

R. Mark Rogers  
Rogers Economics, Inc.  
617 Garamond Place  
Peachtree City, GA 30269  
678-364-9105

September 23, 2014

Mr. Bob Maddox  
Administrative Office of Courts  
300 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104-3741

Re: Response to Request for Proposal for evaluating a potential update for the child cost table regarding Alabama's child support guidelines, letter dated August 8, 2014

Dear Mr. Maddox:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your Request for Proposal.

#### **Proposal for Reviewing Child Cost Schedule and Comparative Analysis**

Rogers Economics, Inc. proposes the following methodologies for meeting the Selection Criteria with three alternative cost tables to consider:

1. **Develop an updated standard "Income Shares" cost table based on a 2010 study by David Betson of the University of Notre Dame.** This is the study used as a foundation for guideline reviews by most states. The child cost table would be adjusted for Alabama income tax code and be based on gross income instead of net income in the study. It should be noted that this study is based on national data and can be considered a starting point.
2. **Adjust the standard Income Shares cost table for differences between the cost of living in Alabama and the U.S. average.** The child cost table would be adjusted for the cost of living ratios for selected cities in Alabama. An average of the cities would be used.
3. **Adjust the standard Income Shares cost table for the cost of a second household.** The Betson study is based on intact family households. In child support cases, there are two households and this increases "adult overhead costs" such as for a second mortgage or rent payment and utilities. This reduces available income. Consideration of second household costs is appropriate for the presumptive cost table to be consistent with case facts.

The report would include two sets of comparisons.

The first set would be for:

- Alabama's existing child support guideline cost schedule
- The standard Income Shares cost schedule
- The standard Income Shares cost schedule with an adjustment for the cost of living in Alabama
- The standard Income Shares cost schedule with an adjustment for second households based on Alabama housing costs

A second set of comparisons would be made for child support awards in Alabama versus surrounding states. The comparisons would be for selected scenarios for income and number of children.

Miscellaneous topics would be addressed such as the impact of child-related tax benefits on net child costs.

The approaches on developing alternative child cost tables complies with the federal and state requirements that the state consider economic data when developing numeric formulas for child support awards. See 45 CFR 302.56. Additionally, it is appropriate that a legal presumption not be arbitrary. These cost tables would be based on established data.

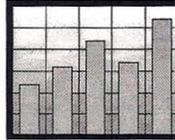
The fee for developing these alternative child cost tables and conducting the analysis is \$14,000. The final report would be completed a few months after a contract is finalized. The fee would also cover the cost of travel for making a presentation in Montgomery on the findings. The fee is reasonable. It is comparable to the fee for a 2013 study for the state of Massachusetts. The total fee was \$15,000 with Rogers Economics, Inc. a sub-contractor.

A curriculum vitae is attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Mark Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

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**Budget**

Response to Request for Proposal for evaluating a potential update for the child cost table regarding Alabama's child support guidelines, letter dated August 8, 2014

Cost of living data set	\$ 800.00
Analysis by R. Mark Rogers	\$10,400.00
Analysis and assistance by graduate student	\$ 2,500.00
Travel to Montgomery, hotel, food, and gas	\$ 300.00
Total	\$14,000.00

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## R. MARK ROGERS

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### SUMMARY

Economic consultant, specializing in litigation support for child support and alimony cases, personal economic damages, life care plans. Also, currently Senior U.S. Economist with Econoday, Inc., in charge of analysis for market moving economic indicators and Fed monetary policy. Previously, economist with over 19 years experience with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta as economist and forecaster for national and regional economies. Nationally recognized author and lecturer on economic data. Consulting experience in industry and forensic economics.

### EDUCATION

- **Vanderbilt University**, Nashville, TN - *Master of Arts in Economics, May 1982*. Awarded teaching assistantship.
- **Mercer University**, Macon, GA. - *Bachelor of Arts, June 1978*. Majors: Economics, Political Science. Minors: Mathematics, English.
- **Boston University**, Boston, MA - Alumnus of Executive Development Program, 1993.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **R. MARK ROGERS ECONOMIC CONSULTING 2000 – 2006 and ROGERS ECONOMICS, INC., 2007 TO PRESENT.**

- Litigation support as an expert on child costs and child support guidelines, alimony, personal injury damages, and projecting life care plan costs.
- Expanding on child support expertise:

Rogers has testified as an expert witness in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Rogers has consulted on child cost issues for clients in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington State, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Rogers has testified on child support issues before legislative committees in Georgia, Minnesota, Texas, and Virginia and by invitation before the U.S. Congress. He has presented to child support review commissions in Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia.

- Business applications, including revenue and demand forecasting.

**ECONODAY, INC., LAFAYETTE, CA 2006 TO PRESENT.**

- Senior U.S. economist for Econoday. In charge of providing daily analysis of market moving economic indicators for the U.S. economy. Also, Fed specialist.

**CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY, 2008 TO PRESENT**

- Adjunct instructor of economics.

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA, Economist 1981 - 2000*****Macroeconomic Team, 1983 – 2000***

- Supervised analysts for production of regular and special economic analysis and reports on national and southeastern economies.
- Assisted Corporate Planning and Human Resources Departments with various cost-estimating projects.
- Prepared Research Department forecasts for aggregate indicators such as real GDP, industrial production, employment, and consumer prices.
- Monitored the nonfinancial sector of the economy and supervised the writing of summaries for the bank president for use at Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meetings and for bi-weekly discount rate policy meetings.
- Developed econometric and non-econometric models as needed for special concerns such as for the energy sector's impact on the consumer or comparisons of recessions by sectors.
- Prepared and presented macroeconomic analysis and forecasts to rest of Research Department prior to FOMC briefings.
- Published articles for FRB-A's *Economic Review*.
- Developed and supervised the Atlanta Fed's Survey of Southeastern Manufacturing Conditions--including supervised software selection and programming.
- Acted as Bank's media representative for manufacturing survey.

***Regional Team, 1981-1983***

- Developed and maintained monthly models for economic indicators, for technical analysis of economic indicators, and for longer-term economic modeling.

- Provided briefing materials for bank president prior to FOMC and monthly Board of Directors meeting.
- Developed one-year outlook for various southeastern states.
- Developed expertise in regional construction activity and mortgage finance.
- Published articles for FRB-A's *Economic Review*.

#### OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR**, 2007 – 2014, approved State Bar of Georgia, “Georgia Income Shares Child Support Guidelines: Deviation Strategies.”
- **CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY**, Morrow, GA 1993 – 1994; 2008 to present. *Adjunct Instructor, Economics*
- **GEORGIA COMMISSION ON CHILD SUPPORT 1998. Commissioner** - Appointed by Governor to quadrennial panel mandated by Federal regulations on child support. Conducted own child cost research in addition to reviewing others' research—presented to Commission.
- **INSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**, Arlington, VA 1996 – 1997. *Lecturer* - Invited lecturer on how to use economic data to track the U.S. economy.
- **WEFA**, Philadelphia, PA 1994 – 1995. *Seminar Speaker* - Invited seminar speaker on economic data, based on book authored, published by Irwin Professional Publications.
- **EMORY UNIVERSITY**, Atlanta, GA 1991. *Adjunct Instructor, Business Forecasting (MBA program)*
- **PAYMENT SERVICES CO. (TELECHECK)**, Atlanta, GA 1991. *Co-consultant* - Redesigned statistical series tracking company's product, check approvals, for dissemination to public as marketing tool.

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- National Association for Business Economics
- National Association of Forensic Economics

#### PUBLICATIONS

- *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Economic Indicators* (Alpha Books, Oct 2009).
- "Child Support Guidelines: Underlying Methodologies, Assumptions, and the Impact on Standards of Living," co-author, Donald J. Bieniewicz, in *The Law and Economics of Child Support Payments*, William S. Comanor, ed., Edward Elgar Publishing, 2004. Previously

presented at Conference on the Law and Economics of Child Support Payments, University of California, Santa Barbara, September 20, 2002.

- “Child Cost Economics and Litigation Issues: An Introduction to Applying Cost Shares Child Support Guidelines,” with Donald J. Bieniewicz, co-author, Reading #20 in *Assessing Damages in Injuries and Deaths of Minor Children*, ed. by Thomas R. Ireland and John O. Ward, Lawyers & Judges Publishing Co., Tucson, AZ, 2002, pp. 333-380.
- "Georgia's Child Support Guidelines—No Economic Basis: Facts for a Constitutional Challenge?" State Bar of Georgia, *Family Law Section Newsletter*, July/August 2000, pp. 14-23.
- "Wisconsin-Style and Income Shares Child Support Guidelines: Excessive Burdens and Flawed Economic Foundation," *Family Law Quarterly*, Spring 1999, pp.135-156.
- *Handbook of Key Economic Indicators*, Second Edition, Chinese version, 1999, McGraw-Hill International Enterprises, Taiwan.
- *Handbook of Key Economic Indicators*, Second Edition, McGraw-Hill Professional Publishing (Burr Ridge, IL) July 1998.
- “A Primer on Short-Term Links Between Key Economic Indicators,” *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Second Quarter, 1998, pp. 40-54.
- “Tracking Manufacturing: An Update on the Survey of Southeast Manufacturing Conditions,” *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, March/April 1996, pp. 37-44.
- *Handbook of Key Economic Indicators*, Irwin Professional Publishing (Burr Ridge, IL) September 1994.
- "Consumer Prices: Examining Housing Rental Components," *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, May/June 1993, pp. 32-46, with Steven W. Henderson and Daniel H. Ginsburg, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- “CPI Forecasting Using Simple Econometric Models and Judgment,” Conference Proceedings, International Association of Business Forecasting, Ninth Annual Conference, Hilton Palacio del Rio, San Antonio, Texas, April 20, 1993, pp. 115-124.
- "Tracking Manufacturing: The Survey of Southeastern Manufacturing Conditions," *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Sep./Oct. 1992, pp.26-33.
- "Forecasting Industrial Production: Purchasing Managers' Versus Production-Worker Hours Data," *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, January/February 1992, 25-36.
- "Measuring the Personal Saving Rate: Some Technical Perspectives," *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, July/August 1990, pp. 38-49.

- “Tracking the economy: fundamentals for understanding data,” *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, March 1989, p. 30-48.
- “Improving monthly models for economic indicators: the example of an improved CPI model,” *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, September 1988, p. 34-50.
- “Effects of oil price shocks on measured GNP growth,” *Economic Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Summer 1987, p. 52-64.
- “The Adjustable Mortgage Loan: Benefits to the Consumer and to the Housing Industry,” co-authored with Gene D. Sullivan, in *Housing and the New Financial Markets*, ed. Richard L. Florida, Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers, 1986, pp. 372-386.