

Financial Statement Instructions

1.) The expenses should reflect the reasonable needs of you and your children. Reasonable means just that.

2.) When an expense is shared by you and your children, you should make some effort to divide the expenses between the columns.

3.) If there are expenses which, although reasonable and necessary, represent something you cannot afford at the present time because of the current economic situation, include what would be reasonable to spend for such expenses. Otherwise, the Court will not consider such expense or expenses if not on your list.

4.) Make certain that all of the expenses listed are on monthly basis. Some people have a tendency to put down some of their expenses on a monthly basis and others on a yearly, half yearly or weekly basis. If, for example, there is a yearly expense (such as auto insurance) and you are using a monthly basis, divide the expense by 12.

5.) If you do not know the exact amount of any expenditure, please, make an educated guess.

6.) I do not want you to be extravagant when you prepare this list but, by the same token, do not make up an austerity list, that is, one which represents bare-bones spending. Try to be fair and realistic. Use what you spent when you and your spouse were living together as a reasonable guide.

7.) With regard to some of the expenses, such as clothes, gas and electric bills, gasoline etc., you may be able to get some assistance from pulling out last year's bills, credit card, receipts, etc.

8.) As to expenses such as auto or medical, previous years may not reflect the needs for the current year. The expenses for last or previous years could have been higher or lower than those which you anticipate in the year or years to come. If, for example, there was a large auto or health expenditure which is not likely to reoccur, adjustments will have to be made when you figure the amount of your further needs. On the other hand, you may have an anticipated auto or health problem which will be very costly that was not experienced last year or in prior years.

If you have any questions concerning the manner in which this form is to be completed, please call my office and ask me any questions you may have about it.

It is very important that your estimate of your need and those of your children be as thorough and accurate as possible (without getting down to pennies). This document will be sent to the court and to your spouse's attorney.