

I'm sure that my story is typical and at this point in time I don't know where to turn. Long story short. Until Father's Day of this year, I was a happy father of 3 children, 11 yr old step daughter, a daughter 6 & a son 3. My wife and I had just completed several weeks of successful marriage counseling. Father's Day morning she served me breakfast in bed and gave me a card that read in part "Happy Father's Day Hon, Love you always, Deb." After the festivities of the day died down, my wife of 6 years announced to me that night she wanted a divorce. Without going into too many details, I moved out the next day to my parent's mobile home in a retirement community and currently live in their back bedroom with little more than the clothes I took. Three days after I left my wife had all the door locks changed on our house and told me to stay out. From the end of June to the end of August I tried to understand why my wife had suddenly decided she wanted out of our marriage. I assumed it could be a mid life crisis. After begging and pleading for her to seek counseling with me to save our marriage and think of our children, I found out she had been seeing a married man from work two months before we separated. He had been coming to our house soon after I moved out (the reason the door locks were changed). When pressured by my wife to leave his wife and children he had decided to stay with his family. When he backed out her anger turned to me. The Sunday I found out about the affair I confronted her about it on the phone. She hung up. It was not pretty and I can honestly say I was very emotional and am not proud of the phone message I left her. At no time did I threaten her. I was hurt and felt betrayed. I still do. I later wrote a very emotional and graphic letter to her brother and sister detailing my disgust with the whole situation. She alleged that I broke into the house and uncovered the affair. This is not true. My next door neighbor told me about the suspicious van parked out behind the garage shortly after I had moved out. The next day she filed a domestic violence order against me because she feared for her life. I am a school business administrator with no history of any violence or abuse. After not seeing my children for over 19 days, I had a temporary hearing before a female marital master in Concord who has a reputation for siding with the mother. At court, my wife arrived sobbing and in tears with a domestic violence advocate and her mother at her side for support. After lie upon lie regarding our marriage and how I treated her (going as far as saying she was afraid I was going to burn down the house and I was emotionally unstable because she had a male friend, denying any affair and I was jealous and controlling) the marital master made the following decisions:

- 1) Dismissed the domestic violence order finding the plaintiff had not been abused. However, found that abuse had occurred pursuant to RSA 644:4 which reads "a) Makes a telephone call, whether or not a conversation ensues, with a purpose to annoy or alarm another." I made one phone call. The local police department did not even pursue this nor entering my own house (which I did not do). I am under a restraining order.
- 2) Ordered me to pay child support (\$222/week)
- 3) Pay for repairs to my wife's van (\$745) and buy her four new tires before winter. This is despite the fact that her van passed NH state inspection on 6/29 and her vehicle problems occurred the middle of August. This will cost me in excess of \$1200.

- 4) Pay for 1/2 the cost of maintaining her in our house until it sold. (over \$1200/month)
- 5) Reserved the right to order child support retroactive to June. This is despite the fact that between June 20th and August 30th my wife received over \$4200 in support from me.
- 6) Ignored my request to find my wife in contempt since she sold over \$1600 worth of my belongings a couple weeks after she filed for the divorce and was prohibited from selling these items.

This temporary order exceeds my take home pay by more than \$1,000 a month. This is before I even have the money for rent, food, etc. I've asked for reconsideration but have little hope. I can only stay in my parent's mobile home until the end of September and then I have to move out. I don't know where I'm going. The bottom line is my wife had an affair, kicked me out of the house, currently does not have a job, is refusing to drop the selling price of the house so we can sell it quickly, and the court has saddled me with \$1,000 more in bills than I take home and pay her for van repairs and tires. Not to mention the humiliation I went through at the temporary hearing when she spoke for almost the whole time and I was given little time for a rebuttal. During the hearing the marital master, who felt bad for my wife because she couldn't afford legal representation, went over my proposed temporary order and said on several occasions when she asked her if she was in favor of a proposal and when she answered no, snickered and said "I didn't think so". I am in counseling. This is more than I can handle alone. I have attended the child impact seminar. My wife said she couldn't afford attending this despite paying over \$106 the week before for the DirecTV bill. So much for equality. So much for justice. My attorney tells me to be patient but I feel like I'm backed into a corner. I do know I would not wish this scenario on anyone. I hope in the future New Hampshire will look at all the facets of separation and divorce and allow all sides to be heard knowing that it is an emotional time for all parties. My pre-trial hearing is December 14th. The marital master indicated at the temporary hearing she would hope we could work out most of the issues before we came back to court. This remains to be seen. I'm not counting on justice being served. At least not in this court room. Thank-you for listening to my story. I hope others will not have to suffer.