



Ask the Expert - Family Law

First in a 4-Part Series: Aspects of Separation & Divorce

#1 – Child Support

The 4 categories of issues to be resolved on separation and/or divorce are:

- Child Support
- Parenting Time & Responsibilities
- Spousal Support
- Division of Property

Child Support

The Child Support Guidelines govern how child support is calculated. First, determine your base amount using this handy online tool – enter your income, paying parent's province of residence, and number of kids: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/sup-pen/look-rech/index.asp>

Once your base support is determined, then adjustments up or down may be required. On top of the base amount, parents may still need to share children's "special expenses" such as child care, health premiums/expenses, education, and extra-curricular activities. If the children are split between both parents, or if other special circumstances apply to you, the base amount may be reduced in your case.

Lawyers use specialized software to precisely calculate child support payable. The above is over-simplified to give you a starting point. Consult your lawyer to make sure that all applicable considerations have been taken in your case.

Next month – find out about how to formalize issues on parenting time & responsibilities (aka & access).

Feel free to contact Stephanie to answer your questions or to set up a consultation.



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