

Essay Question No. 6

Answer this question in booklet #6

Wanda and Harry were married in Alaska in January 2001. They have one child, Carl, born in April 2002. This is the first marriage for both parties and neither have any other children. In December 2002, Harry told Wanda he wanted a divorce, and he moved out a month later. Wanda comes to you for advice and in meeting with her you find out the following facts:

Wanda and Harry are in their early 30's. Before the marriage, Wanda worked for several years in various offices doing secretarial work. In her early 20's she went to college for two years taking a variety of courses. She did not get a degree. She became pregnant shortly after the parties married and quit working. Harry is an executive for an oil company. His take home pay in 2002, after taxes and mandatory deductions, was \$150,000. The parties lived a very comfortable lifestyle during the marriage. They traveled several times for vacation. They bought a large house. They were members of the local tennis club. After Harry moved out, Wanda looked for work to help make ends meet. Her computer skills are not current but she found a temporary secretarial job for \$15.00 an hour.

1. Assume Wanda hires you as her divorce attorney. She is short of money and you decide to file a motion asking the court to order Harry to pay Wanda's attorney fees during the litigation. Explain the standard the trial court will use to determine whether to award attorney fees to Wanda and analyze whether the motion will be successful.
2. Harry and Wanda have agreed that Carl should live with Wanda. Harry will have occasional visitation with Carl but Carl will be with Wanda 90 percent of the time. Wanda wants to know how much child support Harry will have to pay if the parties stick to this arrangement. What would you tell Wanda?
3. Wanda would like to go back to school and complete a degree. At this point she is not sure what she would like to study. She asks you what her chances are of getting the court to order Harry to pay her college tuition for a bachelor's degree. What advice can you give Wanda?