

FAMILY LAW BLOG

Payment of Marital Bills During a Dissolution

AUTHOR: ERIN RATHJEN-DECKER

One of the most common questions raised at the beginning of a family law litigation case, especially in dissolution cases is how the ongoing expenses will be paid. In some counties in Missouri, such as St. Louis County, there are automatic orders that go into place with the filing of a dissolution case, obligating payment of certain expenses to maintain the status quo. However, while the court may establish an obligation to pay the bills, the individual parties remain responsible to the lender or provider to ensure those bills are actually paid, like the mortgage.

Missing a mortgage payment can be damaging to your credit score. The negative impact on your ability to refinance or purchase another residence can change the entire complexion of the case. As a result, it is extremely important to monitor payment of household expenses where your name is associated with those bills, to confirm they are being paid on time; or in the alternative, to make arrangements to cover late payments before they become missed payments.

While there may be remedies available in the court to seek reimbursement if you are forced to cover a payment, the important thing is to maintain a positive status with your lenders and utility providers, so you do not find yourself unable to establish your own accounts once the dissolution is complete.

For questions related to financial issues related to divorce, please reach out to one of the family law attorneys at Sandberg Phoenix.