

8.2: Thinking About Child Support and Alimony.

A. CHILD SUPPORT. How much money would you receive in child support? Go to the Internet site <http://www.utcourts.gov/childsupport/calculator>. Calculate support twice, once for Sole Custody and another calculation for Joint Custody with the hypothetical amount of 115 nights. (It is easiest to just fill in line 1 with the number of children you have and then line 2a with your income and your spouse's income. Then, for line 7, the joint calculator, only choose 115 nights for the appropriate parent.) Then press calculate. If your case is more complex, you can access the directions online as well.

Remember, child support is taxed to the person paying the support. Often the amount of child support awarded by the court is not the same as the amount expected and received.

Would you have enough to provide for yourself and your family? How would you supplement your income, if needed? What does this mean for your children as far as ample visitation? Write down your thoughts here:

B. ALIMONY. Alimony is rarely given in marriages of short duration and rarely goes for longer than the length of the marriage.³¹⁹ Alimony is taxed to the person who is receiving the support and is cannot be set aside in bankruptcy.³²⁰ Men or women can pay alimony depending on which spouse is the higher wage earner and how much discrepancy there is in their incomes.³²¹ There is no set formula for alimony. Some people choose to go back to school after getting divorced. For financial aid for “displaced homemakers” (those who have devoted themselves to full-time homemaking rather than employment outside the home), contact the Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Review your answers on Exercise 7.1 F (BUDGET) or do the exercise now. After reviewing your budget, add together the expected amount of monthly income and the estimated child support paid or received. Is there a deficit? If so, how much? How will you make modifications in your budget to meet your finances? How do you feel about paying or receiving alimony? What would be a reasonable time frame? Write down your thoughts here:
