



OWENS PERKINS

#### Areas of Practice

Family Law  
Business Law  
Contract Law  
Civil Litigation  
Estate Planning  
Probate  
Guardianship  
Criminal & DUI  
Real Estate Law

#### Family Law

OWENS & PERKINS offers a full range of legal advice for all aspects of family law such as divorce, spousal maintenance, child custody, child support, domestic partnerships and paternity matters.

#### Attorney Spotlight

##### Michelle J. Perkins

Managing Partner  
Michelle was the 2009 recipient of the Scottsdale Bar Association prestigious Award of Excellence. She was also named one of the top 5% of Family Law Lawyers in Arizona by the Southwest Super Lawyers.



## ARIZONA HAS NEW CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

On June 1, 2011, new child support guidelines went into effect in Arizona. The new guidelines are effective for all child support orders, whether original orders or modifications of previous orders, entered after May 31, 2011, except in limited circumstances.

Pursuant to Arizona law, the Supreme Court is required to establish guidelines for determining the amount of child support a person must pay and the Supreme Court is required to review the Guidelines every four years to ensure that their application results in the determination of appropriate child support amounts. When the Supreme Court reviews the guidelines they analyze current economic data and data from the court case files.



For people filing for divorce going forward, these new Guidelines will apply. If you already have an existing child support order and you want to modify it, you must file with the Court to have it changed. The Court will not be taking any action on its own to modify your child support amount. In order to qualify for a modification, you must show the Court that the new amount of child support to be ordered is at least 15% more or 15% less than the child support that is currently ordered.

The child support guidelines are based on an Income Shares Model that was developed by the National Center for State Courts. The total child support amount approximates the amount that would have been spent on the child(ren) if the parents and child(ren) were living together. Once that total amount of child support is calculated, each parent's proportionate share is calculated and one parent is ordered to pay child support to the other.

The new Child Support Guidelines can be found on the resources tab of our web site: [www.oplaw.com](http://www.oplaw.com). We also have a link to the Supreme Court of Arizona's child support calculator.

If you would like to set up a consultation to meet with an Attorney to establish child support or review your current child support, please contact us at 480.994.8824.