

Table of Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	v
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	xi
<i>Editor & Contributing Author</i>	xiii
<i>Contributors</i>	xv

Chapter I

I Entitlement to Child and Spousal Support.....	1
I.1 Entitlement to Child Support	1
(i) Purposes and objectives of child support	1
(ii) Who is entitled to child support?	2
(a) Minor children	2
(b) Children over the age of majority: Education, Illness and Disability.....	3
(c) Withdrawal from Parental Control or Charge.....	8
(iii) Who can claim child support?	12
(iv) Who is obliged to pay child support?	12
(a) Parentage Generally	12
(b) Settled Intention Parents.....	15
(c) Adoptive Parents.....	16
(d) Foster Parents	17
(e) Use of Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Third Party Materials	17
(v) Temporary Child Support.....	20
I.2 Entitlement To Support From Children.....	21
I.3 Entitlement To Spousal Support.....	31
(i) Introduction.....	31
(a) Objectives of Spousal Support.....	31
(b) Who may be entitled to spousal support and who may be obliged to pay?	32
(ii) Bases for entitlement to spousal support.....	36
(a) Compensatory	36
(b) Contractual.....	39
(c) Non-Compensatory.....	40
(iii) Temporary spousal support.....	42
(iv) Miscellaneous Considerations	44

(a) Spousal Misconduct	44
(b) Effect of Re-partnering	45
(c) Limitation Periods.....	45
Chapter II	
II Quantum and Duration of Child Support	47
II.1 Introduction.....	47
(i) The Guiding Philosophy Behind the Child Support Guidelines ...	47
(ii) Child Support is the right of the child – Powers of the Court	49
II.2 Child Support Guidelines	52
(i) The Federal Child Support Guidelines	52
(ii) Departure from the Child Support Guidelines	76
(iii) Lump Sum Child Support	77
II.3 Duration of Child Support	78
(i) Introduction.....	78
(ii) Adult Child Support	83
(iii) Post-Secondary Education and Multiple Degrees	86
(iv) Parental Estrangement.....	90
(v) Financial contribution by children to their support	92
II.4 Comparative Jurisdictions	93
(i) Within Canada	93
(ii) Outside Canada	94
(a) United States.....	94
(b) United Kingdom	95
(c) Australia	95
II.5 Success or Failure of the Federal Child Support Guidelines	96
Chapter III	
III Quantum and Duration of Spousal Support	99
III.1 Introduction.....	99
III.2 Powers of the Court in determining quantum and duration of Spousal Support	103
III.3 The <i>Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines (SSAG)</i> – General	110
III.4 The <i>SSAG</i> Formulas And Quantum	113
(i) The <i>With Child Support</i> Formula	113
(ii) The <i>Without Child Support</i> Formula	114
(iii) The Crossover Formula	114
(iv) The Shared Custody Formula.....	114
(v) The Split Custody Formula	115
(vi) The Custodial Payor Formula	115

Table of Contents

(vii) The Step-Parent Formula	116
(viii) The Adult Children Formula	116
III.5 Situating Spousal Support Within the <i>SSAG</i> Ranges	116
III.6 Restructuring	121
III.7 Ceilings and Floors	129
III.8 Exceptions to the <i>SSAG</i>	133
(i) Interim Exception.....	133
(ii) Debt	134
(iii) Illness and Disability.....	137
III.9 The Effect of the Property Settlement on Spousal Support	145
III.10 Child Support/Children with Disabilities	150
III.11 Prior Support Obligations	150
III.12 Duration of Spousal Support.....	152
III.13 Tax Treatment of Spousal Support: A Lawyer's Perspective.....	154
III.14 Conclusion	156

Chapter IV

IV Retroactive Support	159
IV.1 Introduction.....	159
IV.2 Canada's Leading Case on the Issue of Retroactive Support – <i>S. (D.B.) v. G. (S.R.)</i> , 2006 SCC 37	161
IV.3 Circumstances for a Retroactive Support Award	162
(i) Existing Order for Support	162
(ii) Existing Agreement	163
(iii) No Previous Order or Agreement for Support	164
IV.4 Application of <i>S. (D.B.) v. G. (S.R.)</i> to Both Child and Spousal Support.....	165
IV.5 Jurisdiction to Order Retroactive Support	167
(i) Status of the Child	167
(ii) Jurisdiction to Order Retroactive Support Pursuant to an Originating Application	167
(iii) Jurisdiction to Order Retroactive Support Pursuant to a Variation Application	170
IV.6 Application of <i>S. (D.B.) v. G. (S.R.)</i> Test.....	173
(i) Step 1: Is It Appropriate to Order Retroactive Support? An examination of reasonableness of delay, the conduct of the payor, the circumstances of the child and the hardship occasioned by a retroactive order	174
(ii) Step 2: Start Date for Retroactive Payment/Effective Notice	188
(iii) Step 3: Determination of Quantum	190
IV.7 Application of <i>S. (D.B.)</i> to Circumstances of Arrears	191

IV.8	Tax Consequences of Retroactive Spousal Support Orders: A Lawyer's Perspective.....	193
IV.9	Conclusion.....	194

Chapter V

V	Changes in Support: Variations, Reviews and Alternatives.....	197
V.1	Introduction.....	197
V.2	Variation of Child and Spousal Support Orders or Agreements	197
	(i) Introduction.....	197
	(a) Definition of Variation Proceeding.....	198
	(b) Jurisdiction	198
	(ii) Variation of an Order or Agreement for Child Support	205
	(a) Statutory Framework	205
	(b) Evolution of “Material Change in Circumstances” Test	207
	(c) The Case Law – What Constitutes a “Material Change in Circumstances”?.....	209
	(d) Critique of Current Standard	213
	(iii) Variation of an Order or Agreement for Spousal Support.....	214
	(a) Statutory Framework	214
	(b) Evolution of Material Change in Circumstances Test.....	216
	(c) Orders versus Agreements.....	217
	(d) The Case Law – What Constitutes a Material Change in Circumstances?	219
	(iv) Critique of Current Standard.....	223
	(v) Conclusion	224
V.3	Review of Child and Spousal Support	225
	(i) Introduction – No Requirement for a “Material Change in Circumstances”	225
	(ii) Statutory Framework – The Review as Judicial Creation.....	225
	(iii) Definition of Review the Proceeding – A <i>De Novo</i> Look at Support?	226
	(a) Spousal Support	227
	(b) Child Support	228
	(iv) Application of SSAG on a Review of Spousal Support	230
	(v) The Advantages and Disadvantages of Review Orders or Agreements	231
	(vi) Conclusion	232
V.4	Alternatives to Variations and Reviews of Support	232
	(i) Lump Sum Payments	232

Table of Contents

(ii) Hybrid Support Payments.....	234
(iii) Automatic Adjusting Payments (or “step-down” payments).....	235
(iv) Indexing.....	235
Chapter VI	
VI Support on Death	237
VI.1 Introduction.....	237
VI.2 <i>Family Law Act (“FLA”)</i>	238
(i) Overview.....	238
(ii) Support Orders: <i>FLA</i> Part III	238
(a) Effect of Death on Support Orders under the <i>FLA</i>	238
(b) Enforcement of Support Orders on an Estate.....	240
(iii) Domestic Contracts (separation agreements, marriage contracts and cohabitation agreements) on Death: <i>FLA</i> Part IV	242
(a) Enforcement	242
(b) Setting Aside	243
(c) Separation Agreements and Beneficiary Designations	245
VI.3 <i>Succession Law Reform Act (“SLRA”)</i>	249
(i) Overview.....	249
(ii) Dependant Support Claims: <i>SLRA</i> Part V.....	250
(a) Overview.....	250
(b) Who can make a claim?	250
(c) Who is a “spouse”?.....	252
(d) Limitation Periods.....	254
(e) Determination of “Adequate Provision”.....	256
(f) Order for Support: Section 62 Considerations and <i>Cummings v. Cummings</i>	258
(g) Contracting Out of Support Claim?.....	263
(h) Interim Support.....	265
(i) Funding Orders	266
(j) Enforcement of a Dependant Support Order Against an Insolvent Estate	268
(k) Section 72 <i>SLRA</i> Assets.....	269
(l) Mediation	274
(m) Costs of Dependant Support Claims	275
(iii) Intestacy: <i>SLRA</i> Part II.....	278
(iv) Conclusion	279

Chapter VII

VII	Income Tax Issues Related to Support Payments	281
VII.1	Taxation and Deductibility of Support Payments.....	281
(i)	Overview.....	281
(ii)	Child Support.....	282
(iii)	Spousal Support and Support Amount	284
(iv)	Third party payments.....	290
(v)	Lump-sum payments	292
(a)	Court ordered prepayment of support	292
(b)	Support arrears	292
(c)	Retroactive support	294
(d)	Tax relief for arrears and retroactive support	299
(vi)	Support payments made by an estate.....	302
(vii)	Assignment of rights to receive support	302
(viii)	Registration of a court order or written agreement	302
(ix)	Payments to or from a non-resident	303
VII.2	Deductions, Tax Credits, and Benefits	303
(i)	Overview.....	303
(ii)	Tax Deductions	304
(a)	Child Care Expense Deduction	304
(b)	Legal Fees.....	305
(iii)	Credits	305
(a)	Basic personal tax credit	306
(b)	Age amount (65 and over) tax credit.....	306
(c)	Spousal tax credit	307
(d)	Eligible dependent tax credit	307
(e)	Infirm dependent (18 and over) tax credit	309
(f)	Disability tax credit	309
(g)	Tuition tax credit.....	310
(iv)	Benefits.....	310

Chapter VIII

VIII	Powers of the Court in Addressing a Child or Spousal Support Application.....	313
VIII.1	Introduction.....	313
VIII.2	Security for Support	315
(i)	Introduction.....	315
(ii)	When will Security for Support be Ordered?	316
(iii)	Types of Security	317
(a)	Charging Orders.....	317

Table of Contents

(b) “or otherwise” under section 34(1)(k) of the <i>Family Law Act</i>	318
VIII.3 Security for Support in the Event of Death.....	321
(i) Binding an Estate.....	321
(a) <i>Family Law Act</i>	321
(b) <i>Divorce Act</i>	322
(c) Interpreting whether an Order or Agreement binds a Payor’s Estate	323
(d) Interaction between a Separation Agreement and Court Order	325
(ii) Life Insurance to Secure Support	326
(a) Maintaining Life Insurance vs Obtaining Life Insurance	327
(b) <i>Katz v. Katz</i> – Obtaining Insurance	327
(c) Criteria to be considered	329
(d) Life Insurance Terms	330
(e) Interaction of Life Insurance With Estate Issues	333
VIII.4 Vesting Orders	337
(i) Jurisdiction to make a vesting order	337
(ii) When will a court make a vesting order in the context of an application for child or spousal support?	338
(a) Previous Conduct	339
(b) Establishment of a payment liability	341
(c) Relationship between the value to be vested and the amount of the liability	342
(iii) Interim Vesting Orders.....	345
(iv) Property that has been the subject of transfer and/or a vesting order.....	346
(a) Real Property.....	346
(b) Vehicles.....	346
(c) Investment Accounts	346
(d) Shares	346
(e) Pensions.....	347
(v) Other Considerations when Pursuing a Vesting Order	349
(a) Timing Matters	349
(b) Foreign Property	351
(c) Vesting Orders Under the <i>Divorce Act</i>	353
VIII.5 Exclusive Possession as an Incident of Support.....	355
(i) Section 34(1)(d) of the <i>Family Law Act</i>	355
(ii) Unmarried Spouses.....	356
(iii) The Test for Exclusive Possession as an Incident of Support	358

Support Rights and Obligations

(iv) Exclusive Possession and the <i>Divorce Act</i>	359
VIII.6 Health Benefits.....	360
(i) For Children	361
(ii) For a Spouse	361
(iii) Obtaining a Policy	363
VIII.7 Limitations on the OCJ's Jurisdiction under Section 34 of the <i>Family Law Act</i>	364
(i) Section 34(2) of the <i>Family Law Act</i>	364
(a) Modest Means	366
(b) Strict or Flexible Approach?	367
VIII.8 Preservation Orders.....	368
(i) Section 40 of the <i>Family Law Act</i>	368
(ii) When will preservation order be granted?	369
(a) Blameworthy Conduct.....	372
(b) Scope of Jurisdiction under section 40	373
(c) Form of a Preservation Order	374
VIII.9 Indexing Spousal Support	377
(i) Jurisdiction	377
(ii) When is indexing appropriate?	377
(a) Who is better able to bear the risk of inflation?	378
(b) Will there be other opportunities to adjust spousal support?	379
(c) Temporary Support.....	379
(d) Self Sufficiency	379
(iii) Indexation Formulas	380
(a) Notional Increase	380
(b) Actual Increase.....	380
(iv) Indexation of a Previous Order – Section 38 of the <i>Family Law Act</i>	381
(v) Indexing Child Support.....	382
(vi) Agreements	382
VIII.10 Prenatal Care Expenses	383

Chapter IX

IX Procedural and Practical Issues that Arise in Advancing or Defending a Child and/or Spousal Support Claim	385
IX.1 Jurisdiction	385
(i) The geographic venue where a case should be heard	385
(ii) Competing jurisdictions	386
(iii) The municipality in Ontario where a case should be started	387

Table of Contents

(iv) The level of Court where a case should be started	388
IX.2 Commencing an Application or Motion to Change.....	389
(i) Application	389
(a) Documents.....	390
(b) Continuing Record	391
(c) Mandatory Information Program	391
(ii) Motion to Change	392
(a) Documents.....	392
(b) Jurisdiction, parties, and case numbers	392
(iii) Service and filing considerations	393
IX.3 Responding to an Application	394
(i) Documents.....	395
(ii) Timelines	395
(iii) Completing an Answer.....	396
(iv) Making additional claims in an Answer.....	397
(v) Signatures	397
IX.4 Responding to a Motion to Change.....	397
(i) Timelines	397
(ii) How to respond to a case if a Motion to Change was started, where:	398
(a) The responding party agrees with all of the changes in the Motion to Change	398
(b) The responding party does not agree with all of the changes in the Motion to Change	398
(iii) Motions to Change on Consent	398
(a) Generally	398
(b) Regarding Child Support Specifically	399
(c) Consent after response filed	399
(iv) Making additional or alternate claims when responding to a Motion to Change	399
IX.5 Reply	399
(i) Timelines	399
(ii) Limitations on content.....	400
IX.6 Amending an Application and Answer	400
(i) Where permission to amend is necessary.....	400
(ii) How an amendment is shown	401
IX.7 When it may make sense to bifurcate spousal support issues from other issues in one Court file (Rule 12 of the <i>Family Law Rules</i>).....	401
IX.8 Interjurisdictional Support Orders	402

Support Rights and Obligations

(i) Does the <i>ISOA</i> apply?	402
(ii) Is the <i>ISOA</i> mandatory?	403
(iii) Situations in which you may want to proceed under the <i>Family Law Act</i> even if the <i>ISOA</i> applies	404
(iv) Practice Tips for Successfully Navigating the <i>ISOA</i> Procedure ..	405
(v) Procedure for a support application under the <i>ISOA</i> (Rule 37 of the <i>Family Law Rules</i> and sections 1 through 16 of the <i>ISOA</i>)	406
(vi) Existing Order(s) – Registration and enforcement of orders made outside Ontario (sections 17 to 21 of the <i>ISOA</i>)	408
(vii) Setting Aside Orders Made Outside Ontario (section 20 of the <i>ISOA</i>)	409
(viii) Variation application under the <i>ISOA</i> (Rule 37 of the <i>Family Law Rules</i> and sections 22 through 39 of the <i>ISOA</i>)	410
(a) Applicant in Ontario	410
(b) Applicant outside Ontario	410
(c) Variation of Registered Order	411
(ix) Appeals and miscellaneous	411
(x) Provisional Orders made under sections 18 and 19 of the <i>Divorce Act</i> and section 44 of the <i>Family Law Act</i> (Rule 37.1 of the <i>Family Law Rules</i>)	411
IX.9 How to obtain disclosure when dealing with a support claim	413
(i) Financial Statements	413
(a) Tips for completing a Financial Statement when seeking support	413
(b) Tips for completing a Financial Statement when defending against a claim for support	415
(c) Tips to attack or undermine your opponent's Financial Statement	417
(ii) Document disclosure	417
(iii) Questioning a witness and disclosure	419
IX.10 Using an expert	419
IX.11 Motions for support	420
(i) Bringing a support motion	420
(a) Possible prerequisites to bringing a support motion	420
(b) What facts to include in the Affidavit	422
(c) What other documents to file	423
(d) Timelines	423
(ii) Defending Against a Support Motion	423
(a) What facts to include in the Affidavit	423

Table of Contents

	(b) What Other Documents To File	424
	(c) Timelines	424
IX.12	Evidence at a support trial in relation to an expert.....	425
IX.13	When Summary Judgment may be Appropriate in Support Cases (Rule 16 of the <i>Family Law Rules</i>)	425
IX.14	Costs in support cases (Rule 24 of the <i>Family Law Rules</i>)	430
Chapter X		
X	Enforcement Issues Related to Support	433
X.1	Introduction.....	433
X.2	Alternate Methods of Enforcement.....	433
X.3	Enforcement by the Family Responsibility Office.....	435
	(i) What is a support order?	435
	(ii) Overview of the Family Responsibility Office	437
	(iii) Director's Jurisdiction, Powers, Duties and Discretion.....	438
	(iv) Structuring the Support Order or Agreement.....	442
	(v) The Support Deduction Order	444
	(vi) Duty of Income Source	445
	(vii) Disputes re: Income Source.....	446
	(viii) Priority of Support Deduction Orders	447
	(ix) The FRO's Enforcement Toolkit	448
	(a) Garnishment	448
	(b) Reporting to Agencies, Organizations and Professional Bodies.....	449
	(c) Suspension of Drivers' Licences and the Refraining Order ...	451
	(d) Default Hearing	454
X.4	Enforcement by Support Recipient	459
	(i) Overview.....	459
	(ii) The <i>Family Law Rules</i>	459
	(iii) Support Recipient Enforcement Steps	460
	(a) Request for a Financial Statement.....	460
	(b) Request for Disclosure from an Income Source.....	461
	(c) Financial Examination	461
	(d) Seizure and Sale	462
	(e) Garnishment	463
	(f) Striking Pleadings.....	466
X.5	The Federal <i>Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act</i>	466
	(i) Overview.....	466
	(ii) Release of Information to Locate Support Payor	467
	(iii) Garnishment of Federal Moneys	469

Support Rights and Obligations

(iv) Licence Denial.....	470
Appendix A	473
Index	479