SC-SP-03-95

SUPREME COURT OF THE NAVAJO NATION

In the Matter of the
Adoption of the
Navajo Nation Child Support Guidelines

ORDER

Before YAZZIE, Chief Justice, AUSTIN and CADMAN, Associate Justices.

Petition by Frank Seanez, Esq., Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona).

A petition for adoption of the Navajo Nation Child Support Guidelines (Guidelines) has been filed with the Court. The Court, after reviewing the Guidelines, finds as follows:

- 1) Pursuant to 7 N.T.C. § 601, the Guidelines were submitted to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Nation Prosecutor's Office, DNA-People's Legal Services, Navajo Nation Bar Association, and the Judiciary Committee of the Navajo Nation Council for their review, comment, and recommendations;
- 2) Following receipt of comment and recommendations from entities listed above, and the completion of public hearings on the Guidelines pursuant to Section 6 of the Navajo Nation Child Support Enforcement Act, the Navajo



Nation Division of Human Resources responded to the comment and recommendations, incorporated recommendations into the proposed Guidelines, and submitted them to the Court for adoption; and

- 3) The proposed Guidelines comply with the minimum requirements contained within Section 6 of the Navajo Nation Child Support Enforcement Act, in that they:
- A) take into consideration all gross income of the parents;
- B) are based on specific descriptive and numeric criteria, resulting in a computation of an amount of child support which is sufficient to meet the basic needs of a child (or children) for housing, clothing, food, education, health care, recreation, and goods and services required by physical and/or mental disability;
- C) provide for a child's (or children's) health care needs, through health insurance coverage which supplements those health care goods and services provided by the federal government, where appropriate;
- D) address the circumstances which may support a written finding on the record of a judicial or administrative proceeding for the award of child support which deviates from the Guidelines; and
 - E) provide for review and revision, where



recommendations into the final draft of the Navajo Nation Child Support Guidelines, as appropriate.

5. The Office of Navajo Women and Families shall thereafter submit the final draft of the Navajo Nation Child Support Guidelines to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court for adoption by no later than January 12, 1996.

Filed this 27th day of November, 1995.

Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation

Associate Justice

Associate Justice