

DOCKET NO. DBD-FA-22-5018580-S

LAURA FINLEY

V.

CRAIG J. FINLEY

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPERIOR COURT SA 3

2024 MAY -2 P 3: 04

JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DANBURY
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SUPERIOR COURT

J.D. OF DANBURY

AT DANBURY

MAY 2, 2024

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

RE: PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR CONTEMPT (#121)

Before the court is the plaintiff's Motion for Contempt (#121) filed with the court on January 19, 2024. This motion was served on the defendant on February 2, 2024. The court considered evidence on March 22, 2024.

On October 23, 2023, the court entered a judgment dissolving the parties' marriage. On October 23, 2023, the court ordered, "The defendant shall pay child support to plaintiff in the amount of \$103 per week, consistent with the Connecticut Child Support Guidelines. Payment is due on Friday of each week." and "The defendant shall pay alimony to the plaintiff in the amount of \$100 per week until either party's death, the plaintiff's remarriage, or six years from the date of this decision, whichever is first. Payment is due on Friday of each week." and "The defendant shall pay the plaintiff \$477 to equalize the marital debt. This amount shall be paid within thirty days from the date of this decision." The court finds these three orders are clear and unambiguous.

The court finds the plaintiff's testimony credible that no payments have been made prior to the March 22, 2024 hearing. The defendant was employed and able to pay and chose not to provide the plaintiff with any amount of payment. The court does not find the defendant's testimony credible when he explained why he did not comply with the orders. The defendant

cannot resort to self-help and avoid a court order. The court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant failed to pay any amount of child support, alimony, or the marital debt prior to March 22, 2024. On March 22, 2024, the defendant paid the plaintiff \$200. The court finds, by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant willfully violated a court order. The defendant is found in contempt.

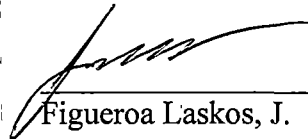
The arrearage for alimony between October 23, 2024 and March 22, 2024, is found to be in the amount of \$2200. The arrearage for child support between October 27, 2024 and March 22, 2024, is found to be \$2266. The total arrearage for child support and alimony is \$4466. The defendant did not pay \$477 owed to the plaintiff for the marital debt prior to March 22, 2024. The court credits the \$200 payment made to the plaintiff, in court, on March 22, 2024, to the marital debt, reducing the debt to \$277.

ORDERS

1. The financial affidavits are unsealed.
2. In addition to the weekly child support amount of \$103 per week, the defendant shall pay \$20 per week until the arrearage amount of \$2266 is paid in full.
3. In addition to the weekly alimony amount of \$100 per week, the defendant shall pay \$20 per week until the arrearage amount of \$2200 is paid in full.
4. The defendant shall pay the plaintiff \$277 toward the marital debt no later than May 15, 2024. Failure to pay in full shall result in interest at a rate of 8 percent per annum.


5. An immediate income withholding shall enter for the payment of alimony and child support orders.
6. If collection of the child support order is required, it shall be undertaken by the Connecticut Bureau of Child Support Enforcement. The plaintiff shall apply to the Department of Social Services to set up the account for enforcement of child support payments.

BY THE COURT



Figueroa Laskos, J.

Decision entered in accordance with the foregoing on May 2, 2024. Parties and Reporter of Judicial decisions notified on May 21, 2024.

 5/2/2024

KIM SMALL
ASSISTANT CLERK, JD