FILED
AUG 26 1987
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF SUZANNE M. McCLOY AND JOHN P. McCLOY

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Upon the Petition of)
SUZANNE M. McCLOY,)
Petitioner-Appellee,) Filed August 26, 1987
And Concerning)
JOHN P McCLOY,) 7-314 / 87-221
Respondent-Appellant.)

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Clinton County (No. CD10751), James R Havercamp, Judge.

Respondent husband appeals from the decree dissolving the parties' marriage **AFFIRMED.**

Gary J. Rolfes of Mayer, Mayer, Lonergan & Rolfes, Clinton, for appellant.

J R Sokol of Sokol & Sokol, Maquoketa, for appellee.

Considered by Donielson, P.J., and Schlegel and Sackett, JJ.

PER CURIAM

Respondent husband appeals from the decree dissolving the parties' marriage. He asserts that the trial court erred in awarding the physical care of the parties' minor child to petitioner wife. He also asserts that petitioner wife's property settlement is excessive. We affirm.

Petitioner Suzanne M. McCloy and respondent John P. McCloy were married in 1982. They have one child, Anthony, born in 1984. Both Suzanne and John are 26 years of age. Suzanne is a laboratory supervisor, working regular daytime hours. John is a machine operator and works a swing shift. At the time the parties got married, Suzanne had $2,800 in savings and John had assets and savings worth over $24,000. During the marriage, the parties acquired a home and another real estate parcel, having a net value of approximately $29,000.

Our scope of review is de novo in dissolution proceedings. Iowa R. App. P 4. While we give weight to the fact findings of the trial court, especially considering the credibility of witnesses, we are not bound by them. Iowa R. App. P. 14(f)(7).

In its dissolution decree, the trial court set up a joint custody arrangement with Suzanne having the physical care of Anthony. We agree with the trial court. In child custody cases the first and governing consideration of the court must be the best interests of the children. Iowa R. App. P. 14(f)(15). The ultimate question is which parent could minister most effectively to the long-range best interests of the child. In re Marriage of Sparks, 323 N.W.2d 264, 266 (Iowa App. 1982). We find Suzanne is the parent who could most effectively minister to Anthony's long-range interests based on her past experience in exercising the most responsibility toward the child-rearing duties involved with Anthony. Anthony needs a stable and secure environment. Suzanne's regular work schedule

is more suitable for Anthony than John's constantly changing schedule. John shall be afforded liberal visitation rights as set by the trial court.

In its dissolution decree, the trial court awarded Suzanne a property settlement of $5,800. We agree with the trial court. Iowa Code section 598.21 (1985) sets forth that the court in a dissolution case should make an equitable division of the parties' property according to the criteria set forth therein. Based on this criteria, we find the trial court was correct in awarding Suzanne judgment against John in the amount of $5,800.

AFFIRMED.