

7645

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

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Introduced by M. of A. WEINSTEIN, JAFFEE, SEAWRIGHT, SIMOTAS, TITUS, WRIGHT -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, COOK, GOTTFRIED, HEVESI -- (at request of the Office of Court Administration) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the domestic relations law and the family court act, in relation to the duration and amount of maintenance and of spousal support

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Paragraph a of subdivision 1 of part B of section 236 of  
2     the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 371 of the laws of  
3     2010, is amended to read as follows:  
4     a. The term "maintenance" shall mean payments provided for in a valid  
5     agreement between the parties or awarded by the court in accordance with  
6     the provisions of subdivisions five-a and six of this part, to be paid  
7     at fixed intervals for a definite or indefinite period of time, but an  
8     award of maintenance shall terminate upon the death of either party or  
9     upon the [recipient's] PAYEE'S valid or invalid marriage, or upon  
10    modification pursuant to paragraph [(b)] B of subdivision nine of  
11    [section two hundred thirty-six of] this part or section two hundred  
12    forty-eight of this chapter.  
13    S 2. Subparagraph 7 of paragraph d of subdivision 5 of part B of  
14    section 236 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 281 of  
15    the laws of 1980 and as renumbered by chapter 229 of the laws of 2009,  
16    is amended to read as follows:  
17    (7) any equitable claim to, interest in, or direct or indirect  
18    contribution made to the acquisition of such marital property by the  
19    party not having title, including joint efforts or expenditures and  
20    contributions and services as a spouse, parent, wage earner and homemak-  
21    er, and to the career or career potential of the other party. THE COURT  
22    SHALL NOT CONSIDER AS MARITAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO DISTRIBUTION THE VALUE

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 OF A SPOUSE'S ENHANCED EARNING CAPACITY ARISING FROM A LICENSE, DEGREE,  
2 CELEBRITY GOODWILL, OR CAREER ENHANCEMENT. HOWEVER, IN ARRIVING AT AN  
3 EQUITABLE DIVISION OF MARITAL PROPERTY, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER THE  
4 DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT DURING THE MARRIAGE  
5 OF THE ENHANCED EARNING CAPACITY OF THE OTHER SPOUSE;

6 S 3. Subdivision 5-a of part B of section 236 of the domestic  
7 relations law, as added by chapter 371 of the laws of 2010, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 5-a. Temporary maintenance awards. a. Except where the parties have  
10 entered into an agreement [pursuant to subdivision three of this part]  
11 providing for maintenance PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS PART, in  
12 any matrimonial action the court, UPON APPLICATION BY A PARTY, shall  
13 make its award for temporary maintenance pursuant to the provisions of  
14 this subdivision.

15 b. For purposes of this subdivision, the following definitions shall  
16 be used:

17 (1) "Payor" shall mean the spouse with the higher income.

18 (2) "Payee" shall mean the spouse with the lower income.

19 (3) "Length of marriage" shall mean the period from the date of  
20 marriage until the date of commencement of action.

21 (4) "Income" shall mean[:

22 (a)] income as defined in the child support standards act and codified  
23 in section two hundred forty of this article and section four hundred  
24 thirteen of the family court act[; and

25 (b) income from income producing property to be distributed pursuant  
26 to subdivision five of this part] WITHOUT SUBTRACTING ALIMONY OR MAINTENANCE  
27 ACTUALLY PAID OR TO BE PAID TO A SPOUSE THAT IS A PARTY TO THE  
28 INSTANT ACTION PURSUANT TO SUBCLAUSE (C) OF CLAUSE (VII) OF SUBPARAGRAPH  
29 FIVE OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE-B OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED FORTY  
30 OF THIS ARTICLE AND SUBCLAUSE (C) OF CLAUSE (VII) OF SUBPARAGRAPH FIVE  
31 OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN OF  
32 THE FAMILY COURT ACT AND WITHOUT SUBTRACTING SPOUSAL SUPPORT PAID PURSUANT  
33 TO SECTION FOUR HUNDRED TWELVE OF SUCH ACT.

34 (5) "Income cap" shall mean up to and including [five hundred] ONE  
35 HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE thousand dollars of the payor's annual income;  
36 provided, however, beginning January thirty-first, two thousand [twelve]  
37 SIXTEEN and every two years thereafter, the [payor's annual] income CAP  
38 amount shall increase by the [product] SUM of the average annual  
39 percentage changes in the consumer price index for all urban consumers  
40 (CPI-U) as published by the United States department of labor bureau of  
41 labor statistics for the PRIOR two [year period] YEARS MULTIPLIED BY THE  
42 THEN INCOME CAP AND THEN rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars.  
43 The office of court administration shall determine and publish the  
44 income cap.

45 (6) "Guideline amount of temporary maintenance" shall mean the [sum]  
46 DOLLAR AMOUNT derived by the application of paragraph c OR D of this  
47 subdivision.

48 (7) ["Guideline duration" shall mean the durational period determined  
49 by the application of paragraph d of this subdivision] "SELF-SUPPORT  
50 RESERVE" SHALL MEAN THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE AS DEFINED IN THE CHILD  
51 SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT AND CODIFIED IN SECTION TWO HUNDRED FORTY OF THIS  
52 ARTICLE AND SECTION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN OF THE FAMILY COURT ACT.

53 (8) ["Presumptive award" shall mean the guideline amount of the tempo-  
54 rary maintenance award for the guideline duration prior to the court's  
55 application of any adjustment factors as provided in subparagraph one of  
56 paragraph e of this subdivision.

(9) "Self-support reserve" shall mean the self-support reserve as defined in the child support standards act and codified in section two hundred forty of this article and section four hundred thirteen of the family court act] "AGREEMENT" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS PART.

c. [The] WHERE THE PAYOR'S INCOME IS LOWER THAN OR EQUAL TO THE INCOME CAP, THE court shall determine the guideline amount of temporary maintenance [in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph after determining the income of the parties] AS FOLLOWS:

(1) Where [the payor's income is up to and including the income cap] CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE AND WHERE THE PAYOR AS DEFINED IN THIS SUBDIVISION IS ALSO THE NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT PURSUANT TO THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT:

(a) the court shall subtract [twenty] TWENTY-FIVE percent of the PAYEE'S income [of the payee] from [thirty] TWENTY percent of the PAYOR'S income [up to the income cap of the payor].

(b) the court shall then multiply the sum of the payor's income [up to and including the income cap] and [all of] the payee's income by forty percent.

(c) the court shall subtract the PAYEE'S income [of the payee] from the amount derived from clause (b) of this subparagraph.

(d) the COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE LOWER OF THE TWO AMOUNTS DERIVED BY CLAUSES (A) AND (C) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

(E) THE guideline amount of temporary maintenance shall be the [lower of the amounts] AMOUNT determined by [clauses (a) and (c) of this subparagraph;] CLAUSE (D) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH EXCEPT THAT, if the amount determined by clause [(c) of this subparagraph] (D) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH is less than or equal to zero, the guideline amount OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE shall be zero dollars.

(F) TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE SHALL BE CALCULATED PRIOR TO CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE THE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE SHALL BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND ADDED TO THE PAYEE'S INCOME AS PART OF THE CALCULATION OF THE CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATION.

(2) Where [the income of the payor exceeds the income cap]:

(a) the court shall determine the guideline amount of temporary maintenance for that portion of the payor's income that is up to and including the income cap according to subparagraph one of this paragraph, and, for the payor's income in excess of the income cap, the court shall determine any additional guideline amount of temporary maintenance through consideration of the following factors:

(i) the length of the marriage;

(ii) the substantial differences in the incomes of the parties;

(iii) the standard of living of the parties established during the marriage;

(iv) the age and health of the parties;

(v) the present and future earning capacity of the parties;

(vi) the need of one party to incur education or training expenses;

(vii) the wasteful dissipation of marital property;

(viii) the transfer or encumbrance made in contemplation of a matrimonial action without fair consideration;

(ix) the existence and duration of a pre-marital joint household or a pre-divorce separate household;

(x) acts by one party against another that have inhibited or continue to inhibit a party's earning capacity or ability to obtain meaningful employment. Such acts include but are not limited to acts of domestic

1 violence as provided in section four hundred fifty-nine-a of the social  
2 services law;

3 (xi) the availability and cost of medical insurance for the parties;

4 (xii) the care of the children or stepchildren, disabled adult chil-  
5 dren or stepchildren, elderly parents or in-laws that has inhibited or  
6 continues to inhibit a party's earning capacity or ability to obtain  
7 meaningful employment;

8 (xiii) the inability of one party to obtain meaningful employment due  
9 to age or absence from the workforce;

10 (xiv) the need to pay for exceptional additional expenses for the  
11 child or children, including, but not limited to, schooling, day care  
12 and medical treatment;

13 (xv) the tax consequences to each party;

14 (xvi) marital property subject to distribution pursuant to subdivision  
15 five of this part;

16 (xvii) the reduced or lost earning capacity of the party seeking  
17 temporary maintenance as a result of having foregone or delayed educa-  
18 tion, training, employment or career opportunities during the marriage;

19 (xviii) the contributions and services of the party seeking temporary  
20 maintenance as a spouse, parent, wage earner and homemaker and to the  
21 career or career potential of the other party; and

22 (xix) any other factor which the court shall expressly find to be just  
23 and proper.

24 (b) In any decision made pursuant to this subparagraph, the court  
25 shall set forth the factors it considered and the reasons for its deci-  
26 sion. Such written order may not be waived by either party or counsel.]  
27 CHILD SUPPORT WILL NOT BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE, OR WHERE  
28 CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE BUT THE PAYOR AS  
29 DEFINED IN THIS SUBDIVISION IS THE CUSTODIAL PARENT PURSUANT TO THE  
30 CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT:

31 (A) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT TWENTY PERCENT OF THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM  
32 THIRTY PERCENT OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME.

33 (B) THE COURT SHALL THEN MULTIPLY THE SUM OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND  
34 THE PAYEE'S INCOME BY FORTY PERCENT.

35 (C) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM THE AMOUNT  
36 DERIVED FROM CLAUSE (B) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

37 (D) THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE LOWER OF THE TWO AMOUNTS DERIVED BY  
38 CLAUSES (A) AND (C) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

39 (E) THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE SHALL BE THE AMOUNT  
40 DETERMINED BY CLAUSE (D) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH EXCEPT THAT, IF THE AMOUNT  
41 DETERMINED BY CLAUSE (D) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO  
42 ZERO, THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE SHALL BE ZERO  
43 DOLLARS.

44 (F) IF CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE BUT THE  
45 PAYOR AS DEFINED IN THIS SUBDIVISION IS THE CUSTODIAL PARENT PURSUANT TO  
46 THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT, TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE SHALL BE CALCU-  
47 LATED PRIOR TO CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE THE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE  
48 SHALL BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE PAYOR'S INCOME PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION  
49 AND ADDED TO THE PAYEE'S INCOME PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION AS PART OF  
50 THE CALCULATION OF THE CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATION.

51 [(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, where the  
52 guideline amount of temporary maintenance would reduce the payor's  
53 income below the self-support reserve for a single person, the presump-  
54 tive amount of the guideline amount of temporary maintenance shall be  
55 the difference between the payor's income and the self-support reserve.

1 If the payor's income is below the self-support reserve, there is a  
2 rebuttable presumption that no temporary maintenance is awarded.]

3 d. [The] WHERE THE PAYOR'S INCOME EXCEEDS THE INCOME CAP, THE court  
4 shall determine the guideline [duration] AMOUNT of temporary maintenance  
5 [by considering the length of the marriage. Temporary maintenance shall  
6 terminate upon the issuance of the final award of maintenance or the  
7 death of either party, whichever occurs first] AS FOLLOWS:

8 (1) THE COURT SHALL PERFORM THE CALCULATIONS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH C  
9 OF THIS SUBDIVISION FOR THE INCOME OF THE PAYOR UP TO AND INCLUDING THE  
10 INCOME CAP; AND

11 (2) FOR INCOME EXCEEDING THE CAP, THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE  
12 AWARDED, IF ANY, SHALL BE WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT WHICH SHALL  
13 TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FACTORS SET FORTH IN  
14 SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF PARAGRAPH H OF THIS SUBDIVISION; AND

15 (3) THE COURT SHALL SET FORTH THE FACTORS IT CONSIDERED AND THE  
16 REASONS FOR ITS DECISION IN WRITING OR ON THE RECORD. SUCH DECISION,  
17 WHETHER IN WRITING OR ON THE RECORD, MAY NOT BE WAIVED BY EITHER PARTY  
18 OR COUNSEL.

19 e. [(1) The court shall order the presumptive award of temporary main-  
20 tenance in accordance with paragraphs c and d of this subdivision,  
21 unless the court finds that the presumptive award is unjust or inappro-  
22 priate and adjusts the presumptive award of temporary maintenance  
23 accordingly based upon consideration of the following factors:

24 (a) the standard of living of the parties established during the  
25 marriage;

26 (b) the age and health of the parties;

27 (c) the earning capacity of the parties;

28 (d) the need of one party to incur education or training expenses;

29 (e) the wasteful dissipation of marital property;

30 (f) the transfer or encumbrance made in contemplation of a matrimonial  
31 action without fair consideration;

32 (g) the existence and duration of a pre-marital joint household or a  
33 pre-divorce separate household;

34 (h) acts by one party against another that have inhibited or continue  
35 to inhibit a party's earning capacity or ability to obtain meaningful  
36 employment. Such acts include but are not limited to acts of domestic  
37 violence as provided in section four hundred fifty-nine-a of the social  
38 services law;

39 (i) the availability and cost of medical insurance for the parties;

40 (j) the care of the children or stepchildren, disabled adult children  
41 or stepchildren, elderly parents or in-laws that has inhibited or  
42 continues to inhibit a party's earning capacity or ability to obtain  
43 meaningful employment;

44 (k) the inability of one party to obtain meaningful employment due to  
45 age or absence from the workforce;

46 (l) the need to pay for exceptional additional expenses for the child  
47 or children, including, but not limited to, schooling, day care and  
48 medical treatment;

49 (m) the tax consequences to each party;

50 (n) marital property subject to distribution pursuant to subdivision  
51 five of this part;

52 (o) the reduced or lost earning capacity of the party seeking tempo-  
53 rary maintenance as a result of having foregone or delayed education,  
54 training, employment or career opportunities during the marriage;

1 (p) the contributions and services of the party seeking temporary  
2 maintenance as a spouse, parent, wage earner and homemaker and to the  
3 career or career potential of the other party; and

4 (q) any other factor which the court shall expressly find to be just  
5 and proper.

6 (2) Where the court finds that the presumptive award of temporary  
7 maintenance is unjust or inappropriate and the court adjusts the  
8 presumptive award of temporary maintenance pursuant to this paragraph,  
9 the court shall set forth, in a written order, the amount of the unad-  
10 justed presumptive award of temporary maintenance, the factors it  
11 considered, and the reasons that the court adjusted the presumptive  
12 award of temporary maintenance. Such written order shall not be waived  
13 by either party or counsel.

14 (3) Where either or both parties are unrepresented, the court shall  
15 not enter a temporary maintenance order unless the unrepresented party  
16 or parties have been informed of the presumptive award of temporary  
17 maintenance] NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION, WHERE  
18 THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE WOULD REDUCE THE PAYOR'S  
19 INCOME BELOW THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE FOR A SINGLE PERSON, THE GUIDELINE  
20 AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE SHALL BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE  
21 PAYOR'S INCOME AND THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE. IF THE PAYOR'S INCOME IS  
22 BELOW THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE, THERE SHALL BE A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION  
23 THAT NO TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE IS AWARDED.

24 f. [A validly executed agreement or stipulation voluntarily entered  
25 into between the parties in an action commenced after the effective date  
26 of this subdivision presented to the court for incorporation in an order  
27 shall include a provision stating that the parties have been advised of  
28 the provisions of this subdivision, and that the presumptive award  
29 provided for therein results in the correct amount of temporary mainte-  
30 nance. In the event that such agreement or stipulation deviates from the  
31 presumptive award of temporary maintenance, the agreement or stipulation  
32 must specify the amount that such presumptive award of temporary mainte-  
33 nance would have been and the reason or reasons that such agreement or  
34 stipulation does not provide for payment of that amount. Such provision  
35 may not be waived by either party or counsel. Nothing contained in this  
36 subdivision shall be construed to alter the rights of the parties to  
37 voluntarily enter into validly executed agreements or stipulations which  
38 deviate from the presumptive award of temporary maintenance provided  
39 such agreements or stipulations comply with the provisions of this  
40 subdivision.] The court shall[, however, retain discretion with respect  
41 to temporary, and post-divorce maintenance awards pursuant to this  
42 section. Any court order incorporating a validly executed agreement or  
43 stipulation which deviates from the presumptive award of temporary main-  
44 tenance shall set forth the court's reasons for such deviation] DETER-  
45 MINE THE DURATION OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE BY CONSIDERING THE LENGTH OF  
46 THE MARRIAGE.

47 g. [When a party has defaulted and/or the court is otherwise presented  
48 with insufficient evidence to determine gross income, the court shall  
49 order the temporary maintenance award based upon the needs of the payee  
50 or the standard of living of the parties prior to commencement of the  
51 divorce action, whichever is greater. Such order may be retroactively  
52 modified upward without a showing of change in circumstances upon a  
53 showing of newly discovered or obtained evidence.] TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE  
54 SHALL TERMINATE NO LATER THAN THE ISSUANCE OF THE JUDGMENT OF DIVORCE OR  
55 THE DEATH OF EITHER PARTY, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST.

1 h. [In any action or proceeding for modification of an order of main-  
2 tenance or alimony existing prior to the effective date of this subdivi-  
3 sion, brought pursuant to this article, the temporary maintenance guide-  
4 lines set forth in this subdivision shall not constitute a change of  
5 circumstances warranting modification of such support order] (1) THE  
6 COURT SHALL ORDER THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE UP TO  
7 THE INCOME CAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH C OF THIS SUBDIVISION,  
8 UNLESS THE COURT FINDS THAT THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE IS UNJUST OR INAPPROPRIATE, WHICH FINDING SHALL BE BASED UPON  
9 CONSIDERATION OF ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS, AND ADJUSTS  
10 THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE ACCORDINGLY BASED UPON  
11 SUCH CONSIDERATION:  
12

13 (A) THE AGE AND HEALTH OF THE PARTIES;

14 (B) THE PRESENT OR FUTURE EARNING CAPACITY OF THE PARTIES, INCLUDING A  
15 HISTORY OF LIMITED PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKFORCE;

16 (C) THE NEED OF ONE PARTY TO INCUR EDUCATION OR TRAINING EXPENSES;

17 (D) THE TERMINATION OF A CHILD SUPPORT AWARD DURING THE PENDENCY OF  
18 THE TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE AWARD WHEN THE CALCULATION OF TEMPORARY MAIN-  
19 TENANCE WAS BASED UPON CHILD SUPPORT BEING AWARDED AND WHICH RESULTED IN  
20 A MAINTENANCE AWARD LOWER THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD CHILD SUPPORT NOT  
21 BEEN AWARDED;

22 (E) THE WASTEFUL DISSIPATION OF MARITAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING TRANSFERS  
23 OR ENCUMBRANCES MADE IN CONTEMPLATION OF A MATRIMONIAL ACTION WITHOUT  
24 FAIR CONSIDERATION;

25 (F) THE EXISTENCE AND DURATION OF A PRE-MARITAL JOINT HOUSEHOLD OR A  
26 PRE-DIVORCE SEPARATE HOUSEHOLD;

27 (G) ACTS BY ONE PARTY AGAINST ANOTHER THAT HAVE INHIBITED OR CONTINUE  
28 TO INHIBIT A PARTY'S EARNING CAPACITY OR ABILITY TO OBTAIN MEANINGFUL  
29 EMPLOYMENT. SUCH ACTS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO ACTS OF DOMESTIC  
30 VIOLENCE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE-A OF THE SOCIAL  
31 SERVICES LAW;

32 (H) THE AVAILABILITY AND COST OF MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR THE PARTIES;

33 (I) THE CARE OF CHILDREN OR STEPCHILDREN, DISABLED ADULT CHILDREN OR  
34 STEPCHILDREN, ELDERLY PARENTS OR IN-LAWS PROVIDED DURING THE MARRIAGE  
35 THAT INHIBITS A PARTY'S EARNING CAPACITY;

36 (J) THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO EACH PARTY;

37 (K) THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PARTIES ESTABLISHED DURING THE  
38 MARRIAGE;

39 (L) THE REDUCED OR LOST EARNING CAPACITY OF THE PAYEE AS A RESULT OF  
40 HAVING FORGONE OR DELAYED EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT OR CAREER  
41 OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE MARRIAGE; AND

42 (M) ANY OTHER FACTOR WHICH THE COURT SHALL EXPRESSLY FIND TO BE JUST  
43 AND PROPER.

44 (2) WHERE THE COURT FINDS THAT THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAIN-  
45 TENANCE IS UNJUST OR INAPPROPRIATE AND THE COURT ADJUSTS THE GUIDELINE  
46 AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COURT  
47 SHALL SET FORTH, IN A WRITTEN DECISION OR ON THE RECORD, THE GUIDELINE  
48 AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE, THE FACTORS IT CONSIDERED, AND THE  
49 REASONS THAT THE COURT ADJUSTED THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY MAIN-  
50 TENANCE. SUCH DECISION, WHETHER IN WRITING OR ON THE RECORD, SHALL NOT  
51 BE WAIVED BY EITHER PARTY OR COUNSEL.

52 (3) WHERE EITHER OR BOTH PARTIES ARE UNREPRESENTED, THE COURT SHALL  
53 NOT ENTER A TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE ORDER UNLESS THE COURT INFORMS THE  
54 UNREPRESENTED PARTY OR PARTIES OF THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY  
55 MAINTENANCE.

i. [In any decision made pursuant to] NOTHING CONTAINED IN this subdivision [the court] shall[, where appropriate, consider the effect of a barrier to remarriage, as defined in subdivision six of section two hundred fifty-three of this article, on the factors enumerated in this subdivision] BE CONSTRUED TO ALTER THE RIGHTS OF THE PARTIES TO VOLUNTARILY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS OR STIPULATIONS AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS PART WHICH DEVIATE FROM THE PRESUMPTIVE AWARD OF TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE.

J. WHEN A PAYOR HAS DEFAULTED AND/OR THE COURT IS OTHERWISE PRESENTED WITH INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO DETERMINE INCOME, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE AWARD BASED UPON THE NEEDS OF THE PAYEE OR THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PARTIES PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE DIVORCE ACTION, WHICHEVER IS GREATER. SUCH ORDER MAY BE RETROACTIVELY MODIFIED UPWARD WITHOUT A SHOWING OF CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES UPON A SHOWING OF NEWLY DISCOVERED EVIDENCE.

K. IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING FOR MODIFICATION OF AN ORDER OF MAINTENANCE OR ALIMONY EXISTING PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTING MODIFICATION OF SUCH SUPPORT ORDER.

L. IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING FOR MODIFICATION WHERE THE PARTIES HAVE ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS PART ENTERED INTO PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTING MODIFICATION OF SUCH SUPPORT ORDER.

M. IN DETERMINING TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER AND ALLOCATE, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESPECTIVE SPOUSES FOR THE FAMILY'S EXPENSES DURING THE PENDENCY OF THE PROCEEDING.

N. THE TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE ORDER SHALL NOT PREJUDICE THE RIGHTS OF EITHER PARTY REGARDING A POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE AWARD.

S 4. Subdivision 6 of part B of section 236 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 371 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

6. Post-divorce maintenance awards. a. Except where the parties have entered into an agreement pursuant to subdivision three of this part providing for maintenance, in any matrimonial action, the court [may order], UPON APPLICATION BY A PARTY, SHALL MAKE ITS AWARD FOR POST-DIVORCE maintenance [in such amount as justice requires, having regard for the standard of living of the parties established during the marriage, whether the party in whose favor maintenance is granted lacks sufficient property and income to provide for his or her reasonable needs and whether the other party has sufficient property or income to provide for the reasonable needs of the other and the circumstances of the case and of the respective parties. Such order shall be effective as of the date of the application therefor, and any retroactive amount of maintenance due shall be paid in one sum or periodic sums, as the court shall direct, taking into account any amount of temporary maintenance which has been paid. In determining the amount and duration of maintenance the court shall consider:

(1) the income and property of the respective parties including marital property distributed pursuant to subdivision five of this part;

(2) the length of the marriage;

(3) the age and health of both parties;

(4) the present and future earning capacity of both parties;

(5) the need of one party to incur education or training expenses;



1 (6) the existence and duration of a pre-marital joint household or a  
2 pre-divorce separate household;

3 (7) acts by one party against another that have inhibited or continue  
4 to inhibit a party's earning capacity or ability to obtain meaningful  
5 employment. Such acts include but are not limited to acts of domestic  
6 violence as provided in section four hundred fifty-nine-a of the social  
7 services law;

8 (8) the ability of the party seeking maintenance to become self-sup-  
9 porting and, if applicable, the period of time and training necessary  
10 therefor;

11 (9) reduced or lost lifetime earning capacity of the party seeking  
12 maintenance as a result of having foregone or delayed education, train-  
13 ing, employment, or career opportunities during the marriage;

14 (10) the presence of children of the marriage in the respective homes  
15 of the parties;

16 (11) the care of the children or stepchildren, disabled adult children  
17 or stepchildren, elderly parents or in-laws that has inhibited or  
18 continues to inhibit a party's earning capacity;

19 (12) the inability of one party to obtain meaningful employment due to  
20 age or absence from the workforce;

21 (13) the need to pay for exceptional additional expenses for the  
22 child/children, including but not limited to, schooling, day care and  
23 medical treatment;

24 (14) the tax consequences to each party;

25 (15) the equitable distribution of marital property;

26 (16) contributions and services of the party seeking maintenance as a  
27 spouse, parent, wage earner and homemaker, and to the career or career  
28 potential of the other party;

29 (17) the wasteful dissipation of marital property by either spouse;

30 (18) the transfer or encumbrance made in contemplation of a matrimoni-  
31 al action without fair consideration;

32 (19) the loss of health insurance benefits upon dissolution of the  
33 marriage, and the availability and cost of medical insurance for the  
34 parties; and

35 (20) any other factor which the court shall expressly find to be just  
36 and proper] PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

37 b. [In any decision made pursuant to this subdivision, the court shall  
38 set forth the factors it considered and the reasons for its decision and  
39 such may not be waived by either party or counsel] FOR PURPOSES OF THIS  
40 SUBDIVISION, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS SHALL BE USED:

41 (1) "PAYOR" SHALL MEAN THE SPOUSE WITH THE HIGHER INCOME.

42 (2) "PAYEE" SHALL MEAN THE SPOUSE WITH THE LOWER INCOME.

43 (3) "INCOME" SHALL MEAN:

44 (A) INCOME AS DEFINED IN THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT AND CODIFIED  
45 IN SECTION TWO HUNDRED FORTY OF THIS ARTICLE AND SECTION FOUR HUNDRED  
46 THIRTEEN OF THE FAMILY COURT ACT, WITHOUT SUBTRACTING ALIMONY OR MAINTE-  
47 NANCE ACTUALLY PAID OR TO BE PAID TO A SPOUSE THAT IS A PARTY TO THE  
48 INSTANT ACTION PURSUANT TO SUBCLAUSE (C) OF CLAUSE (VII) OF SUBPARAGRAPH  
49 FIVE OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE-B OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED FORTY  
50 OF THIS ARTICLE AND SUBCLAUSE (C) OF CLAUSE (VII) OF SUBPARAGRAPH FIVE  
51 OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN OF  
52 THE FAMILY COURT ACT AND WITHOUT SUBTRACTING SPOUSAL SUPPORT PAID PURSU-  
53 ANT TO SECTION FOUR HUNDRED TWELVE OF SUCH ACT; AND

54 (B) INCOME FROM INCOME-PRODUCING PROPERTY DISTRIBUTED OR TO BE  
55 DISTRIBUTED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FIVE OF THIS PART.

(4) "INCOME CAP" SHALL MEAN UP TO AND INCLUDING ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OF THE PAYOR'S ANNUAL INCOME; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, BEGINNING JANUARY THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN AND EVERY TWO YEARS THEREAFTER, THE INCOME CAP AMOUNT SHALL INCREASE BY THE SUM OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (CPI-U) AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS FOR THE PRIOR TWO YEARS MULTIPLIED BY THE THEN INCOME CAP AND THEN ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION SHALL DETERMINE AND PUBLISH THE INCOME CAP.

(5) "GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE" SHALL MEAN THE DOLLAR AMOUNT DERIVED BY THE APPLICATION OF PARAGRAPH C OR D OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

(6) "GUIDELINE DURATION OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE" SHALL MEAN THE DURATIONAL PERIOD DETERMINED BY THE APPLICATION OF PARAGRAPH F OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

(7) "POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE OBLIGATION" SHALL MEAN THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE AND THE GUIDELINE DURATION OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE.

(8) "LENGTH OF MARRIAGE" SHALL MEAN THE PERIOD FROM THE DATE OF MARRIAGE UNTIL THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTION.

(9) "SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE" SHALL MEAN THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE AS DEFINED IN THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT AND CODIFIED IN SECTION TWO HUNDRED FORTY OF THIS ARTICLE AND SECTION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN OF THE FAMILY COURT ACT.

(10) "AGREEMENT" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS PART.

c. [The court may award permanent maintenance, but an award of maintenance shall terminate upon the death of either party or upon the recipient's valid or invalid marriage, or upon modification pursuant to paragraph b of subdivision nine of this part or section two hundred forty-eight of this chapter] WHERE THE PAYOR'S INCOME IS LOWER THAN OR EQUAL TO THE INCOME CAP, THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) WHERE CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE AND WHERE THE PAYOR AS DEFINED IN THIS SUBDIVISION IS ALSO THE NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT PURSUANT TO THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT:

(A) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM TWENTY PERCENT OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME.

(B) THE COURT SHALL THEN MULTIPLY THE SUM OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND THE PAYEE'S INCOME BY FORTY PERCENT.

(C) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM THE AMOUNT DERIVED FROM CLAUSE (B) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

(D) THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE LOWER OF THE TWO AMOUNTS DERIVED BY CLAUSES (A) AND (C) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

(E) THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SHALL BE THE AMOUNT DETERMINED BY CLAUSE (D) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH EXCEPT THAT, IF THE AMOUNT DETERMINED BY CLAUSE (D) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO ZERO, THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SHALL BE ZERO DOLLARS.

(F) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION, WHERE THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE WOULD REDUCE THE PAYOR'S INCOME BELOW THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE FOR A SINGLE PERSON, THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SHALL BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE. IF THE PAYOR'S INCOME IS

1 BELOW THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE, THERE SHALL BE A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION  
2 THAT NO POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE IS AWARDED.

3 (G) MAINTENANCE SHALL BE CALCULATED PRIOR TO CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE THE  
4 AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE SHALL BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND  
5 ADDED TO THE PAYEE'S INCOME AS PART OF THE CALCULATION OF THE CHILD  
6 SUPPORT OBLIGATION.

7 (2) WHERE CHILD SUPPORT WILL NOT BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE,  
8 OR WHERE CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE BUT THE  
9 PAYOR AS DEFINED IN THIS SUBDIVISION IS THE CUSTODIAL PARENT PURSUANT TO  
10 THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT:

11 (A) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT TWENTY PERCENT OF THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM  
12 THIRTY PERCENT OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME.

13 (B) THE COURT SHALL THEN MULTIPLY THE SUM OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND  
14 THE PAYEE'S INCOME BY FORTY PERCENT.

15 (C) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM THE AMOUNT  
16 DERIVED FROM CLAUSE (B) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

17 (D) THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE LOWER OF THE TWO AMOUNTS DERIVED BY  
18 CLAUSES (A) AND (C) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

19 (E) THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SHALL BE THE  
20 AMOUNT DETERMINED BY CLAUSE (D) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH EXCEPT THAT, IF THE  
21 AMOUNT DETERMINED BY CLAUSE (D) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH IS LESS THAN OR  
22 EQUAL TO ZERO, THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SHALL BE  
23 ZERO DOLLARS.

24 (F) IF CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE BUT THE  
25 PAYOR AS DEFINED IN THIS SUBDIVISION IS THE CUSTODIAL PARENT PURSUANT TO  
26 THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT, POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SHALL BE  
27 CALCULATED PRIOR TO CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE THE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE  
28 MAINTENANCE SHALL BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE PAYOR'S INCOME PURSUANT TO THIS  
29 SUBDIVISION AND ADDED TO THE PAYEE'S INCOME PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION  
30 AS PART OF THE CALCULATION OF THE CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATION.

31 (G) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION, WHERE THE  
32 GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE WOULD REDUCE THE PAYOR'S  
33 INCOME BELOW THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE FOR A SINGLE PERSON, THE GUIDELINE  
34 AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SHALL BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE  
35 PAYOR'S INCOME AND THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE. IF THE PAYOR'S INCOME IS  
36 BELOW THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE, THERE SHALL BE A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION  
37 THAT NO POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE IS AWARDED.

38 d. [In any decision made pursuant to this subdivision the court shall,  
39 where appropriate, consider the effect of a barrier to remarriage, as  
40 defined in subdivision six of section two hundred fifty-three of this  
41 article, on the factors enumerated in paragraph a of this subdivision]  
42 WHERE THE PAYOR'S INCOME EXCEEDS THE INCOME CAP, THE COURT SHALL DETER-  
43 MINE THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE AS FOLLOWS:

44 (1) THE COURT SHALL PERFORM THE CALCULATIONS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH C  
45 OF THIS SUBDIVISION FOR THE INCOME OF PAYOR UP TO AND INCLUDING THE  
46 INCOME CAP; AND

47 (2) FOR INCOME EXCEEDING THE CAP, THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE  
48 AWARDED, IF ANY, SHALL BE WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT WHICH SHALL  
49 TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FACTORS SET FORTH IN  
50 SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF PARAGRAPH E OF THIS SUBDIVISION; AND

51 (3) THE COURT SHALL SET FORTH THE FACTORS IT CONSIDERED AND THE  
52 REASONS FOR ITS DECISION IN WRITING OR ON THE RECORD. SUCH DECISION,  
53 WHETHER IN WRITING OR ON THE RECORD, MAY NOT BE WAIVED BY EITHER PARTY  
54 OR COUNSEL.

55 E. (1) THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE  
56 OBLIGATION UP TO THE INCOME CAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH C OF THIS

SUBDIVISION, UNLESS THE COURT FINDS THAT THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE OBLIGATION IS UNJUST OR INAPPROPRIATE, WHICH FINDING SHALL BE BASED UPON CONSIDERATION OF ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS, AND ADJUSTS THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE OBLIGATION ACCORDINGLY BASED UPON SUCH CONSIDERATION:

(A) THE AGE AND HEALTH OF THE PARTIES;

(B) THE PRESENT OR FUTURE EARNING CAPACITY OF THE PARTIES, INCLUDING A HISTORY OF LIMITED PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKFORCE;

(C) THE NEED OF ONE PARTY TO INCUR EDUCATION OR TRAINING EXPENSES;

(D) THE TERMINATION OF A CHILD SUPPORT AWARD BEFORE THE TERMINATION OF THE MAINTENANCE AWARD WHEN THE CALCULATION OF MAINTENANCE WAS BASED UPON CHILD SUPPORT BEING AWARDED WHICH RESULTED IN A MAINTENANCE AWARD LOWER THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD CHILD SUPPORT NOT BEEN AWARDED;

(E) THE WASTEFUL DISSIPATION OF MARITAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING TRANSFERS OR ENCUMBRANCES MADE IN CONTEMPLATION OF A MATRIMONIAL ACTION WITHOUT FAIR CONSIDERATION;

(F) THE EXISTENCE AND DURATION OF A PRE-MARITAL JOINT HOUSEHOLD OR A PRE-DIVORCE SEPARATE HOUSEHOLD;

(G) ACTS BY ONE PARTY AGAINST ANOTHER THAT HAVE INHIBITED OR CONTINUE TO INHIBIT A PARTY'S EARNING CAPACITY OR ABILITY TO OBTAIN MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT. SUCH ACTS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO ACTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE-A OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES LAW;

(H) THE AVAILABILITY AND COST OF MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR THE PARTIES;

(I) THE CARE OF CHILDREN OR STEPCHILDREN, DISABLED ADULT CHILDREN OR STEPCHILDREN, ELDERLY PARENTS OR IN-LAWS PROVIDED DURING THE MARRIAGE THAT INHIBITS A PARTY'S EARNING CAPACITY;

(J) THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO EACH PARTY;

(K) THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PARTIES ESTABLISHED DURING THE MARRIAGE;

(L) THE REDUCED OR LOST EARNING CAPACITY OF THE PAYEE AS A RESULT OF HAVING FORGONE OR DELAYED EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT OR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE MARRIAGE;

(M) THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF MARITAL PROPERTY AND THE INCOME OR IMPUTED INCOME ON THE ASSETS SO DISTRIBUTED;

(N) THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICES OF THE PAYEE AS A SPOUSE, PARENT, WAGE EARNER AND HOMEMAKER AND TO THE CAREER OR CAREER POTENTIAL OF THE OTHER PARTY; AND

(O) ANY OTHER FACTOR WHICH THE COURT SHALL EXPRESSLY FIND TO BE JUST AND PROPER.

(2) WHERE THE COURT FINDS THAT THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE OBLIGATION IS UNJUST OR INAPPROPRIATE AND THE COURT ADJUSTS THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE OBLIGATION PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COURT SHALL SET FORTH, IN A WRITTEN DECISION OR ON THE RECORD, THE UNADJUSTED POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE OBLIGATION, THE FACTORS IT CONSIDERED, AND THE REASONS THAT THE COURT ADJUSTED THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE OBLIGATION. SUCH DECISION SHALL NOT BE WAIVED BY EITHER PARTY OR COUNSEL.

F. THE DURATION OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE MAY BE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE COURT MAY DETERMINE THE DURATION OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY SCHEDULE:

LENGTH OF THE MARRIAGE	PERCENT OF THE LENGTH OF THE MARRIAGE FOR WHICH MAINTENANCE WILL BE PAYABLE
0 UP TO AND INCLUDING 15 YEARS	15% - 30%

1 MORE THAN 15 UP TO AND INCLUDING 30% - 40%  
2 20 YEARS  
3 MORE THAN 20 YEARS 35% - 50%

4 (2) IN DETERMINING THE DURATION OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE, WHETHER  
5 OR NOT THE COURT UTILIZES THE ADVISORY SCHEDULE, IT SHALL CONSIDER THE  
6 FACTORS LISTED IN SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF PARAGRAPH E OF THIS SUBDIVISION  
7 AND SHALL SET FORTH, IN A WRITTEN DECISION OR ON THE RECORD, THE FACTORS  
8 IT CONSIDERED. SUCH DECISION SHALL NOT BE WAIVED BY EITHER PARTY OR  
9 COUNSEL. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL PREVENT THE COURT FROM AWARDING NON-DURA-  
10 TIONAL MAINTENANCE IN AN APPROPRIATE CASE.

11 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS PARA-  
12 GRAPH, POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SHALL TERMINATE UPON THE DEATH OF EITHER  
13 PARTY OR UPON THE PAYEE'S VALID OR INVALID MARRIAGE, OR UPON MODIFICA-  
14 TION PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH B OF SUBDIVISION NINE OF THIS PART OR SECTION  
15 TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT OF THIS ARTICLE.

16 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS PARA-  
17 GRAPH, WHEN DETERMINING DURATION OF POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE, THE COURT  
18 SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ANTICIPATED RETIREMENT ASSETS, BENEFITS,  
19 AND RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY AGE OF BOTH PARTIES IF ASCERTAINABLE AT THE  
20 TIME OF DECISION. IF NOT ASCERTAINABLE AT THE TIME OF DECISION, THE  
21 ACTUAL FULL OR PARTIAL RETIREMENT OF THE PAYOR WITH SUBSTANTIAL DIMINU-  
22 TION OF INCOME SHALL BE A BASIS FOR A MODIFICATION OF THE AWARD.

23 G. WHERE EITHER OR BOTH PARTIES ARE UNREPRESENTED, THE COURT SHALL NOT  
24 ENTER A MAINTENANCE ORDER OR JUDGMENT UNLESS THE COURT INFORMS THE  
25 UNREPRESENTED PARTY OR PARTIES OF THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE  
26 OBLIGATION.

27 H. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO ALTER  
28 THE RIGHTS OF THE PARTIES TO VOLUNTARILY ENTER INTO VALIDLY EXECUTED  
29 AGREEMENTS OR STIPULATIONS WHICH DEVIATE FROM THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE  
30 GUIDELINE OBLIGATION.

31 I. WHEN A PAYOR HAS DEFAULTED AND/OR THE COURT MAKES A FINDING AT THE  
32 TIME OF TRIAL THAT IT WAS PRESENTED WITH INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO DETER-  
33 MINE INCOME, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE BASED  
34 UPON THE NEEDS OF THE PAYEE OR THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PARTIES  
35 PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE DIVORCE ACTION, WHICHEVER IS GREATER. SUCH  
36 ORDER MAY BE RETROACTIVELY MODIFIED UPWARD WITHOUT A SHOWING OF CHANGE  
37 IN CIRCUMSTANCES UPON A SHOWING OF SUBSTANTIAL NEWLY DISCOVERED  
38 EVIDENCE.

39 J. POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE MAY BE MODIFIED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH B OF  
40 SUBDIVISION NINE OF THIS PART.

41 K. IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING FOR MODIFICATION OF AN ORDER OF MAINTENANCE  
42 OR ALIMONY EXISTING PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHAPTER OF  
43 THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN WHICH AMENDED THIS SUBDIVISION, BROUGHT  
44 PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE GUIDELINES FOR POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE  
45 SET FORTH IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A CHANGE OF CIRCUM-  
46 STANCES WARRANTING MODIFICATION OF SUCH SUPPORT ORDER.

47 L. IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING FOR MODIFICATION WHERE THE PARTIES HAVE  
48 ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE PURSUANT TO SUBDIVI-  
49 SION THREE OF THIS PART ENTERED INTO PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE  
50 CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN WHICH AMENDED THIS SUBDIVI-  
51 SION, BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE GUIDELINES FOR POST-DIVORCE  
52 MAINTENANCE SET FORTH IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A CHANGE  
53 OF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTING MODIFICATION OF SUCH AGREEMENT.

54 M. IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING FOR MODIFICATION OF AN ORDER OF MAINTENANCE  
55 OR ALIMONY EXISTING PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHAPTER OF  
56 THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN WHICH AMENDED THIS SUBDIVISION, BROUGHT

PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE GUIDELINES FOR POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPHS C, D AND E OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL NOT APPLY.

N. IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING FOR MODIFICATION WHERE THE PARTIES HAVE ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS PART ENTERED INTO PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN WHICH AMENDED THIS SUBDIVISION, BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE GUIDELINES FOR POST-DIVORCE MAINTENANCE SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPHS C, D AND E OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL NOT APPLY.

O. IN ANY DECISION MADE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION THE COURT SHALL, WHERE APPROPRIATE, CONSIDER THE EFFECT OF A BARRIER TO REMARRIAGE, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION SIX OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE, ON THE FACTORS ENUMERATED IN PARAGRAPH E OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

S 5. Subparagraph 1 of paragraph b of subdivision 9 of part B of section 236 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 182 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

(1) Upon application by either party, the court may annul or modify any prior order or judgment MADE AFTER TRIAL as to maintenance, upon a showing of the [recipient's] PAYEE'S inability to be self-supporting or UPON A SHOWING OF a substantial change in circumstance [or termination of child support awarded pursuant to section two hundred forty of this article], including financial hardship OR UPON ACTUAL FULL OR PARTIAL RETIREMENT OF THE PAYOR IF THE RETIREMENT RESULTS IN A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. Where, after the effective date of this part, [a separation] AN agreement remains in force, no modification of [a prior] AN order or judgment incorporating the terms of said agreement shall be made as to maintenance without a showing of extreme hardship on either party, in which event the judgment or order as modified shall supersede the terms of the prior agreement and judgment for such period of time and under such circumstances as the court determines. The court shall not reduce or annul any arrears of maintenance which have been reduced to final judgment pursuant to section two hundred forty-four of this article. No other arrears of maintenance which have accrued prior to the making of such application shall be subject to modification or annulment unless the defaulting party shows good cause for failure to make application for relief from the judgment or order directing such payment prior to the accrual of such arrears and the facts and circumstances constituting good cause are set forth in a written memorandum of decision. Such modification may increase maintenance nunc pro tunc as of the date of application based on newly discovered evidence. Any retroactive amount of maintenance due shall, except as provided for herein, be paid in one sum or periodic sums, as the court directs, taking into account any temporary or partial payments which have been made. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to a separation agreement made prior to the effective date of this part.

S 6. Section 248 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 604 of the laws of 1975, is amended to read as follows:

S 248. Modification of judgment or order in action for divorce or annulment. Where an action for divorce or for annulment or for a declaration of the nullity of a void marriage is brought by a [husband or wife] SPOUSE, and a final judgment of divorce or a final judgment annulling the marriage or declaring its nullity has been rendered, the court, by order upon the application of the [husband] PAYOR on notice, and on proof of the marriage of the [wife] PAYEE after such final judgment, must modify such final judgment and any orders made with respect thereto by annulling the provisions of such final judgment or orders, or

1 of both, directing payments of money for the support of the [wife]  
2 PAYEE. The court in its discretion upon application of the [husband]  
3 PAYOR on notice, upon proof that the [wife] PAYEE is habitually living  
4 with another [man] PERSON and holding HIMSELF OR herself out as [his  
5 wife] THE SPOUSE OF SUCH OTHER PERSON, although not married to such  
6 [man] OTHER PERSON, may modify such final judgment and any orders made  
7 with respect thereto by annulling the provisions of such final judgment  
8 or orders or of both, directing payment of money for the support of such  
9 [wife] PAYEE.

10 S 7. Section 412 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 281 of  
11 the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

12 S 412. Married person's duty to support spouse. 1. A married person is  
13 chargeable with the support of his or her spouse and, [if possessed of  
14 sufficient means or able to earn such means, may be required to pay for  
15 his or her support a fair and reasonable sum, as] EXCEPT WHERE THE  
16 PARTIES HAVE ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION FOUR HUNDRED  
17 TWENTY-FIVE OF THIS ARTICLE PROVIDING FOR SUPPORT, the court [may deter-  
18 mine, having due regard to the circumstances of the respective parties],  
19 UPON APPLICATION BY A PARTY, SHALL MAKE ITS AWARD FOR SPOUSAL SUPPORT  
20 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PART.

21 2. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS SHALL BE  
22 USED:

23 (A) "PAYOR" SHALL MEAN THE SPOUSE WITH THE HIGHER INCOME.

24 (B) "PAYEE" SHALL MEAN THE SPOUSE WITH THE LOWER INCOME.

25 (C) "INCOME" SHALL MEAN INCOME AS DEFINED IN THE CHILD SUPPORT STAND-  
26 ARDS ACT AND CODIFIED IN SECTION TWO HUNDRED FORTY OF THE DOMESTIC  
27 RELATIONS LAW AND SECTION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN OF THIS ARTICLE WITHOUT  
28 SUBTRACTING SPOUSAL SUPPORT ACTUALLY PAID OR TO BE PAID TO A SPOUSE THAT  
29 IS A PARTY TO THE INSTANT ACTION PURSUANT TO SUBCLAUSE (C) OF CLAUSE  
30 (VII) OF SUBPARAGRAPH FIVE OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE-B OF  
31 SECTION TWO HUNDRED FORTY OF THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS LAW AND SUBCLAUSE  
32 (C) OF CLAUSE (VII) OF SUBPARAGRAPH FIVE OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION  
33 ONE OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN OF THIS ARTICLE.

34 (D) "INCOME CAP" SHALL MEAN UP TO AND INCLUDING ONE HUNDRED  
35 SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OF THE PAYOR'S ANNUAL INCOME; PROVIDED,  
36 HOWEVER, BEGINNING JANUARY THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN AND EVERY  
37 TWO YEARS THEREAFTER, THE INCOME CAP AMOUNT SHALL INCREASE BY THE SUM OF  
38 THE AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR  
39 ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (CPI-U) AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
40 OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS FOR THE PRIOR TWO YEARS MULTIPLIED  
41 BY THE THEN INCOME CAP AND THEN ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST ONE THOUSAND  
42 DOLLARS. THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION SHALL DETERMINE AND PUBLISH  
43 THE INCOME CAP.

44 (E) "GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT" SHALL MEAN THE SUM DERIVED  
45 BY THE APPLICATION OF SUBDIVISION THREE OR FOUR OF THIS SECTION.

46 (F) "SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE" SHALL MEAN THE SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE AS  
47 DEFINED IN THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT AND CODIFIED IN SECTION TWO  
48 HUNDRED FORTY OF THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS LAW AND SECTION FOUR HUNDRED  
49 THIRTEEN OF THIS ARTICLE.

50 (G) "AGREEMENT" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION  
51 THREE OF PART B OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX OF THE DOMESTIC  
52 RELATIONS LAW.

53 3. WHERE THE PAYOR'S INCOME IS LOWER THAN OR EQUAL TO THE INCOME CAP,  
54 THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT AS  
55 FOLLOWS:

1 (A) WHERE CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE AND  
2 WHERE THE PAYOR AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION IS ALSO THE NON-CUSTODIAL  
3 PARENT PURSUANT TO THE CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT:

4 (1) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE PAYEE'S INCOME  
5 FROM TWENTY PERCENT OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME.

6 (2) THE COURT SHALL THEN MULTIPLY THE SUM OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND  
7 THE PAYEE'S INCOME BY FORTY PERCENT.

8 (3) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM THE AMOUNT  
9 DERIVED FROM SUBPARAGRAPH TWO OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

10 (4) THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE LOWER OF THE TWO AMOUNTS DERIVED BY  
11 SUBPARAGRAPHS ONE AND THREE OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

12 (5) THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT SHALL BE THE AMOUNT DETER-  
13 MINED BY SUBPARAGRAPH FOUR OF THIS PARAGRAPH EXCEPT THAT, IF THE AMOUNT  
14 DETERMINED BY SUBPARAGRAPH FOUR OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL  
15 TO ZERO, THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT SHALL BE ZERO DOLLARS.

16 (6) SPOUSAL SUPPORT SHALL BE CALCULATED PRIOR TO CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE  
17 THE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT SHALL BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE PAYOR'S  
18 INCOME AND ADDED TO THE PAYEE'S INCOME AS PART OF THE CALCULATION OF THE  
19 CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATION.

20 (B) WHERE CHILD SUPPORT WILL NOT BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE,  
21 OR WHERE CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE BUT THE  
22 PAYOR AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION IS THE CUSTODIAL PARENT PURSUANT TO THE  
23 CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT:

24 (1) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT TWENTY PERCENT OF THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM  
25 THIRTY PERCENT OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME.

26 (2) THE COURT SHALL THEN MULTIPLY THE SUM OF THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND  
27 THE PAYEE'S INCOME BY FORTY PERCENT.

28 (3) THE COURT SHALL SUBTRACT THE PAYEE'S INCOME FROM THE AMOUNT  
29 DERIVED FROM SUBPARAGRAPH TWO OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

30 (4) THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE LOWER OF AMOUNTS DERIVED BY SUBPARA-  
31 GRAPHS ONE AND THREE OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

32 (5) THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT SHALL BE THE AMOUNT DETER-  
33 MINED BY SUBPARAGRAPH FOUR OF THIS PARAGRAPH EXCEPT THAT, IF THE AMOUNT  
34 DETERMINED BY SUBPARAGRAPH FOUR OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL  
35 TO ZERO, THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT SHALL BE ZERO DOLLARS.

36 (6) IF CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE PAID FOR CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE BUT THE  
37 PAYOR AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION IS THE CUSTODIAL PARENT PURSUANT TO THE  
38 CHILD SUPPORT STANDARDS ACT, SPOUSAL SUPPORT SHALL BE CALCULATED PRIOR  
39 TO CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE THE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT SHALL BE  
40 SUBTRACTED FROM THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND ADDED TO THE PAYEE'S INCOME AS  
41 PART OF THE CALCULATION OF THE CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATION.

42 4. WHERE THE PAYOR'S INCOME EXCEEDS THE INCOME CAP, THE COURT SHALL  
43 DETERMINE THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT AS FOLLOWS:

44 (A) THE COURT SHALL PERFORM THE CALCULATIONS SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION  
45 THREE OF THIS SECTION FOR THE INCOME OF THE PAYOR UP TO AND INCLUDING  
46 THE INCOME CAP; AND

47 (B) FOR INCOME EXCEEDING THE CAP, THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL SPOUSAL  
48 SUPPORT AWARDED, IF ANY, SHALL BE WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT  
49 WHICH SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FACTORS SET  
50 FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION SIX OF THIS SECTION; AND

51 (C) THE COURT SHALL SET FORTH THE FACTORS IT CONSIDERED AND THE  
52 REASONS FOR ITS DECISION IN WRITING OR ON THE RECORD. SUCH DECISION,  
53 WHETHER IN WRITING OR ON THE RECORD, MAY NOT BE WAIVED BY EITHER PARTY  
54 OR COUNSEL.

55 5. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, WHERE THE GUIDELINE  
56 AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT WOULD REDUCE THE PAYOR'S INCOME BELOW THE



1 SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE FOR A SINGLE PERSON, THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUS-  
2 AL SUPPORT SHALL BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PAYOR'S INCOME AND THE  
3 SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE. IF THE PAYOR'S INCOME IS BELOW THE SELF-SUPPORT  
4 RESERVE, THERE SHALL BE A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION THAT NO SPOUSAL SUPPORT  
5 IS AWARDED.

6 6. (A) THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT  
7 UP TO THE CAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION,  
8 UNLESS THE COURT FINDS THAT THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT IS  
9 UNJUST OR INAPPROPRIATE, WHICH FINDING SHALL BE BASED UPON CONSIDERATION  
10 OF ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS, AND ADJUSTS THE GUIDELINE  
11 AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT ACCORDINGLY BASED UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE  
12 FOLLOWING FACTORS:

13 (1) THE AGE AND HEALTH OF THE PARTIES;

14 (2) THE PRESENT OR FUTURE EARNING CAPACITY OF THE PARTIES, INCLUDING A  
15 HISTORY OF LIMITED PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKFORCE;

16 (3) THE NEED OF ONE PARTY TO INCUR EDUCATION OR TRAINING EXPENSES;

17 (4) THE TERMINATION OF A CHILD SUPPORT AWARD DURING THE PENDENCY OF  
18 THE SPOUSAL SUPPORT AWARD WHEN THE CALCULATION OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT WAS  
19 BASED UPON CHILD SUPPORT BEING AWARDED WHICH RESULTED IN A SPOUSAL  
20 SUPPORT AWARD LOWER THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD CHILD SUPPORT NOT BEEN  
21 AWARDED;

22 (5) THE WASTEFUL DISSIPATION OF MARITAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING TRANSFERS  
23 OR ENCUMBRANCES MADE IN CONTEMPLATION OF A SUPPORT PROCEEDING WITHOUT  
24 FAIR CONSIDERATION;

25 (6) THE EXISTENCE AND DURATION OF A PRE-MARITAL JOINT HOUSEHOLD OR A  
26 PRE-SUPPORT PROCEEDINGS SEPARATE HOUSEHOLD;

27 (7) ACTS BY ONE PARTY AGAINST ANOTHER THAT HAVE INHIBITED OR CONTINUE  
28 TO INHIBIT A PARTY'S EARNING CAPACITY OR ABILITY TO OBTAIN MEANINGFUL  
29 EMPLOYMENT. SUCH ACTS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO ACTS OF DOMESTIC  
30 VIOLENCE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE-A OF THE SOCIAL  
31 SERVICES LAW;

32 (8) THE AVAILABILITY AND COST OF MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR THE PARTIES;

33 (9) THE CARE OF CHILDREN OR STEPCHILDREN, DISABLED ADULT CHILDREN OR  
34 STEPCHILDREN, ELDERLY PARENTS OR IN-LAWS PROVIDED DURING THE MARRIAGE  
35 THAT INHIBITS A PARTY'S EARNING CAPACITY;

36 (10) THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO EACH PARTY;

37 (11) THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PARTIES ESTABLISHED DURING THE  
38 MARRIAGE;

39 (12) THE REDUCED OR LOST EARNING CAPACITY OF THE PAYEE AS A RESULT OF  
40 HAVING FORGONE OR DELAYED EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT OR CAREER  
41 OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE MARRIAGE;

42 (13) THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICES OF THE PAYEE AS A SPOUSE, PARENT,  
43 WAGE EARNER AND HOMEMAKER AND TO THE CAREER OR CAREER POTENTIAL OF THE  
44 OTHER PARTY;

45 (14) ANY OTHER FACTOR WHICH THE COURT SHALL EXPRESSLY FIND TO BE JUST  
46 AND PROPER.

47 (B) WHERE THE COURT FINDS THAT THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT  
48 IS UNJUST OR INAPPROPRIATE AND THE COURT ADJUSTS THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF  
49 SPOUSAL SUPPORT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION, THE COURT SHALL SET FORTH,  
50 IN A WRITTEN DECISION OR ON THE RECORD, THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL  
51 SUPPORT, THE FACTORS IT CONSIDERED, AND THE REASONS THAT THE COURT  
52 ADJUSTED THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT. SUCH DECISION, WHETHER  
53 IN WRITING OR ON THE RECORD, SHALL NOT BE WAIVED BY EITHER PARTY OR  
54 COUNSEL.

1 (C) WHERE EITHER OR BOTH PARTIES ARE UNREPRESENTED, THE COURT SHALL  
2 NOT ENTER A SPOUSAL SUPPORT ORDER UNLESS THE COURT INFORMS THE UNREPRE-  
3 SENTED PARTY OR PARTIES OF THE GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT.

4 7. WHEN A PARTY HAS DEFAULTED AND/OR THE COURT MAKES A FINDING AT THE  
5 TIME OF TRIAL THAT IT WAS PRESENTED WITH INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO DETER-  
6 MINE INCOME, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE SPOUSAL SUPPORT AWARD BASED UPON  
7 THE NEEDS OF THE PAYEE OR THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PARTIES PRIOR TO  
8 COMMENCEMENT OF THE SPOUSAL SUPPORT PROCEEDING, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.  
9 SUCH ORDER MAY BE RETROACTIVELY MODIFIED UPWARD WITHOUT A SHOWING OF  
10 CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES UPON A SHOWING OF SUBSTANTIAL NEWLY DISCOVERED  
11 EVIDENCE.

12 8. IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING FOR MODIFICATION OF AN ORDER OF SPOUSAL  
13 SUPPORT EXISTING PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHAPTER OF THE LAWS  
14 OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN WHICH AMENDED THIS SECTION, BROUGHT PURSUANT TO  
15 THIS ARTICLE, THE SPOUSAL SUPPORT GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION  
16 SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTING MODIFICATION  
17 OF SUCH SPOUSAL SUPPORT ORDER.

18 9. IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING FOR MODIFICATION WHERE SPOUSAL SUPPORT  
19 OR MAINTENANCE WAS ESTABLISHED IN A WRITTEN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR  
20 SPOUSAL SUPPORT MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE OF  
21 THIS ARTICLE OR MADE PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION THREE OF PART B OF SECTION  
22 TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX OF THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS LAW ENTERED INTO PRIOR  
23 TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN  
24 WHICH AMENDED THIS SECTION, BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE SPOUS-  
25 AL SUPPORT GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A  
26 CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTING MODIFICATION OF SUCH SPOUSAL SUPPORT  
27 ORDER.

28 10. THE COURT MAY MODIFY AN ORDER OF SPOUSAL SUPPORT UPON A SHOWING OF  
29 A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES. UNLESS SO MODIFIED, ANY ORDER FOR  
30 SPOUSAL SUPPORT ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL THE  
31 EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE FOLLOWING:

32 (A) A WRITTEN STIPULATION OR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES;

33 (B) AN ORAL STIPULATION OR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES ENTERED INTO  
34 ON THE RECORD IN OPEN COURT;

35 (C) ISSUANCE OF A JUDGMENT OF DIVORCE OR OTHER ORDER IN A MATRIMONIAL  
36 PROCEEDING;

37 (D) THE DEATH OF EITHER PARTY.

38 S 8. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
39 it shall have become a law and shall apply to matrimonial actions and  
40 family court actions for spousal support commenced on or after such  
41 effective date; provided however that section three of this act shall  
42 take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law and  
43 shall apply to matrimonial actions commenced on or after such effective  
44 date. Nothing in this act shall be deemed to affect the validity of any  
45 agreement made pursuant to subdivision 3 of part B of section 236 of the  
46 domestic relations law or section 425 of the family court act prior to  
47 the effective date of this act.