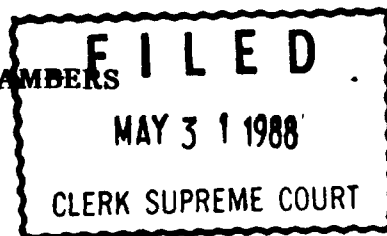


IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF BONNIE RAE CHAMBERS
AND DARRELL LEE CHAMBERS



Upon the Petition of
BONNIE RAE CHAMBERS,

Petitioner-Appellee,

And Concerning
DARRELL LEE CHAMBERS,

Respondent-Appellant.

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Filed May 31, 1988

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Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Woodbury County (No. 9727) -
Michael S. Walsh, Judge.

Respondent appeals from the economic provisions of his dissolution decree.

AFFIRMED.

P. D. (Phil) Furlong, Sioux City, for appellant.

William G. Deck, Sioux City, for appellee.

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

SACKETT, J.

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In this appeal we address Darrell Lee Chambers' challenge to the economic provisions of his dissolution decree. We affirm.

The parties were married in 1967. They have two children born in 1968 and 1971. At the time of the decree Bonnie was forty-one and Darrell was forty-seven. Darrell has a college degree and has been employed outside the home during the marriage. He earned in excess of \$30,000 a year in the five years preceding the dissolution. He has held his current position in management at Iowa Beef Processors for sixteen years. He has company benefits, including a pension plan. He has paid social security during the course of the marriage.

Bonnie was a beautician at the time of the marriage. She worked outside the home for about a year after the marriage. When the first child was born, she left the job market and assumed primary responsibility for the home and family. She did not work outside the home again until the parties' separation. In her current employment she works less than forty hours a week at minimum wage. She has made little contribution to social security. Her job provides no employee benefits.

The trial court entered a decree which granted the parties joint custody and awarded physical care to Darrell. The decree made a substantially equal division of the parties' net worth. Bonnie was awarded no alimony. Bonnie was not ordered to pay child support. Darrell was ordered to pay \$500 toward Bonnie's attorney fees. Darrell makes specific challenges to (1) the allocation of a debt, (2) the valuation of his pension as of the date of trial rather than the date of separation, (3) the awarding of attorney fees to Bonnie, and (4) the refusal of the trial court to order Bonnie to pay child support.

I.

Darrell objects to the allocation of two debts. We do not consider the allocation of a debt separately. In re Marriage of Johnson, 299 N.W.2d 466, 467 (Iowa 1980). We consider all the economic provisions as a whole in assessing the equity of the trial court's award. See In re Marriage of Jensen, 396 N.W.2d 367, 368 (Iowa App. 1986). We find the trial court's division of the parties' assets and liabilities is equitable.

II.

Darrell contends his pension should have been valued at date of separation rather than date of dissolution. We disagree. The date of trial is the only reasonable time at which an assessment of the parties' net worth can be undertaken. Locke v. Locke, 246 N.W.2d 246, 252 (Iowa 1976); Schantz v. Schantz, 163 N.W.2d 398, 405 (Iowa 1968).

III.

Darrell contends Bonnie should have been ordered to pay child support. We are considering support for one child. The older child is eighteen years of age and has completed all of her high school classroom work. She has no current plan to pursue a higher education. We recognize both parties have an obligation to their children according to their abilities. In re Marriage of Heine-mann, 309 N.W.2d 151, 153 (Iowa App. 1981). Bonnie, however, leaves the marriage at an economic disadvantage and is receiving no alimony. Darrell leaves the marriage with a good job and employee benefits. Bonnie's income is only sufficient to meet her own needs. Darrell's income is in excess of what is needed to meet his own needs and those of a child.

We find no inequity in not ordering Bonnie to pay child support. We have considered the economic provisions as a whole and find no reason to disturb

them on appeal. See In re Marriage of Byall, 353 N.W.2d 103, 107 (Iowa App. 1984).

Darrell challenges the award of \$500 in trial attorney fees to Bonnie. The award of fees rests within the trial court's discretion. In re Marriage of Estlund, 344 N.W.2d 276, 281 (Iowa App. 1983). We find Darrell has a superior ability to pay. We affirm the award.

We order Darrell to pay \$1,500 toward Bonnie's appellate attorney fees. Costs of this appeal are taxed to Darrell.

AFFIRMED.