



Family Law

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YOUR EX DOES!

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The short answer is, if you separate today, given the current discrepancies in your incomes you probably will be required to pay spousal support. Spousal support is designed to equalize the post separation net disposable incomes [after tax incomes] of the two of you, and a number of factors come into play, among them the length of the marriage/relationship, and the age of the recipient party at the date of separation. Other factors include an ability to work, mental or physical disability if any, and age of the children. Sometimes the recipient spouse moves out of the matrimonial home and the

other party pays their half of the mortgage, house insurance, and property taxes, such payments being counted towards the spousal support owed.

Spousal support can be structured in many different ways: you can consult with a family lawyer, and figure out together what the current likely support scenario will look like, and what a lump sum spousal support offer will look like. Other options include annual review, an automatic review upon a material change such as your retirement, or support for a fixed number of years.

Your friends at Shank Law.



Roxanne C. Shank
LAWYER

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My wife and I have been married for a long time-29 years. She retired early and I am still working. My employment income is more than her pension income, and she tells me I am going to have to pay spousal support. I do not think this is fair, as when we were both working our incomes were the same. Do I have to pay spousal support if we split?



Phone: 705-435-5055
Email: lynn@shanklawoffice.com
Web: shanklawoffice.com

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