

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF GERALD LEE MELLODY
AND JEWELL MARIE MELLODY

FILED

JAN 24 1984

CLERK SUPREME COURT

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Upon the Petition of	)	
GERALD LEE MELLODY,	)	Filed January 24, 1984
Petitioner-Appellant/	)	
Cross-Appellee,	)	
And Concerning	)	
JEWELL MARIE MELLODY,	)	3-433
Respondent-Appellee/	)	83-570
Cross-Appellant.	)	

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Floyd County - Ralph F.
McCartney, Judge.

Petitioner husband and respondent wife appeal from the alimony provisions
of the parties' dissolution decree. AFFIRMED.

Judith O'Donohoe of Erb, O'Donohoe & Frye, Charles City, for petitioner-
appellant.

Ralph A. Smith of Noah & Smith, Charles City, for respondent-appellee.

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

DONIELSON, P.J.

Petitioner husband and respondent wife appeal from the alimony provisions of the parties' dissolution decree. Petitioner claims the duration of the award is excessive while respondent claims the amount is inadequate. She also requests attorney fees incurred below and on this appeal. We affirm.

Gerald and Jewell Mellody were married in 1961, when Gerald was 22 years old and Jewell was 17. The parties have two children, Jeff, and Julie, both of whom are now at least 18 years old. Gerald has worked in the grocery business all of the marriage; his gross annual income is now about \$21,000. Jewell did not work outside the home for the first seventeen years of the marriage; she now works in a plant nursery, earning \$3.75 an hour. Jewell has an eleventh grade education and no job training.

The trial court ordered Gerald to pay \$250 a month child support for Julie until she graduates from high school or, if she goes to a vocational school or college, until she reaches age 22. The trial court also ordered Gerald to pay Jewell \$150 a month alimony until his child support obligation ceases, and \$200 a month thereafter until Gerald reaches age 60, or until Jewell dies or remarries, whichever occurs first. The parties owned only personal property, and the trial court divided it and directed each party to pay his or her own debts and attorney fees.

I.

Both Gerald and Jewell have complaints about the alimony award. Gerald feels it should not extend beyond the time that he is obliged to pay child support while Jewell believes that it should be increased to \$300 per month. After considering the relevant factors listed in Iowa Code section 598.21(3), we find no reason to disturb the alimony provisions. Regarding Gerald's claim, there is little question that Jewell has a real need for long-term support considering her relative lack of education and the currently depressed job market for unskilled labor. We

also believe the amount established by the district court is equitable. Along with her current level of income, the \$200 per month will enable her to meet her expenses and financial obligations. The alimony provisions are affirmed.

II.

Jewell also requests further attorney fees incurred below as well as an award of fees incurred in this appeal. Gerald was ordered to pay \$350 for her trial attorney fees. Given the modest financial resources of both parties, we are not inclined to increase that amount. The property division with respect to the parties' savings accounts should enable Jewell to pay the rest of her fees. For similar reasons, we order each party to pay his or her own appellate attorney fees. Costs are divided equally between the parties.

AFFIRMED.