



FAMILY LAW

*Written by John Stocks
Attorney at Law*

Client: In 2001, the court ordered my ex-spouse to pay me \$600 per month in child support for our 2 children and although he is timely on his payments, \$700 per month is not enough. It seems to cost much more than this each month for our 2 teenage children. What can I do?

Lawyer: Because 5+years have passed since the last court order, you should seek to adjust or modify your child support court order immediately. In fact, some attorneys and judges recommend doing this every 2 years, if not sooner, because incomes usually increase as time goes by, children change into different age brackets, and the child support schedule itself sometimes changes to reflect current costs. There are informal ways of changing the monthly obligation, such as a verbal or written agreement between parents or a Division of Child Support (DCS) Administrative order. However, these ways of changing support offer less reliability and enforceability and therefore, my recommendation is to file a Motion to Adjust Child Support or a Petition to Modify Child Support (depending on the wording of your existing, current court order). Make a copy of your Order of Child Support (w/worksheets) and see an attorney right away to discuss your options and to see if the monthly amount would increase or not.

Lawyer, John S. Stocks, answers questions posed to him by clients and/or by e-mails on the subject of FAMILY LAW.

Feel free to submit your family law question to John via e-mail. There is no charge for this and your question may appear in a future column. E-mail your question to: jstocks@vansiclen.com



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