FILED
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CLERK SUPREME COURT

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IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF SUZANNE M. ROUSSEAU & WILLIAM P. ANGRICK

Upon the Petition of)
SUZANNE M. ROUSSEAU,) Filed December 21, 1978
Appellee,)
And Concerning)
WILLIAM P. ANGRICK,) 737 / 3-61663
Appellant.)

Appeal from Polk District Court - Thomas S. Bown, Judge.

Respondent appeals dissolution decree granting custody of parties' two sons to petitioner. - Affirmed.

Leslie Babich, of Allen, Babich & Bennett, Des Moines, for Appellant.

Anna I. Shinkle, of Tesdell, Rydell, Hall & Shinkle, Des Moines, for Appellee.

Heard by Oxberger, C. J., and Snell and Carter, JJ. Donielson and Johnson, JJ., take no part.

PER CURIAM

Respondent William Angrick appeals dissolution decree which granted custody of the parties' two children to petitioner Suzanne Rousseau. We affirm.

Although our review of child custody determinations is de novo, we recognize trial court's superior position to observe the witnesses and determine their credibility. Paxton v. Paxton, 231 N.W.2d 581, 584 (Iowa 1975). This is especially appropriate in the instant case in view of the conflicting evidence presented. While it is true that William has spent a considerable amount of time with the children, his involvement with them became most concentrated following Suzanne's petition for divorce. It is undisputed that Suzanne performed the majority of child raising duties in the early years of the marriage. While Suzanne has experienced some health problems, she appeared healthy at time of trial. William does present a stable employment history and an ability to provide for the material needs of the children. The relative financial status of the parties is not, however, controlling. In re Marriage of Jennerjohn, 203 N.W.2d 237, 243 (Iowa 1972).

Suzanne has earned a college degree and has exhibited a desire to secure gainful employment. She does not deny engaging in several extra-marital relationships, but trial court found that her conduct had no detrimental effect on the children. In re Marriage of Havener, 240 N.W.2d 670, 671 (Iowa 1976). We find that both parties would be proper custodians for their children, and the record reveals no compelling reason for us to reverse the judgment of the trial court.

We affirm the dissolution decree and order William to pay $1000 towards the attorney fees incurred by Suzanne on this appeal. In re Marriage of Lochmiller, 229 N.W.2d 228, 229 (Iowa 1975).