IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 0-562 / 89-1761

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF RAYMOND DWAYNE ADAMS AND RHONDA JANE ADAMS

Upon the Petition of

RAYMOND DWAYNE ADAMS,

Petitioner-Appellee,

And Concerning

RHONDA JANE ADAMS,

Respondent-Appellant.

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Keokuk County, Phillip R. Collett, Judge.

Respondent appeals the custody determination and court cost assessments in her dissolution decree. **AFFIRMED.**

Thomas M. Walter of Johnson, Hester & Walter, Ottumwa, for appellant.

Randall C. Stravers of Pothoven, Blomgren & Stravers, Oskaloosa, for appellee.

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

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PER CURIAM

Respondent-appellant Rhonda Jane Adams appeals the trial court decree dissolving her marriage. She challenges (1) the award of primary custody of the parties' two children to petitioner-appellee Raymond Dwayne Adams, and (2) the taxing of expert witness fees and deposition costs. We affirm.

I.

Raymond and Rhonda were married in 1982. They are the parents of two daughters, born in February 1983 and July 1984. The dissolution decree placed the two children in joint legal custody and in Raymond's primary physical care. Both parties are loving and caring parents. Either would make an excellent custodial parent.

We have reviewed the record de novo. Iowa R. App. P. 4. The critical issue is which parent will do a better job of raising the children. In re Marriage of Ullerich, 369 N.W.2d 297, 299 (Iowa App. 1985); In re Marriage of Sparks, 323 N.W.2d 264, 266-67 (Iowa App. 1982). We look to determine the parent better able to minister to the children's long-range interests. In re Marriage of Demory, 443 N.W.2d 67, 69 (Iowa App. 1989); Neubauer v. Newcomb, 423 N.W.2d 26, 27 (Iowa App. 1988). The question is close. We find no reason to disturb the trial court's decision. We affirm the custody award.

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II.

Court costs were taxed against Raymond, except that the trial court refused to tax expert witness fees against him. Rhonda contends the trial court was prevented from refusing to tax expert witness fees. She cites us to Iowa Code section 622.72. We need not decide whether the trial court is precluded under section 622.72 from refusing to tax expert witness fees. The question is whether the court cost allocation made by the trial court is equitable. See In re Marriage of Lovetinsky, 418 N.W.2d 88, 90 (Iowa App. 1987). We consider the allocation of the costs and expert witness fees made by the trial court to be equitable. We affirm on all grounds.

AFFIRMED.