

Givens Law Group News

Welcome to our November 2011 Newsletter

The Holiday Spirit

The sights and sounds of the Holiday season all around us! It is a reminder of the joy and anticipation of the season and New Year. We at Givens Law Group know that many of our clients and others in our community may be experiencing the holidays as a difficult time of the year. We dedicate ourselves to making this bumpy ride a smoother road for those that we can help and we wish you all a safe and warm holiday season.

Questions Someone May Ask You About Divorce

What is Rehabilitative Alimony?

Rehabilitative alimony is one of the forms of support available to a spouse in a Florida divorce. It is paid by the spouse who has the greater income and it is paid to the spouse who has a temporary need for it until that spouse can get back to full earning potential.

The classic example is a situation where a spouse was a nurse before the marriage. During the marriage the couple had children and that spouse quit being a nurse in order to stay home with the children. At the time the divorce was filed, the nurse found that there was a need to go back to school for several months in order to re-qualify for the nursing license and then spend additional time finding a job back in that occupational field.

In that situation, if the other spouse is able to pay it, the court may require that the greater income earning spouse pay the nurse's schooling and living expenses until the time comes when the nurse is re-certified and fully employed. Sometimes this solution to the financial problem makes it unnecessary to require permanent periodic alimony because, once the nurse is fully employed, the incomes of the two spouses are close to equal.

In order to qualify for rehabilitative alimony, the underemployed spouse must set out a specific plan of how long the rehabilitation will take and how much the education and living expenses will be. If it takes additional time through no fault

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of the rehabilitating spouse, the court may extend the time through which the alimony will be paid. If that spouse does not make the effort to complete the rehabilitation, the court may relieve the other spouse from the obligation to continue paying.

Bottom line: If in your divorce you need funds to get back into the workplace, your Florida rehabilitative alimony lawyer may be able to help you get them.

Kim Byrd Co-Authors Article Regarding Same-Sex Marriage in Florida

Attorney Kim Byrd of Givens Law Group co-authored an article on Same-Sex Marriage in Florida which appears in the November, 2011, issue of Lawyer Magazine, the Hillsborough County Bar Association's monthly communication with its lawyers. For complete access to this article and information regarding Mr. Byrd, please go to http://www.familylawfirmflorida.com/Attorney_Profiles/O_Kim_Byrd.aspx

THANKS!

We are all extremely grateful for the referrals we have received from former clients, fellow lawyers, mental health professionals and others in our community. There is nothing more professionally humbling than knowing that people are counting on us in their life-changing family law problems.

If you ever decide that one more piece of e-mail is too much, feel free to "unsubscribe" to this newsletter at any time. We look forward to working with you to make things easier for those people you know who are having family issues and we look forward to helping you in any way we can to make your life easier.

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