

Alimony

Spousal support, more commonly known as alimony, is money paid to a former spouse to assist him or her following the divorce. In some situations, one spouse can be ordered to pay the other during the course of the divorce. Like other financial issues in divorce, spousal support can be extremely complex and contentious, so it is in your best interest to have a knowledgeable attorney guiding you on your rights and responsibilities.

My name is Carla D. Franklin, a Gainesville alimony lawyer with nearly 30 years of legal experience in Alachua County. I can assist you with all issues related to the four types of alimony in Florida:

- "Bridge the gap" alimony
- Rehabilitative alimony
- Durational alimony
- Permanent alimony

Any of these different forms of alimony can be awarded on their own, or in combination with other forms of alimony. The court also has discretion over whether alimony is paid in periodic payments or in a lump sum.

Will Alimony Be Awarded?

In order for an alimony award to be a possibility, two conditions must be met: A spouse must be judged to have the need for an alimony award, and the other spouse must have the financial ability to pay alimony. Once that threshold has been met, the court will examine a number of factors to determine the type or types of

alimony that are most appropriate for the situation, primarily:

- The length of the marriage
- The standard of living the couple enjoyed during the marriage
- The financial wherewithal of each party
- Each party's contribution to the marriage
- The earnings potential, education, vocational skills and employability of each party

Protecting Your Financial Interests

Every case is unique, and it is important to make sure that your side of the situation is understood when alimony is being considered. Whether it is in your best interest to reach an alimony settlement with your spouse or pursue your rights in a contested trial, I will provide you with attentive representation focused on reaching the optimum solution for you.

Contact my Gainesville, Florida office today to arrange your initial consultation with me.