

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PA

L.B.,	:	
Plaintiff	:	
	:	
v.	:	No. 03-21,691
	:	PACES NO. 949705968
K.B.,	:	
Defendant	:	

OPINION and ORDER

This opinion addresses the Exceptions filed by Husband to the Master's order of January 21, 2004.

Father's first and last exceptions relate to the award of spousal support for eighteen months and the inconsistency in the order regarding when the eighteen months begins. Given the length of the time from marriage to separation, 5 ½ years, the court finds that an award of eighteen months is reasonable. Regarding the beginning date of the support, although the Master stated in the opinion section of the report that the start date would be the date the first check is disbursed to Wife, the order states that the award is retroactive to November 19, 2003. The court will clarify the order to ensure that the start date is November 19, 2003.

Husband's next exception relates to various deductions from his paycheck that were questioned at the hearing. The Master requested clarification from the employer, and the Husband provided a letter as requested. The Master determined that these items should not be included in Husband's income assessment, and did not do so. Husband's misunderstanding on this issue resulted from inaccurate language in the order regarding exactly how the Master calculated Husband's income. The Master did not use the gross figure as shown on Husband's paystub, as stated in the report. Rather, the Master used the gross figure as shown on Husband's W-2. The Master then deducted taxes, backed out the bonus, and added in Father's health insurance payment. The gross figure the

Master used did not include the expenses Husband was concerned about at the argument.

ORDER

AND NOW, this _____ day of June, 2004, for the reasons stated in the foregoing opinion, Father's Exception #4 is granted and the remaining exceptions are dismissed. It is further ordered that the Master's order of January 21, 2004 is clarified to state that the beginning period of the eighteen month spousal support obligation is November 19, 2003. In all other respects, the Master's order is affirmed.

BY THE COURT,

Richard A. Gray, J.

cc: Dana Jacques, Esq., Law Clerk
Hon. Richard A. Gray
Jack Felix, Esq.
Plaintiff
Domestic Relations (JJ)
Family Court
Gary Weber, Esq.