



FAMILY LAW

*Written by John Stocks
Attorney at Law*

Client: My ex-spouse and I moved from another state and we agree that we can waive child support. Can we adjust or modify the child support in Washington? Can we make it zero?

Lawyer: Yes. You can seek to modify the child support order from any other state or in this state upon showing of changed circumstances, including changes in income, expenses, or due to the age(s) of the child(ren). When you want to modify a child support order from another state, you have to obtain a certified copy of the Decree or Order from the other state and file it in the County you reside. In Washington, the courts use a formula that accounts for two different age categories (a) 0-11 and (b) 12-18. If any of your children moved from category a to b, i.e., turned 12, then you should consult with an attorney to modify your child support. The courts usually do not allow parents to waive child support, but attorneys can draft creative language that permits a deviation downward to a minimum if the children spend an equal amount of time in each household or the order does not leave one household without sufficient funds to make ends meet.

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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