Orders and Judgments: The Lawyer's Role

Robert C. Brandt, CFLS Ronald S. Granberg, CFLS John D. Hodson, CFLS

ACFLS 23rd Annual Spring Seminar March 20, 2015 Rancho Mirage



How to Avoid Embarrassment When Making Pendente Lite Requests

Hon. John Chemeleski Hon. Alice Vilardi

Statements of Decision: The Appellate Point of View

Justice Dennis Cornell

Judgments and Marital Settlement Agreements – It All Comes Down to This

Hon. Erick Larsh
Barbara K. Hammers, CFLS
Sherry Peterson, CFLS

Orders Across Borders

Leslie Ellen Shear, CALS, CFLS, IAML California Deputy A.G. Elaine F. Tumonis

Thoughtful Challenges to Adverse Rulings, Orders and Judgments in the Trial Court

Stephen Temko, CALS, CFLS

Ask the Judges – the Last Word on Mastering Rulings, Orders and Judgments

Garrett C. Dailey, CFLS
Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman
Hon. Thomas Trent Lewis
Hon. Mark S. Millard
Hon. Marjorie A. Slabach, Ret.

ATRO's §§233(a), 2040(a)

Protective Orders

- by noticed motion §2047(a)
 - by ex parte motion §2045

Order Requiring Payment of an Encumbrance §§2045(b), 6324

Family
Centered
Case
Resolution
Plan Order



§§2450, 2451, CRC 5.83(e)

Child Custody and Visitation §3120

Child Support §3901

Spousal Support §3600(a)

Attorney Fees and Costs §2030

Pendente Lite Property Order

"At any time during the proceeding, the court has the authority, on application of a party and for good cause, to order the **liquidation** of community or quasicommunity assets **so as to avoid unreasonable market or investment risks**, given the relative nature, scope, and extent of the community estate.

Pendente Lite Property Order (con't)

However, in no event shall the court grant the application unless, as provided in this chapter, the appropriate declaration of disclosure has been served by the moving party."

Fam. Code §2108

Epstein Credit

In-Spouse pays C/O PITI

4,800/mo

In-Spouse benefits from C/P FRV

(3,800/m0)

Community owes In-Spouse PITI in excess of FRV

1,000/mo

divided by 2 equals

Out-Spouse owes In-Spouse

500/mo

14

Watts Charge

In-Spouse benefits from C/P FRV

4,800/mo

In-Spouse pays C/O PITI

(3,800/m0)

In-Spouse owes Community FRV in excess of PITI

1,000/mo

divided by 2 equals

In-Spouse owes Out-Spouse

500/mo

15

IRMO Hebbring (1989) 207 Cal.App.3d 1260, 1272

"... the worst alternative [regarding *Epstein* reimbursement] is simply to defer the issue of reimbursement for decision by the trial judge. Although in our experience this practice is followed in many instances, it offers no help to the parties and, indeed, can be a considerable hindrance to settlement.

In re Marriage of Hebbring (con't)

[Deferring the reimbursement decision] provides no incentive to financially strapped separated spouses to make payments to creditors [and] creates a roadblock to settlement by adding one more serious issue to those already in dispute."



5 Divorce Issues

- 1.Child custody and visitation
- 2.Child support
- 3.Spousal support

- 4. Property and debts
- 5. Attorney fees and costs

Page 1 of 2

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT	TATTOPNEY (Name, State Ser number, and extress):		FL-1i
ATTORNET CATPACT WITHOUT	TATION OF PERSON AND PROPERTY.		Port Court Fall Cree
			To keep other people from
TELEPHONE NO:	FAX NO. (Optional):		To keep other people from
MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):			seeing what you entered on your form, please press the
ATTORNEY FOR (Name):			Clear This Form button at the
SUPERIOR COURT OF C	ALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF		end of the form when finished.
STREET ADDRESS:			ond of the form when inherita.
MAILING ADDRESS:			
CITY AND ZIP CODE:			
BRANCH NAME:			
MARRIAGE OR PARTNE	RSHIP OF		1
PETITIONER:			
RESPONDENT:			
REGI CHEETI.			CASE NUMBER
	JUDGMENT	_	CASE NUMBER
DISSOLUTION		NULLITY	
Status (
	ing jurisdiction over termination of marital ship status	or domestio	
	ent on recerved issues ectio partnership status ends:		
Date marital of dom	ectio partiferentip ctatus enus.		
Contested	heard as follows: Default or uncontest Agreement in court		ation under Family Code section 2336
a. Date:	Dept:	Room:	
b. Judicial officer (n		Tempora	ry ludge
		ey present in court (na	ame):
		ey present in court (na	ame):
e. Claimant p	resent in court (name):	Attorney	present in court (name):
f. Other (spe	city name):		
	risdiction of the respondent on (date):		
	ident was served with process.		
b. The respon	ndent appeared.		
UE COURT CREERS	GOOD CAUSE APPEARING		
	of dissolution is entered. Marital or domestic p ngle persons	artnership status is te	rminated and the parties are restored to t
	on (specify date):		
	on a date to be determined on noticed motion	of alther party or on	efficulation
	of legal separation is entered.	or entirer party or on	supulation.
	of nullity is entered. The parties are declared t	o be single persons o	n the ground of (specify):
		angle persons o	
a Daniel i			
	ent will be entered nunc pro tunc as of (date):		
	on reserved issues.	makes of the force of the	
	oner's respondent's former name is		
	is reserved over all other issues, and all pres ent contains provisions for child support or far		
	ent contains provisions for child support or fail ort Case Registry Form (form FL-191) within 1		
	or clase Registry Form (form FL-191) within 1 y change in the information submitted within 1		
	y change in the information submitted within 1 nd Responsibilities—Health-Care Costs and F		
	ort Order (form FL-192) is attached.	TOCO	•
om Adopted for Mandatory Use	JUDGMEN	IT.	Page 1: Family Code, 55 2004, 23

Page 2 of 2

ASE NAM	E (Last nam	e, first name of each p	ourfy):		CASENUMBER	121
I.	The childr	en of this marriage	or domestic partnership	are:		
	(1)	Name		Birthdate		
	(2) I			is relationship hom prior t		
				red as set forth in the atta		
j				gment, or other written agr		ns the information
			y Code section 3848(a)			
	(2)	Child Custody and	d Visitation Order Attaci	ment (form FL-341).		
	(3)	Stipulation and Or	rder for Custody and/or	Visitation of Children (form	1 FL-355).	
	(4)	Previously establi	shed in another case. O	ase number:	Court:	
k.	Child sup	port is ordered as s	et forth in the attached			
				ment, or other written agr	eement which contai	ns the declarations
		required by Family	y Code section 4065(a)			
	(2)		ormation and Order Atta			
	(3)	Stipulation to Esta	ablish or Modify Child S	upport and Order (form FL	-350).	
	(4)	Previously establi	shed in another case. O	ase number:	Court:	
L	Spousal, o	domestic partner, or	r family support is order	ed:		
	(1)		re determination as rela		responde	nt
	(2)	Jurisdiction termin	ated to order spousal o	r partner support to	petitioner	respondent
	(3)	As set forth in the	attached Spousal, Part	ner, or Family Support Ord	ier Attachment (form	FL-343).
				reement, stipulation for jud		
	(5)	Other (specify):				
_						
m.			s set forth in the attach			
				gment, or other written agr	reement.	
	(3)	Other (specify):	ttachment to Judgment	(form FL-345).		
	(3)	Other (specify).				
			rdered as set forth in th			
				e allached gment, or other written agr	eement	
	(2)		d Costs Order (form FL-		cemen.	
	(3)	Other (specify):				
-	Other (sp					
0.	Other (sp	ecity):				
ch attachi	ment to this	Judgment is incorp	grated into this judgmen	nt, and the parties are orde	ered to comply with e	ach attachment's
visions. J	lurisdiction	is reserved to make	other orders necessar	y to carry out this judgmen	t.	
te:					A DOOM, OFFICER	
Number	of pages at	tached:		SIGNATURE FOLL	OWS LAST ATTACHMENT	
	,.,		NO.	TICE		
ssolution	or legal se	paration may auto		ohts of a spouse or dom	estic partner under	the other spouse's
				, pay-on-death bank acco		
				ny other similar property in		
				er spouse's or domestic accounts, insurance polici		
				take any other actions.	es, remember plans,	and creat reports,
				ssolution of property and	debts, but if that part	y does not pay the
bt or oblig	gation, the o	reditor may be able	to collect from the oth	er party.		
				child, family, partner, or sp		
y party re	equired to p	ay support must pay	y interest on overdue a	mounts at the "legal rate,"	wnich is currently 10	percent.
00 Play. July	4 00000			CMENT		Page 2

4.j. to 4.n.

j.		Child custo	dy and visitation (parenting time) are ordered as set forth in the attached					
		(1)	Settlement agreement, stipulation for judgment, or other written agreement which contains the information required by Family Code section 3048(a).					
		(2)	Child Custody and Visitation Order Attachment (form FL-341).					
		(3)	Stipulation and Order for Custody and/or Visitation of Children (form FL-355).					
		(4)	Previously established in another case. Case number: Court:					
k.		Child supp	ort is ordered as set forth in the attached					
		(1)	Settlement agreement, stipulation for judgment, or other written agreement which contains the declarations required by Family Code section 4085(a).					
		(2)	Child Support Information and Order Attachment (form FL-342).					
		(3)	Stipulation to Establish or Modify Child Support and Order (form FL-350).					
		(4)	Previously established in another case. Case number: Court:					
I.		Spousal, de	omestic partner, or family support is ordered:					
		(1)	Reserved for future determination as relates to petitioner respondent					
		(2)	Jurisdiction terminated to order spousal or partner support to petitioner respondent					
		(3)	As set forth in the attached Spousal, Partner, or Family Support Order Attachment (form FL-343).					
		(4)	As set forth in the attached settlement agreement, stipulation for judgment, or other written agreement.					
		(5)	Other (specify):					
	_							
m.		·	vision is ordered as set forth in the attached					
		(1)	Settlement agreement, stipulation for judgment, or other written agreement.					
		(2)	Property Order Attachment to Judgment (form FL-345).					
		(3)	Other (specify):					
n.			es and costs are ordered as set forth in the attached					
		(1)	Settlement agreement, stipulation for judgment, or other written agreement.					
		(2)	Attorney Fees and Costs Order (form FL-348).					
		(3)	Other (specify):					

4.a.(1)

ТН	THE COURT ORDERS, GOOD CAUSE APPEARING				
4.	a.		Judgment of dissolution is entered. Marital or domestic partnership status is terminated and the parties are restored to the		
			status of single persons		
			(1) on (specify date):		
			(2) on a date to be determined on noticed motion of either party or on stipulation.		

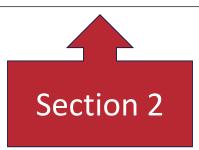
"Marital . . . status is terminated and the parties are restored to the status of single persons on (specify date)."

Joint Legal Custody Attachment

AND THE PARTY OF T
JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY ATTACHMENT
TO Petition or Application for Order Findings and Order After Hearing or Judgment Stipulation and Order for Custody and/or Visitation of Children
The parents will have joint legal custody of the minor children.
 In exercising joint legal custody, the parents will share in the responsibility and confer in good faith on matters concerning the health, education, and welfare of the children. The parents must confer in making decisions on the following matters:
 Enrollment in or leaving a particular private or public school or daycare center
b. Perticipation in particular religious activities or institutions
 Beginning or ending of psychiatric, psychological, or other mental health counseling or therapy
 Selection of a doctor, dentist, or other health professional (except in emergency situations)
Participation in extracurricular activities
f. Out-of-country or out-of-state travel g. Other rapecity).
In all other matters in exercising joint legal custody, the parents may act alone, as long as the action does not conflict with any
orders concerning the physical custody of the children.
 If a parent does not obtain the required consent of the other parent to the decisions checked in item 2: He or she may be subject to civil or criminal penalties.
b. The court may change the legal and physical custody of the minor children.
c. Other consequences (specify):
Special decision-making designation The petitioner respondent will be responsible for making decisions regarding the following issues (specify):
 Each parent will have access to the children's school, medical, and dental records and the right to consult with professionals who are providing services to the children.
5. Health-care notification
Each parent must notify the other of the name and address of each health practitioner who examines or treats the children, such notification must be made within (specify number): days of the commencement of the first such treatment or examination.
b. Each parent is authorized to take any and all actions necessary to protect the health and welfare of the children, including but not limited to consent to emergency surgical procedures or treatment. The parent authorizing such emergency treatment must notify the other parent as soon as possible of the emergency situation and of all procedures or treatment administered to the children.
 Both parents are required to administer any prescribed medications for the children.
 School notification. Each parent will be designated as a person the children's school will contact in the event of an emergency.
 Name. Neither parent will change the last name of the children or have a different name used on the children's medical, school, or other records without the written consent of the other parent.
8. Other (specify):
Print Approach to Cyderal Use JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY ATTACHMENT Face Code of Code
Austral Count of Calture JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY ATTACHMENT see addition par R. 301(6) (No. January 1, 200)

Joint Legal Custody Matters

2.	In exercising joint legal custody, the parents will share in the responsibility and confer in good faith on matters concerning the health education, and welfare of the children. The parents must confer in making decisions on the following matters:
	a. Enrollment in or leaving a particular private or public school or daycare center
	b. Participation in particular religious activities or institutions
	c. Beginning or ending of psychiatric, psychological, or other mental health counseling or therapy
	d. Selection of a doctor, dentist, or other health professional (except in emergency situations)
	e. Participation in extracurricular activities
	f. Out-of-country or out-of-state travel
	g. Other (specify):

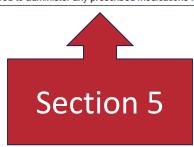


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emergency. 7. Name. Neither parent will change the lest name of the children or have a different name used on the children's medical, school, or other records without the written consent of the other parent. 8. Other (specify):
From Approach to Optional Line Joint LEGAL CUSTODY ATTACHMENT From Spring Code, § 2022, 2020 see: Address Code of Customia (A. 2010) [No. Assay 1, 2022]

Health-care Notification Rights

- 5. Health-care notification
 - Each parent must notify the other of the name and address of each health practitioner who examines or treats the children; such notification must be made within (specify number): days of the commencement of the first such treatment or examination.
 - b. Each parent is authorized to take any and all actions necessary to protect the health and welfare of the children, including but not limited to consent to emergency surgical procedures or treatment. The parent authorizing such emergency treatment must notify the other parent as soon as possible of the emergency situation and of all procedures or treatment administered to the children.
 - c. Both parents are required to administer any prescribed medications for the children.



Joint Legal Custody Attachment

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Stipulation and Order for Custody and/or Visitation of Children
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e. Perficipation in extracurricular activities
f. Out-of-country or out-of-state travel
g Other (specify):
In all other matters in exercising joint legal custody, the parents may act alone, as long as the action does not conflict with any
orders concerning the physical custody of the children.
3. If a parent does not obtain the required consent of the other parent to the decisions checked in item 2:
He or she may be subject to civil or criminal penalties.
The court may change the legal and physical custody of the minor children. Other consequences (specify):
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7. Name. Neither parent will change the last name of the children or have a different name used on the children's medical,
school, or other records without the written consent of the other parent.
8. Other (specify):
From Approach to Optimal Use DOLL TO COLOR OF STORY ATTACHMENT PRINT (COLOR \$3000, 3000
Addition County of California JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY ATTACHMENT Seem and Strike per R. 201(5) (See January 1, 200)

School Information Rights

 School notification. Each parent will be designated as a person the children's school will contact in the event of an emergency.



Child
Custody
and
Visitation

	FL-341				
PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF:	CARENUMER				
RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT:					
CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME) OF	RDER ATTACHMENT				
TO Findings and Order After Hearing (form FL-340)	Judgment (form FL-180)				
Stipulation and Order for Custody and/or Visitation of	Children (form FL-355)				
Other (specify):					
Jurisdiction. This court has jurisdiction to make child custody orders in this case und Enforcement Act (part 3 of the California Family Code, commencing with section 3400					
Notice and opportunity to be heard. The responding party was given notice and an laws of the State of California.	opportunity to be heard, as provided by the				
Country of habitual residence. The country of habitual residence of the child or child the United States other (specify):	dren in this case is				
Penalties for violating this order. If you violate this order, you may be subject to div	or criminal penalties, or both.				
Custody. Custody of the minor children of the parties is awarded as follows:					
Child's name Date of birth Legal custody to (person who risks s decisions at	Out (person with whom the child lives)				
health, education, etc.)	(person with whom the child svesy)				
Child abduction prevention. There is a risk that one of the parents will take the	e children out of California Without the other				
Visitation (parenting time)					
 Reasonable right of visitation to the party without physical custody (n 	ot appropriate in cases involving domestic				
b. See the attachedpage document.					
c. The parties will go to mediation at (specify location): d. No visitation					
e. Visitation (parenting time) for the petitioner respond	sent other (name):				
will be as follows:					
(1) Weekends starting (date):					
(1) Weekends starting (date): (The first weekend of the month is the first weekend with a Saturday.)					
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th weekend of the month					
from (day of week) at a.m. p.m.					
to (day of week) at a.m. p.m.					
(a) The parents will alternate the fifth weekends, with the other (name): having the	petitioner respondent initial fifth weekend, which starts (date):				
(b) The petitioner will have fifth weekends in did	even months.				
THIS IS A COOKT OKDER.	rigeries				
om-Approach for College Lines CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTI) Address Count of College R. 341 (Nov. July 1, 2012)	NG TIME) Ferrity Code, 95 8001, 8001, 8001, 8001, 8001, 8001, 9001, 8001, 9001, 8001, 9001, 8001, 9001, 8001				

Dividing the Week

7. Visitation (parenting time)
a. Reasonable right of visitation to the party without physical custody (not appropriate in cases involving domestic violence)
b. See the attachedpage document. c. The parties will go to mediation at (specify location):
d. No visitation
e. Visitation (parenting time) for the petitioner respondent other (name):
will be as follows:
(1) Weekends starting (date): (The first weekend of the month is the first weekend with a Saturday.)
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th weekend of the month
from at a.m. p.m.
(day of week) (time)
to at a.m. p.m.
(day of week) (time)
(a) The parents will alternate the fifth weekends, with the petitioner respondent other (name): having the initial fifth weekend, which starts (date):
(b) The petitioner will have fifth weekends in odd even months.

Section 7

Transportation for Visitation

10. Transportation for visitation a. The children must be driven only by a licensed and insured driver. The car or truck must have legal child restraint	t devices.
b. Transportation to the visits will be provided by the petitioner other (specify):	
c. Transportation from the visits will be provided by the petitioner petitioner other (specify):	
d. The exchange point at the beginning of the visit will be at (address):	
e. The exchange point at the end of the visit will be at (address):	
f. During the exchanges, the parent driving the children will wait in the car and the other parent will wait in his her home while the children go between the car and the home.	s ог
g. Other (specify):	

Section 10

Holiday Schedule

Holiday schedule. The children will spend holiday time as listed below in the attached schedule.

(Children's Holiday Schedule Attachment (form FL-341(C)) may be used for this purpose.)

Section 12

Be sure to list birthdays:
Spouse's, children & yours

Form FL-341(C)

Children's Holiday Schedule Attachment

PETITIONER:			CARE NUMBER			
RESPONDENT:						
CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ATTACHMENT						
	ation for Order Findings					
	rder for Custody and/or Visitation			ment		
Holiday parenting. The following table si				each naterific		
years-odd, even, or both ("every year")-	and under "Time" specify the startin	g and endir	g days and times.	parent s		
	Time (from when to when)	Every Y	ear Even Years	Odd Years		
	(Unless otherwise noted, all single- day holidern start at a.m.	Pathio		Petitioner/		
Holiday	and end at p.m.)	Respon	dent Respondent	Respondent		
Jenuary 1 (New Year's Day)						
Martin Luther King's Birthday (weekend) Lincoln's Birthday						
President's Day (weekend)						
Spring Break, first half						
Spring Break, second half						
Mother's Day						
Memorial Day (weekend) Father's Day						
July 4th						
Labor Day (weekend)						
Columbus Day (weekend)						
Halloween				-		
Veteran's Day (weekend) Thanksgiving Day						
Thanksgiving weekend				1		
Winter Break, first half						
Winter Break, second half						
New Year's Eve Child's birthday						
Mother's birthday				-		
Fether's birthday				1		
Breaks for year-round schools						
Summer Break, first half						
Summer Break, second half Other (specify):						
Care (apocay).				1		
			i	1		
	led above will be spent with the pare	nt who wou	id normally have that w	eekend.		
Other (specify):						
2. Vacations. The petitioner	respondent may take a vacation of	f up to /ene	cify number:	deva		
weeks with the children the follow	ving number of times per year (speci	M: -	They must notify the of	her parent in writing		
of their vacation plans a minimum of (spe-			the other parent with			
that includes dates of leaving and returning. The other parent has (specify number)				cy purposes.		
This vecation may be outside California.						
Any vecetion outside Celifornia the United States requires prior written consent of the other parent or a court order.						
c. Other (specify):				Page Lof I		
Form Approved to Optional Use CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ATTACHMENT Formity Code, 59 2023, 2003 Advant of Carthonia Action Code, 1997 Act						
The state of the s						

Pendente Lite Court Orders

The purpose of a *pendente lite* court order is to maintain the status quo of the parties during the proceedings.

In re Marriage of Askmo (2000) 85 Cal.App.4th 1032, 1038.

Calculation of a *Pendente Lite*Spousal Support Order

Pendente lite spousal support may be ordered in any amount, subject only to the payee's needs and the payor's ability to pay.

Fam. Code § 3600; *In re Marriage of Murray* (2002) 101 Cal.App.4th 581, 594.

Calculation of a *Pendente Lite*Spousal Support Order

awa ama nee pay A computer calculation can be a "valuable tool" in determining *pendente lite* spousal support.

(Farr *Mur* In re Marriage of Wittgrove (2004) 120 Cal.App.4th 1317, 1327-1328.

Calculation of a Trial Spousal Support Order

The object of a trial spousal support order – calculated pursuant to Family Code section 4320 – is to make an equitable apportionment of income between the parties.

In re Marriage of Dick (1993) 15 Cal.App.4th 144.

Calculation of *Pendente Lite* and Trial Child Support Orders

Absent special circumstances, pendente lite and trial child support orders are calculated pursuant to statewide uniform guidelines.

Fam. Code § 4052.

A *Pendente Lite* Child or Spousal Support Order Is Directly Appealable

As exceptions to the one final judgment rule, pendente lite child and spousal support orders are directly appealable – because the orders are substantially the same as final judgments in independent proceedings.

In re Marriage of Skelley (1976) 18 Cal.3d 365, 368.

A Pendente Lite Child or Spousal Support Order Is Res Judicata

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When an appealable order has not been appealed, the orde issues determined by the order are res judicata.

> *In re Matthew C.* (1993) 6 Cal.4th 386, 393.

Modification of a *Pendente Lite*Spousal Support Order

A pendente lite spousal support order may not be modified pendente lite without a material change of circumstances . . .

In re Marriage of Gruen (2011) 191 Cal.App.4th 627, 638 In re Marriage of Freitas (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 1059, 1068 In re Marriage of Biderman (1992) 5 Cal.App.4th 409, 412-413

(Contra: Zinke v. Zinke (1963) 212 Cal.App.2d 379.)

Modification of a *Pendente Lite*Spousal Support Order

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... whether the order was stipulated by the parties or decided by the court.

In re Marriage of McCann (1996) 41 Cal.App.4th 978, 982.

Collateral Attack: Not Permitted

Without a material change of circumstances, such a modification motion would be nothing more than an "impermissible collateral attack on a prior final order."

In re Marriage of Khera & Sameer (2012) 206 Cal.App.4th 1467, 1479.

A Trial Spousal Support Order Doesn't Modify the *Pendente Lite* Order

A trial spousal support order doesn't "modify" the *pendente lite* order – instead it "supersedes" the *pendente lite* order.

In re Marriage of Hamer (2000) 81 Cal.App.4th 712, 717.

Passage of Time Doesn't Justify Modification of a Spousal Support Order

Mere passage of time is not a material change of circumstances.

In re Marriage of Wilson (1975)
51 Cal.App.3d 116.
In re Marriage of Heistermann (1991)
234 Cal.App.3d 1195.

Modification of a *Pendente Lite*Child Support Order

A pendente lite child support order may not be modified pendente lite without a material change of circumstances.

Marriage of Stanton (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 547, 553

Exception: Modification Up to Guideline

"... no change of circumstances need be demonstrated to obtain a modification of the child support order to the applicable guideline level or above."

Fam. Code §4065 (d).

No Exception: Modification Down to Guideline

". . . a 'change of circumstances' must be demonstrated to obtain a downward modification of the child support order to the applicable guideline level or below."

In re Marriage of Laudeman (2001) 92 Cal.App.4th 1009, 1015

A Trial Child Support Order Doesn't Modify the *Pendente Lite* Order

A trial child support order doesn't "modify" the *pendente lite* order – instead it "supersedes" the *pendente lite* order.

In re Marriage of Hamer (2000) 81 Cal.App.4th 712, 717.

Modification of a Non-Final Child Custody Order

A child custody order that is **not final** may be modified in accordance with the **child's best interests**, without a showing of a material change of circumstances.

Keith R. v. Superior Court (2009) 174 Cal.App.4th 1047, 1054.

Modification of a Final Child Custody Order

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A **final** child custody order may **not** be modified without a showing of a material change of circumstances.

In re Marriage of Burgess (1996) 13 Cal.4th 25, 37.

(NOTE: Montenegro did not address the amicis' child development contentions.)

Property Issues: YES

"[T]he parties possess the exclusive authority to agree upon the disposition of their property. The court's only role with regard to a proper stipulated disposition of marital property is to accept the stipulation and, if requested, to incorporate the disposition into the judgment."

In re Marriage of Cream (1993) 13 Cal.App.4th 81, 91.

Child Custody/Visitation Issues: NO

"... the 'right [of parents to agree] with each other as to the custody and control of their offspring ... is subject to the control of the court ... and the court is not required to award the custody in conformity with such stipulation '"

Adoption of Matthew B. (1999) 232 Cal.App.3d 1239, 1259

Child Support Issues: NO

". . . parents cannot abridge the right of their minor child to proper support by any agreement."

> Elkind v. Byck (1968) 68 Cal.2d 453, 457

Spousal Support Issues: NO(?)

[no specific authority]

The Public Is Interested

"The public is interested in the marriage relation and the maintenance of its integrity, as it is the foundation of the social system"

Baker v Baker (1859) 13 Cal. 87, 93-94

The Government is a "Party"

"While an action to obtain a decree dissolving the relation of husband and wife is nominally an action between two parties, the state . . . is an interested party.

The Government is a "Party"

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It has been said by eminent writers upon the subject that such an action is really a triangular proceeding, in which the husband and the wife and the state are parties."

Deyoe v. Superior Court (1903) 140 Cal.App. 476, 482

Code of Civil Procedure §577

"A judgment is the final determination of the rights of the parties in an action or proceeding."



Family Code §100



"'Judgment'
and 'order'
include a
decree, as
appropriate
under the
circumstances."

Civil Code §§25, 26

Civil Code §25: "A civil action arises out of: 1. An obligation; 2. An injury."

Civil Code §26: "An obligation is a legal duty, by which one person is bound to do or not to do a certain thing, and arises from: One—Contract; or, Two—Operation of law."

Civil Code §1714(a)

"Everyone is responsible, not only for the result of his or her willful acts, but also for an injury occasioned to another by his or her want of ordinary care or skill in the management of his or her property or person"

1529: Now Chancellors are Lawyers

Beginning with
Sir Thomas Moore's 1529
appointment as Chancellor, all
Chancellors were lawyers.



1557: Now Chancery is "on the Record"

Beginning 1557, records of proceedings in the Courts of Chancery were kept. The development of equitable doctrines had begun.

17th Century Jurist – John Selden

"Equity is a roguish thing: for law we have a measure, know what to trust to; equity is according to the conscience of him that is Chancellor, and as that is larger or narrower, so is equity.

17th Century Jurist – John Selden

"Equate to treather the control of t

'Tis all one as if they should make the standard for the measure we call a foot, a Chancellor's foot; what an uncertain measure would this be? One Chancellor has a long foot, another a short foot, a third an indifferent foot: 'tis the same thing in a Chancellor's conscience."

California's Maxims of Jurisprudence

Many of Common Law's 19 "maxims of equity" are found in California's "maxims of

jurisprudence." (Civ. Code §§3509-3548.)



7th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

"In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved.

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"Family lawyers do not get the respect they deserve.

In terms of the potential breadth and complexity of issues which they face, family practitioners work in one of the most, and perhaps the most, exacting and demanding areas of concentration in the law. Under California's community property laws, every item of marital property presents a host of challenging issues.

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Not only must the family practitioner worry about the characterization and valuation of each asset, he or she often must consider future tax consequences involved in various items of community property.

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          D'Elia (1997) 58
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          Cal.App.4th 415, 418.)
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The Conclusion is Obvious:

Divorce Lawyers Rock!

The End

Robert C. Brandt Ronald S. Granberg John D. Hodson

