FILED
MAY 31 1979
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

JAMES THOMAS DEXTER,
Petitioner - Appellee,
vs.
JOYCE A. DEXTER,
Respondent - Appellant.

Filed May 31, 1979

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2-60753

Appeal from Scott District Court - Lowell D. Phelps, Judge.

Wife appeals economic provisions of dissolution decree. - Affirmed with modification.

Alan R. Havercamp, of Havercamp, Havercamp & Murray, Davenport, for Appellant.

Norman M. Peterson, Davenport, for Appellee.

Submitted to Oxberger, C. J., and Donielson, Snell, Carter and Johnson, JJ.

PER CURIAM

Respondent, Joyce A. Dexter, appeals economic provisions of decree dissolving her 25 year marriage to petitioner, James T. Dexter. We affirm with modification.

At the time of trial, James, age 46, was employed as a junior high school principal with an annual income of $28,911. For the preceding ten years, Joyce, 44, had worked the maximum time permitted under her two year college teaching certificate earning approximately $2100 annually. James acquired two (2) master's degrees during the marriage. The parties agreed Joyce would forego any career development during the marriage to devote herself to family duties. The trial court divided net assets of $220,000 equally between the parties, awarded Joyce $150 monthly child support, and ordered James to pay alimony for four years in the amount of $300 per month.

On our de novo review, we apply the criteria enumerated in Schantz v. Schantz, 163 N.W.2d 398, 405 (Iowa 1968) except fault. In re Marriage of Williams, 199 N.W.2d 339, 345 (Iowa 1972). We find trial court's division of property affected an equitable distribution. Because of the circumstances of the case, however, we believe a higher alimony award is warranted.

One of the goals of the parties was to provide their children with a full time mother. At the time of the decree, their daughter, Laurie, was 16 years old. "Termination of this marriage will be traumatic enough without having (her) home routine disrupted by full time job demands on (her) mother." In re Marriage of Beeh, 214 N.W.2d 170 at 175 (Iowa 1974). The record also shows that during the marriage James enhanced his education and career and accumulated pension benefits. Joyce was unable to enjoy similar opportunities. We recognize how important the years are between ages 20 and 45 for the development of one's employment potential. Joyce will need time after Laurie reaches 18 to enhance her education. Her ability to earn a sufficient income and acquire retirement benefits will be permanently affected by her 25 year absence from the labor force. Accordingly, we modify the alimony award so that Joyce will receive $400 per month for sixty (60) months from the date of the dissolution decree, then $225 per month until her remarriage or the death of either party.

Costs on appeal are taxed to the husband, James T. Dexter.

AFFIRMED WITH MODIFICATION.