Referrals Appreciated

If you know someone who needs the assistance of a family law attorney in a Harris County or Fort Bend case, please feel free to have them contact my office. My practice has been built over the years from the referrals of past clients and attorneys. I greatly appreciate those referrals and work hard to ensure that the client is well represented. I always want those who refer to me to feel confident that the case will be handled appropriately.

Quote of the Month

“A lot of people have asked me how short I am. Since my last divorce, I think I’m about $100,000 short.”

Mickey Rooney

Guideline Child Support Cap Raised

There were a number of revisions to the Texas Family Code that went into effect in the fall of 2007. The one that will impact the most people is the modification to the child support guidelines. For the first time since 1995 the maximum amount allowed under the Texas Child Support Guidelines was raised. The increase only affects high wage earners, but could certainly motivate a large number of child support payees to return to court for a modification.

Under the guidelines that were previously in effect a Court was limited to considering a payor’s first $6,000 per month of “net resources” (a statutorily defined term that is similar to after-tax pay). The amendment to this statute raised this amount to allow the court to consider up to $7,500 per month of net resources. Effectively, this means that a court setting child support under the guidelines in a case where the payor has an annual gross income of $125,000 and one child will set the amount at $1,500. Under the old statute the guidelines would have called for the child support to be set at $1,200.

It should be noted that the amendment did not automatically affect any previous orders and applies only to new divorce, paternity, or modification cases filed on or after September 1, 2007. Under the new law anyone receiving child support under an existing order who was subject to the old cap can file a

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What Do Scott Morgan’s Clients Say About Him?

“I was very satisfied with Scott’s performance regarding my divorce proceedings. I felt my options were clearly explained and he made sure I understood the process. I have in fact recommended four people to Scott for their divorce matters . . .” Shannon Parker, Houston, Texas.

*To see Shannon’s testimonial in its entirety and to see dozens of other client testimonials, visit www.HoustonDivorce.com/testimonials.html.
Houston Texans Corner

Houston Texans Corner is an ongoing column about anything I currently find interesting about the Texans or the NFL. You may be wondering why I would use valuable newsletter space to discuss something as completely unrelated to family law as football.

I have two reasons. First, I know that most people do not have a burning desire to learn or read about family law. Not too many people have divorce as a hobby. So I thought some recurring subject matter on a non-family law subject might be appreciated. Second, it’s my newsletter and I like the Texans. I occasionally get tired of “talking shop” about family law, but I never get tired of expressing my opinions about the Texans. So here goes . . .

I will reserve my official prediction until after the draft, but I am VERY optimistic about the Texans 2008 playoff chances. GM Rick Smith did a good job adding depth and filling some holes in the secondary, the offensive line, and special teams without breaking the bank, but probably the most valuable offseason addition did not involve a player.

Bringing Alex Gibbs out of retirement and adding him to the coaching staff was a tremendous coup and should pay major dividends. Gibbs is considered by many to be the greatest offensive line coach ever and the Texans running game should dramatically improve as a result of his presence. While The Texans have improved their record from 2-14 to 8-8 in the two seasons under Gary Kubiak, the running game has actually gotten a bit worse over that time frame.

You can expect that trend to reverse this year with Gibbs and for the Texans running game to become the best in their history. And when you can run the ball effectively you help out every other aspect of your game (passing game, protecting the quarterback, managing the clock, defense, etc.) and you give your team a lot better chance of winning.

Child Support Cap Raised, continued

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Modification case and petition the court to raise the child support amount based on the new statute. However, the statutory increase has no automatic retroactive effect. This means that it is incumbent on anyone who believes they should be receiving a higher amount to file a petition and request that the child support be officially raised.

Apparently cognizant of the overdue nature of the increase, the legislators included a provision requiring that the guideline cap amount be adjusted again in 2013 to reflect inflation.

Anyone who believes they may be entitled to an increased level of child support should feel free to contact my office to schedule an in-depth consultation to address the issues.