

Alimony

Another major issue in many divorce cases is that of alimony and alimony is an area where even a small mistake can be a very expensive mistake. Recently there have been a number of major changes in the area of alimony, effective July 1, 2010, the Governor signed into law a new statute that made several changes to the alimony laws of Florida. In the past we have left it up to our trial judges to determine what constituted a long term or a short term marriage, obviously with that much discretion there were judges all over the place trying to decide who qualified for permanent periodic alimony and who did not. The new law codifies the number of years involved in classifying marriages. Marriage of less than 7 years is short term by definition now in the Statute and that will impact the type of alimony you may qualify for. If you have a marriage more than 17 years, it is by now by definition a long term marriage and that may result in the award of permanent periodic alimony. And if you fall into the gap in the middle, more than 7 years of marriage and less than 17, the new law now creates a new type of alimony, durational alimony which is intended to apply to marriages of that length. Durational alimony is similar to permanent periodic alimony, except that it is supposed to end after a certain number of years, no longer than the term of the marriage, rather than to go on forever. With this recent change, we now have 6 types of alimony in the State of Florida and a type of alimony to fit almost any case; from temporary alimony to bridge the gap and rehabilitative alimony and then on to durational and permanent periodic. It's now possible for alimony to become an issue in virtually any case involving a divorce in the State of Florida, regardless of how long you have been married. One of the advantages to retaining the Law Firm for Family Law to represent you in your divorce is that in addition to being an attorney, I also have a Master's Degree in Business Administration and I am a certified divorce financial analyst. When we are talking about your financial future, it is essential that we have a full understanding of how various alimony alternatives may impact your financial condition, both short term and long term. At the Law Firm for Family Law we have that understanding. Please call our office today to schedule a free consultation to discuss your questions about how alimony may apply to your case.