

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite Clarifies When Family Law Modifications May Be Pursued Under Florida Law

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Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite, a Jacksonville-based law firm concentrating in family and criminal law, is offering guidance to help Florida families understand the circumstances under which existing court orders may be changed. The firm reports that many individuals remain uncertain about when parenting plans, timesharing arrangements, child support obligations, or alimony orders can be revisited after a final judgment has been entered.

Under Florida law, modifications generally require a substantial and material change in circumstances that was not anticipated at the time of the last order. The firm notes that common situations prompting a modification request include changes in income or employment, the evolving needs of growing children, shifts in parenting circumstances, relocation, and other developments that may affect an arrangement established years earlier. A change in personal circumstances, however, does not automatically justify altering an existing order.

Requirements vary depending on the type of order involved. For example, child support modifications may be considered when a change in income, health insurance expenses, or daycare costs produces a difference of 15 percent or more. Alimony matters often arise when a payor spouse seeks a decrease following a change in the recipient's financial situation or retirement. In cases involving children, courts also weigh the best interests of the child before approving any change to timesharing or parenting plans.

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite evaluates family law modifications based on the specific facts of each matter and the applicable Florida legal standards. The firm emphasizes that existing court orders remain enforceable unless and until they are properly modified through the appropriate legal process, and that demonstrating a legally sufficient change in circumstances is central to any such request.

"Many people assume that a new job, a move, or a change in a child's schedule automatically changes what the court ordered, but that is not how the process works," said Jay Henderlite, Managing Partner at Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite. "A modification requires showing a substantial and material change that was not anticipated when the order was entered. Until a court approves a change, the original order stays in effect."

Henderlite added that each situation is reviewed individually. "The question is never simply whether life has changed, because life always changes. The question is whether the change meets the legal standard that Florida courts apply, and whether the requested modification serves the best interests of any children involved."

The firm also addresses these topics through its podcast, When Split Happens, which discusses divorce and family law matters for Florida audiences.

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite is a law firm based in Jacksonville, Florida, concentrating in family and criminal law. The firm is the only practice in Northeast Florida with three Board Certified Marital and Family Law experts serving as its managing partners. Its family law services include adoption, alimony, child custody and support, collaborative divorce, divorce, mediations, military divorce, parenting plans, paternity, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and modifications. The firm's criminal law practice covers domestic violence, driving under the influence, drug crimes, felony and misdemeanor charges, and property crimes. The firm serves communities across Northeast Florida, including Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties.
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Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite is a Jacksonville law firm representing clients in divorce, family law, and domestic violence cases. With three Board-Certified partners, the firm handles custody, support, alimony, and property division with dedication.

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