SYNDICATE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

ALIMONY / SPOUSAL SUPPORT

Syndicate Legal Advisory Services – *Alimony / Spousal Support*

SYNDICATE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

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Alimony is the financial support that one partner supplies the other after a marriage falls apart. Generally, the higher-earning party pays the lower-earning party for a set period. Though it may vary from state-to-state, the generally accepted legal term for these payments is **Spousal Support**. Payments can start before the divorce is final in the form of ***Temporary Spousal Support*** and can also be ordered in connection with **Domestic Violence Cases**.

Though it varies from state-to-state, the overall goal shared by all states is to ensure that both parties are able to be self-supporting within a reasonable period. Alimony, or Spousal Support, payments are structured so that the lesser-earning spouse has the resources they need to cover their cost of living.

Monthly payments are typical, but most states have other options as well, such as lump-sum payments.

FACT: The law does not assume that Spousal Support is required. Instead, a spouse must request Alimony / Spousal Support during the court proceedings. A judge will then take into account the requirements set forth in that state's family law to decide how much and how long support will be required. Couples can also negotiate spousal support between themselves; however, a judge will still need to approve the final agreement.

Also, a party paying or receiving spousal support should consult with a tax expert to discuss the potential tax implications.

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