

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 6-614 / 95-1947

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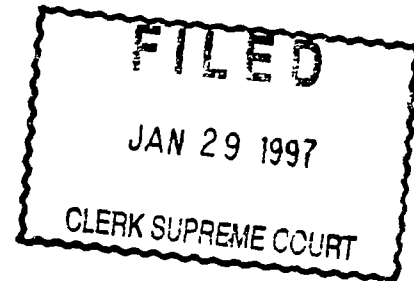
**IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF MELVIN ROY
BURTON AND BONNIE EVELYN BURTON**

**Upon the Petition of
MELVIN ROY BURTON,**

Petitioner-Appellant,

**And Concerning
BONNIE EVELYN BURTON,**

Respondent-Appellee.



Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Wapello County, Daniel P. Wilson,
Judge.

Melvin Burton appeals from the child support provision of the parties'
dissolution decree. **AFFIRMED.**

John R. Silko, Bloomfield, for appellant.

No appearance for appellee.

Considered by Sackett, P.J., Cady and Streit, JJ.

PER CURIAM

This is an appeal by a husband challenging the child support provision of the parties' dissolution decree. We affirm on appeal by memorandum opinion pursuant to Iowa Supreme Court Rule 9.

Melvin and Bonnie Burton were married in 1973. They had two children. Only the youngest child, Meghan, born in July 1978, was a minor at the time of the dissolution proceedings. During most of the marriage Melvin worked at Ideal Ready Mix. In 1994, he earned \$39,395 from this employment. Melvin quit this job in February 1995. He is currently enrolled at Indian Hills Community College studying drafting. He also works part-time at Jerry's Pro-Gas, where he earns \$600 per month. Bonnie owns Bonnie's Bar in Batavia. She has net monthly income of \$770.

On October 20, 1995, the district court issued a dissolution decree for the parties. The court granted the parties joint legal custody of Meghan, with Bonnie having primary physical care. The court based Melvin's child support obligation on his income at Ideal Ready Mix, and ordered him to pay child support of \$482 per month. Melvin now appeals.

Melvin contends his child support obligation should be based on his current income. Melvin claims he did not quit his job at Ideal Ready Mix in an effort to deprive Meghan of child support, but because the job caused him a great deal of stress. He quotes a statement by Bonnie that he had been getting very unstable, had

been drinking more, had been getting more violent, and did not seem to care about the family, as evidence that his job was too stressful.

We must determine a parent's current monthly income from the most reliable evidence presented. *In re Marriage of Powell*, 474 N.W.2d 531, 534 (Iowa 1991). A party may not claim inability to pay child support when that inability is self-inflicted or voluntary. *In re Marriage of Foley*, 501 N.W.2d 497, 500 (Iowa 1993). We find that Melvin voluntarily reduced his income by quitting his job at Ideal Ready Mix. We agree with the district court's conclusion that Melvin's child support obligation should be based on his previous income.

Melvin also asks to have the cost of health insurance for Meghan offset against his child support obligation. The child support guidelines specifically provide that medical support is not included in the monetary amount of child support. We deny Melvin's request for an offset.

We affirm the decision of the district court. Costs of this appeal are assessed to Melvin.

AFFIRMED.