

Overhaul of MN Spousal Maintenance Law

Use Massachusetts' 2011 Alimony Reform Act and it's proposed fix as a start.

By doing the following;

- **Eliminate Permanent Spousal Maintenance**
- **Establish guidelines for the amount and duration of alimony that will provide more consistency and predicability in alimony awards.**
- **Protect a second spouse's income. No longer should a second spouse's income be used to pay a former spouse.**
- **Establish the right to retire.**
- **If needed, amend the cohabitation alimony reform law.**

Below should be the result:

- **Amend the Minnesota Spousal Maintenance law so Judges have clear guidelines.**
- **Allow alimony to end when a payee cohabits.***
- **Protect the truly needy.**
- **Eliminate lifelong post-marital support, by eliminating Permanent Spousal Maintenance from the Statutes.**
- **Reduce expensive and adversarial litigation battles over vague alimony rules and interpretations.**
- **Promote equal, consistent, and predictable application of the law, regardless of the judge presiding or the judicial district;**
- **Provide a payor and payee an opportunity to plan and save for retirement; by establishing a retirement age when alimony ends.**
- **Encourage self-sufficiency and independence for both spouses;**
- **No longer allow the courts to use a second spouses income when determining the ability to pay.**
- **Consider in the equation the choice of education and / or vocation made before the parties entered into the marriage.**
- **Factor in the age at the time of divorce and the number of years until retirement age.**
- **Allow these law changes to apply to decrees prior to any new law change.**

*Though MN Alimony Reform Supported the new cohabitation law, it had little input into it's language. Feedback from those few members to test the law in court have reported that judges have commented during hearings that the new law is too vague, broad and open to wide interpretations that could lead to very inconsistent application of the statute.