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- New Jersey's New Child Emancipation Law: What Do You Need To Know?



Contact:

Philadelphia

One Liberty Place
1650 Market Street, 36th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(267) 675-7085 (Office)
(267) 319-7901 (Fax)

South Jersey

457 Haddonfield Road
Suite 120
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
(856) 438-5234 (Office)
(856) 282-1159 (Fax)

Email: dgarnes@garneslaw.com

www.garneslaw.com

NEW JERSEY'S NEW CHILD EMANCIPATION LAW: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

On January 19, 2016, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie signed into law new rules concerning emancipating a child in New Jersey.

The new law, which does not take effect until February 1, 2017, establishes 19 as the age when a child support and/or medical support obligation will end. The new law allows for child and/or medical support to continue up to age 23 for cases in which the child is still in high school; attending full-time college, vocational or graduate school; or is disabled.

If you are a parent receiving child support for a child that is approaching the age of 19, you must submit a written request seeking the continuation of child support *before* the child reaches the age of 19. In support of the parent's request for continued support, the parent must provide to the court the documentation supporting the parent's request for child support to continue past the child reaching the age of 19. If the parent paying child support opposes continuing the obligation to pay child support past the child reaching the age of 19, that parent can file an application with the court opposing the continuance of the child support obligation.

Some of the reasons why child support would continue under the new law include: (1) the child is still enrolled in high school or other secondary program; (2) the child is a student in a post secondary education program and is enrolled full-time; and the child has a physical or mental disability as determined by a federal or state governmental agency.

If you are interested in seeking emancipation of your child and terminating your child support obligation, or you want to oppose an application that has been filed, or have questions regarding the process, please contact **THE LAW OFFICES OF DAVID T. GARNES, LLC**