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Marmer Penner Newsletter

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“REALITY CHECK IN NEW YORK”

Recent decisions in Francis v. Baker and Simon v. Simon have confirmed the adage that “the Guidelines are the Guidelines”. And only in unusual circumstances will the court deviate from the formulae. Notwithstanding this, clients may have different views regarding how much child support they should be paying or receiving.

In a recent decision of the State Supreme Court of New York, Ms. Patricia Duff was

awarded \$12,825 US monthly child support for her one daughter. Ms. Duff, who had already engaged more than twenty lawyers on her case, was none too pleased with the award since it represented less than 10% of the monthly amount she had sought.

The enclosed article from the December 8, 1999 issue of the New York Time discusses the case in greater detail.

So the next time you are confronted by a difficult client with unrealistic expectations, just remember that it could be worse. You could have been number twenty-one on Ms. Duff’s list of top family lawyers.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year from all of us at Marmer Penner.

This newsletter is intended to highlight areas where professional assistance may be required. It is not intended to substitute for proper professional planning. The professionals at Marmer Penner will be pleased to assist you with any matters that arise.