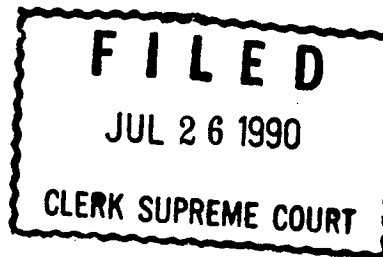


IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 0-288 / 89-1653



IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF ANGIE G. FOY AND MICHAEL LEROY FOY

Upon the Petition of ANGIE G. FOY,

Appellant,

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And Concerning MICHAEL LEROY FOY,

Appellee.

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Union County,
Richard Strickler, Judge.

Angie appeals from a district court order modifying the parties' decree of dissolution by granting the primary care of one of the parties' children, Brian, to Michael.
AFFIRMED.

Marion E. James, Creston, for appellant.

Arnold O. Kenyon III of Steffes & Kenyon, Creston, for appellee.

Heard by Schlegel, P.J., and Hayden and Sackett, JJ.

PER CURIAM

Appellant, Angie G. Foy, appeals a modification of custody decree. She contends she should have been awarded primary care of her son. She also asks for attorney fees and costs on appeal.

We review the record de novo, Iowa R. App. P. 4.

To change a custodial provision of a dissolution decree, the applying party must establish by a preponderance of evidence that conditions since the decree was entered have so materially and substantially changed that the children's best interests make it expedient to make the requested change. The changed circumstances must not have been contemplated by the court when the decree was entered, and they must be more or less permanent, not temporary. They must relate to the welfare of the children. A parent seeking to take custody from the other must prove an ability to minister more effectively to the children's well being. The heavy burden upon a party seeking to modify custody stems from the principle that once custody of children has been fixed it should be disturbed only for the most cogent reasons.

In re Marriage of Frederici, 338 N.W.2d 156, 157 (Iowa 1983). We commend both parties for the loving and caring attitudes exhibited toward their children. However, at this stage of the boy's development, his father can best administer to his needs. We see no reason to disturb the custody award made by the trial court.

We find the child support award to be equitable.

We affirm the visitation award made by the trial court.

Each party shall pay his or her own appellate attorney fees. Costs of appeal are assessed against appellant Angie Foy.

AFFIRMED.