

KEITH J. PARADIS

v.

JACKIE DOAR

Submitted on Briefs May 31, 2018  
Decided June 7, 2018

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., and ALEXANDER, GORMAN, JABAR, HJELM, and HUMPHREY, JJ.

#### MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Keith J. Paradis appeals from a judgment entered in the District Court (Ellsworth, *Budd, J.*) denying his motion to modify his child support obligation.

We review a trial court's grant or denial of a motion to modify child support for an abuse of discretion and its factual findings for clear error. *Dickens v. Boddy*, 2015 ME 81, ¶ 12, 119 A.3d 722. "The trial court is entitled to substantial deference in the determination of child support." *Holbrook v. Holbrook*, 2009 ME 80, ¶ 13, 976 A.2d 990 (quotation marks omitted). Because of the deference afforded trial courts in the arena of child support, we "will vacate the court's decision only if it violates a positive rule of law or results in a plain and unmistakable injustice, so apparent that it is instantly visible without argument." *Lee v. Maier*, 1999 ME 62, ¶ 6, 728 A.2d 154 (quotation marks omitted). The party with the burden of proof on the motion to modify has the burden on appeal "to demonstrate that the record compelled a contrary result." *Gomberg v. Gomberg*, 2015 ME 133, ¶ 9, 125 A.3d 724.

In this case, Paradis, as the party with the burden of proof on the motion to modify, has not met his burden on appeal to demonstrate that the record in this case compels a contrary result. Because we discern no error of law, abuse of discretion, or factual findings unsupported by the record evidence, we affirm the judgment of the District Court denying Paradis's motion to modify his child support obligation.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

---

Theodore M. Smith, Esq., Smith Law Office, LLC, Van Buren, for appellant Keith J. Paradis

Rosemarie Giosia, Esq., Ellsworth, for appellee Jackie Doar

Ellsworth District Court docket number FM-2013-59  
FOR CLERK REFERENCE ONLY