casey	1	30%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			274	274	50
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			266	266	50
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			34	50	50
•	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			355	281	50
,	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			98	87	50
5	Brett and Casey	2	35%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			433	281	50
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			368	281	50
•	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			50	50	50
•	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			425	281	50
•	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			118	105	50
6	Brett and Casey	3	25%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			433	281	75
,	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			433	281	75
,	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			69	75	75
,	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			433	281	75

		Number of Children	Percent of Child's Time		Self-Support Reserve (% of Federal Level for 1 Person)	
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			171	152	75
7	Pat and Sam	1	25%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			657	657	657
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			720	720	720
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			640	568	534
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			851	851	851
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			764	714	616
8	Pat and Sam	2	15%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			996	996	996
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,126	1,126	1,126
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			977	945	888
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,228	1,228	1,228
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			1,092	1,033	890
9	Pat and Sam	3	30%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			1,148	1,148	1,148
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,210	1,210	1,210
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			1,082	1,014	954
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,305	1,305	1,305
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			1,194	1,097	946
10	Sidney and Leslie	1	30%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			354	354	354
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			345	345	345
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			233	154	55
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			394	394	394
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			242	198	132
11	Sidney and Leslie	2	20%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			528	528	528
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			582	582	582
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			423	258	85

		Number of Children	Percent of Child's Time	Self-Support Reserve (% of Federal Pove Level for 1 Person)		l Poverty
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			624	624	595
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			383	313	209
12	Sidney and Leslie	3	35%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			608	608	595
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			509	509	509
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			374	228	76
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			539	539	539
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			334	273	184
13	Brett and Sam	1	35%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			297	281	50
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			291	281	50
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			50	50	50
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			376	281	50
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			177	177	50
14	Brett and Sam	2	25%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			433	281	50
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			433	281	50
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			50	50	50
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			433	281	50
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			277	277	50
15	Brett and Sam	3	15%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			433	281	75
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			433	281	75
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			75	75	50
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			433	281	75
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			325	281	50
16	Leslie and Casey	1	35%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO	_	20,0	352	352	352
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			305	305	305
				303	303	303

		Number of Children	Percent of Child's Time	Self-Support Reser Level 1	rve (% of Federa for 1 Person)	l Poverty
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			117	70	50
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			375	375	375
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			198	170	177
17	Leslie and Casey	2	30%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			540	540	498
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			535	535	498
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			190	107	50
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			600	600	498
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			308	263	266
18	Leslie and Casey	3	20%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			628	628	498
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			695	695	498
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			239	135	75
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			763	763	498
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			384	326	322
19	Brett and Leslie	1	20%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			268	268	50
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			294	281	50
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			63	50	50
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			360	281	50
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			106	69	50
20	Brett and Leslie	2	35%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			411	281	50
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			321	281	50
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			55	50	50
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			360	281	50
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			89	50	50
21	Brett and Leslie	3	25%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			433	281	75

		Number of Children	Percent of Child's Time	Self-Support Reserve (% of Federal Level for 1 Person)		al Poverty	
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			433	281	75	
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			99	75	75	
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			433	281	75	
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			158	101	75	
22	Pat and Sidney	1	30%				
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			526	526	526	
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			531	531	531	
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			487	464	443	
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			581	581	581	
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO						
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		4=0/	583	584	582	
23	Pat and Sidney	2	15%				
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			834	834	834	
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			939	939	939	
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			817	798	782	
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			909	909	909	
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			898	899	890	
24	Pat and Sidney	3	20%				
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			959	959	959	
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,064	1,064	1,064	
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			930	907	889	
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,020	1,020	1,020	
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			1,010	1,011	1,002	
25	Pat and Casey	1	20%	,	•	<u>,</u>	
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO	_		555	555	555	
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			618	618	618	
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			545	539	545	
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			685	685	685	
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			717	707	629	
26	Pat and Casey	3	20%				
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			998	998	998	
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,110	1,110	1,110	

		Number of Children	Percent of Child's Time	Self-Support Rese Level	erve (% of Federa for 1 Person)	al Poverty
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			1,007	1,002	1,013
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			1,093	1,093	1,093
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			1,145	1,130	1,005
27	Leslie and Sam	1	20%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			465	465	465
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			520	520	498
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			89	79	50
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			553	553	498
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			251	226	201
28	Leslie and Sam	3	20%			
	Existing Table with current SSR & current PTO			863	801	498
	Existing Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			953	801	498
	Existing Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			164	147	75
	Proposed Table w/o SSR deducted & new PTO			884	801	498
	Proposed Table w/ SSR deducted & new PTO			402	362	322

ISSUES FOR TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER

- Should the self-support reserve (SSR) be available to each parent?
- Should the SSR be increased from 120% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for one person?
- Should the FPL or state minimum wage be used as the basis of the SSR?
- Should the SSR be an income deduction also?
- Are there other appropriate changes to the SSR/low-income adjustment (e.g., amount of the minimum orders or how the adjustment interacts with childcare expenses and extraordinary medical expenses)?