

LAW OFFICE OF  
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**NEW CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES ARE ON THE WAY!**  
by Susan Castleton Ryan, Esq.

As of August 1, 2013, new child support guidelines will be implemented in all Probate & Family Courts in Massachusetts. The last revision was in 2009. The new guidelines include significant changes from those in effect at this time. Some of the changes include:

- Income from benefits such as SSI, TAFDC, and SNAP are excluded for both parties from the calculation of their support obligations;
- Some or none of income from secondary jobs or overtime may be considered by the court, regardless of whether this is new income or was historically earned prior to dissolution of the relationship;
- Clarification is given as to how child support should be allocated between the parents where their combined income exceeds \$250,000;
- A new formula is provided for calculating support where parenting time and expenditures are less than equal (50/50), but more than the assumed standard split of two thirds/one third; and
- Guidance and clarification is given in the area of child support over the age of eighteen where appropriate. While the Guidelines apply, the court may consider a child's living arrangements and post-secondary education. Contribution to post-secondary education may be ordered after consideration of several factors set forth in the Guidelines and such contribution must be considered in setting the weekly support order, if any.

More information and worksheets related to the new guidelines may be found at <http://www.mass.gov/courts/press/pr062013.html>.

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