

Topic for Week 2-3: Child Support Guidelines

Powerpoint presentation at <http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs5400-6400/ChildSupportGuidelinesHistory.pdf>

1. Reading list

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<http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs5400-6400/Readings/Bassi%20Laurie%20-%20Expenditures%20on%20children%20and%20child%20support%20guidelines.pdf>

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Additional readings:

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2. the history of the policy and a description of the policy and/or any alternative proposals

See Powerpoint presentation of an overview of the policy in Utah.

3. the intended purpose of the policy

To ensure the wellbeing of children after divorce

To control welfare costs and to assure that parents did not shift the cost of raising children to the society at large

4. identification of economic concepts related to this policy.

Expenditure on children: per capita vs. marginal cost approaches

Economies of scale
Poverty and standard of living
Gross income, adjusted gross income vs. net income
Measurement of “equally well-off”
Unemployment, underemployment, earning capacity, and imputed income

5. reasons (including theoretical reasoning if applicable) as to why this policy would achieve its purpose.

Legal enforcement: rebuttable presumption. Office of Recovery Services

6. possible side effects of the policy and interest-group conflicts

The economic wellbeing of the non-custodial parent, especial among low income households
The impact of child support on reformation of families
Identification of the father
Lack of visitation, including denial of visitation and failure to exercise visitation
Lack of consent for conception of child

7. possible ways to evaluate the policy

Are children really better off? How about other parties involved?

8. a summary assessment as to whether the policy serves its purpose

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9. 20 short answer questions regarding all aspects of this policy, submitted to the instructor at the end of the topic coverage period.

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4. identification of economic concepts related to this policy.

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Economies of scale
Poverty and standard of living
Gross income, adjusted gross income vs. net income
Measurement of “equally well-off”
Unemployment, underemployment, earning capacity, and imputed income

5. reasons (including theoretical reasoning if applicable) as to why this policy would achieve its purpose.

Legal enforcement: rebuttable presumption. Office of Recovery Services

6. possible side effects of the policy and interest-group conflicts

The economic wellbeing of the non-custodial parent, especial among low income households
The impact of child support on reformation of families
Identification of the father
Lack of visitation, including denial of visitation and failure to exercise visitation
Lack of consent for conception of child

7. possible ways to evaluate the policy

Are children really better off? How about other parties involved?

8. a summary assessment as to whether the policy serves its purpose

Studies have shown that guidelines and increased enforcement can increase payments when awards are court-ordered but may not increase payments and could even reduce payments when some payment would otherwise have occurred voluntarily (Argys & Peters, 2003)

Mothers and children fare dramatically worse than fathers after marital dissolution. These differences, however, would be much more pronounced in the absence of private child support. (Bartfeld, 2000).

9. 20 short answer questions regarding all aspects of this policy, submitted to the instructor at the end of the topic coverage period.

Topic for Week 2-3: Child Support Guidelines

Powerpoint presentation at <http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs5400-6400/ChildSupportGuidelinesHistory.pdf>

1. Reading list

Required readings:

Explore the following websites:

*Website for comprehensive resource for all states: <http://www.supportguidelines.com/main.html>

*Website for Utah Office of Recovery Services: <http://www.ors.state.ut.us/>

*Website for Utah Child Support Act: <http://le.utah.gov/UtahCode/section.jsp?code=78B-12>

*Website for Utah Child Support Calculator: <http://www.utcourts.gov/childsupport/calculator>

*Website USDA <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/ExpendituresonChildrenbyFamilies.htm>

* Bassi, Laurie J.; Barnow, Burt S. (1993). Expenditures on Children and Child Support Guidelines, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management v12, n3 (Summer 1993): 478-97.

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*Bartfeld, Judi (2000). Child Support and the Postdivorce Economic Well-Being of Mothers, Fathers, and Children. Demography, 37(2): 203-213.

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Additional readings:

*Argys, Laura, M and Peters, Elizabeth, H (2003). Can adequate child support be legislated? Responses to guidelines and enforcement. Economic Inquiry, 41(3): 463-79

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