

## TEXAS CHILD SUPPORT INFORMATION

The Texas Legislature enacted the following child support guidelines:

- 1 child - 20% of obligor's net resources
- 2 children - 25% of obligor's net resources
- 3 children - 30% of obligor's net resources
- 4 children - 35% of obligor's net resources

If the obligor has children other than those involved in the current divorce, special guidelines apply, taking into account all of the obligor's children. These guidelines may reduce the above percentages.

The definition of net resources is lengthy — but for most people, it means all wage and salary income and other compensation for personal services, interest, dividends, royalty income, self-employment income and net rental income, less social security, taxes and federal income tax withholding for a single person claiming on personal exemption and the standard deduction. The guidelines apply automatically to the first \$7,500 of net resources per month. When net resources are above \$7,500 per month, the couple has discretion to set additional child support, based on the needs of child. The lifestyle of the recipient of child support is not a fact in determining the amount of child support.

Except in very unusual situations, child support is now paid by wage withholding from the obligor's employer.