FILED
AUG 3 0 1990
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 0-280 / 89-1516

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF DEBBI STENINGER AND DAVID STENINGER

Upon the Petition of

DEBBI STENINGER,

Petitioner-Appellee,

And Concerning

DAVID STENINGER,

Respondent-Appellant.

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Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Linn County, Ansel J. Chapman, Senior Judge.

Respondent appeals an order modifying custody. He contends he was not granted sufficient visitation with his daughter. **AFFIRMED AS MODIFIED.**

Randall B. Willman, of Leff, Leff, Leff, Haupert & Traw, Iowa City, for the appellant.

Stephen B. Jackson, Iowa City, for the appellee.

Considered by Oxberger, C.J., and Sackett and Habhab, JJ.

SACKETT, J.

This appeal from an order modifying the visitation provisions of a dissolution decree raises the sole issue of whether the trial court, in modifying the decree, allowed the father sufficient visitation. We affirm as modified.

The child, Sarah, was born in October 1983. The marriage of her parents, petitioner-appellee Debbi Steninger and respondent-appellant David Steninger was dissolved in January 1986. Debbi and David were awarded joint custody of Sarah. Debbi was awarded physical care and David was granted detailed and specific visitation rights which basically gave him two days and overnights during the week, holidays, birthdays and three weeks in the summer.

Following the dissolution, the parties both lived in the Cedar Rapids area and cooperated very well in implementing visitation. We commend them for this cooperation. David has exercised all his visitation and has a firm loving bond with his young daughter. His employment is structured in such a way that he has been able to spend considerable time with Sarah during visitation periods.

Debbi began spending periods of time in Hampton, Iowa, with a man she intends to marry. The parties cooperated to comply with the visitation provisions of the decree by meeting in Dyke, Iowa to exchange the child. It now

appears Debbi will be marrying and moving to Hampton. Both parties agreed these factors require a modification of the visitation times.

The trial court modified the decree to give David visitation every other weekend, three weeks in the summer, time at Christmas, and alternating Easters and Thanksgivings, Sarah's birthday and Father's Day. The court provided for the custody exchange at Dyke and ordered each party to bear his or her own transportation costs.

David contends he should have additional visitation in the summer and additional visitation at Christmas and Easter. Maximum contact between noncustodial parents and their children is encouraged. See In re Marriage of Muell, 408 N.W.2d 774, 776 (Iowa 1987). It is in Sarah's best interest that she be afforded liberal visitation with her father. See Muell, 408 N.W.2d at 777.

We agree with David his summer visitation should be increased. The visitation ordered by the trial court was minimal. David has a close relationship with his daughter. The structure of his business arrangement allows him to spend time with his daughter. He is aware of and intends to introduce his daughter to appropriate summertime events and activities in the Cedar Rapids area. We increase his summer visitation to six full weeks, to include and not be in addition to his regular weekend visitations during June, July and August. This will

maximize his opportunity for a close relationship. See In re Marriage of Kerber, 433 N.W.2d 53-54 (Iowa App. 1988); Petition of Deierling, 421 N.W.2d 168, 171 (Iowa App. 1988). In all other respects, we affirm the trial court's visitation award.

Debbi requests attorney fees on appeal and complains that she was not granted attorney fees at the trial court level. Debbi did not cross-appeal, consequently we do not address the issue of attorney fees at the trial court level.

We recognize attorney fees can be granted in modification matters. In this case, it was Debbi's change of circumstances that required modification. The modification will result in considerable transportation expenses for David. We note too that he cooperated in providing transportation to facilitate visitation while Debbi stayed in Hampton before the decree was modified. Under these circumstances, we find no factors to justify an attorney fee award to Debbi.

Costs on appeal are taxed one-half to each party.

AFFIRMED AS MODIFIED.