

# Alimony Reform

January 2017

- 83 year old Joe Shaluly has been paying alimony to his ex-wife for 38 years. At 78, his business failed, he couldn't make the full payment, and he went to jail. Now Joe has cancer and is in danger of losing his home.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Marsha Ihrig's husband sought reduced alimony in Dec 2015. Instead, the court said Marsha should pay as well, although her husband was not held to be underemployed. The court ruled it "has discretion to consider a party's new spouses's income in determining the party's alimony."

*Alimony Reform =  
Fairness for All*

## Alimony Reform is Overdue in South Carolina

### A National Movement

State after state across the nation has recognized the need for alimony reform. In South Carolina, the matter has been studied in detail over several years and much discussed in committee. The bills produced with the input of family court attorneys have been carefully crafted to leave judges discretion, while giving them more options. This will provide both parties an equitable path to move on after divorce.

### Did You Know?

- Permanent alimony is the most commonly awarded form of alimony in SC.
- South Carolinians married for as little as 2 years pay permanent alimony.
- The average alimony payment is around 1/3 of the payor's income; some pay 1/2.
- As a result, payors cannot retire and parents can't help pay for college.

### The Bills

S-91: Creates public policy seeking equity for both parties. No one form of alimony preferred.

S-93: Creates transitional and fixed term alimony, giving judges more options.

S-94: Focuses on modifications; payors can seek a reduction or an end to alimony at retirement .

S-92: Bars consideration of subsequent spouse's earnings.

H-3122: A larger bill combining goals of the smaller bills above.

*Please remember. . .*

1. The 2015 Joint Alimony Reform Task Force called for reform. As a result, these bills provide carefully weighed and balanced solutions.
2. Current alimony laws have not kept pace with the modern family unit. Proposed laws allow judges discretion to protect both stay-at-home spouses and working couples.
3. 900 members of SC Alimony Reform and countless SC citizens need relief.

**Alimony should not be permanent**

*...the marriage wasn't*



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