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CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF THOMAS C. LAURENZO & MARSHA R. LAURENZO

Upon the Petition of	)	
THOMAS C. LAURENZO,	)	Filed November 22, 1978
Appellant,	)	
And Concerning	)	<u>691</u>
MARSHA R. LAURENZO	)	<u>2-61468</u>
Appellee.	)	

Appeal from Polk District Court - M. J. V. Hayden, Judge

Husband appeals child support and alimony provisions of divorce decree obligating him to pay \$700 per month to wife. - Affirmed in part, modified in part.

Roland D. Peddicord. & Margaret D. Sanders, of Peddicord, Simpson & Sutphin, P.C., Des Moines, for Appellant.

Robert E. Conley, of Conley, Conley & Crawford, Des Moines, for Appellee.

Submitted to Oxberger, C.J., and Donielson, Snell & Carter, JJ.

PER CURIAM

Petitioner Thomas Laurenzo appeals economic provisions of divorce decree. We affirm the award of child support and modify the alimony award to respondent Marsha Laurenzo.

At time of trial, Thomas and Marsha had been married for nine years. They have two children, ages three and six. Thomas has a degree in journalism and a net monthly income of approximately \$1180. Although Marsha is a certified teacher, her only employment at time of trial consisted of occasional sales of housewares with net income of \$28 per week.

Trial court granted custody of the children to Marsha, divided the property of the parties equally, and awarded Marsha child support of \$200 per month per child and \$300 per month alimony. The alimony payments will terminate when any of the following occur: (1) Marsha sells the home; (2) Marsha remarries; (3) the youngest child reaches 18; (4) Marsha dies; (5) Marsha becomes self supporting. Thomas contends on appeal that the child support and alimony awards are inequitable.

Since our review of the economic provisions of a divorce decree is de novo, we must decide if trial court's decision is just under all the circumstances. In re Marriage of Zoellner, 219 N.W.2d 517 (Iowa 1974). In view of Thomas' earning capacity, we affirm the award of child support under the same conditions expressed in the decree. We recognize that a mother in custody of young children who decides to stay home and care for them should be allowed to do so if this can reasonably be accomplished. An award of alimony, however, must take into account the other spouse's ability to pay. We hold that Marsha's alimony be reduced to \$240 per month and terminate, in addition to the other contingencies mentioned in the decree, in two years from the date of this decision.

Affirmed in part, modified in part.