

Legal Literacy Corner No.1 : Decoding the Courtroom

To understand the "Math" of this case, we must first understand the "Language" of the Court. This segment looks at some of the professional jargon mentioned in Davis v Davis (2019).

Exercise: After researching the meaning of each term in Column A, match each term in Column A with the correct response in Column B

Column A	Column B
Petitioner / Applicant	A large, one-time payment. The husband stated he had no major savings to pay a lump sum, leading the judge to order "periodic" (monthly) payments instead.
Economic Self-Sufficiency	A formal process where a neutral third party tries to help both sides reach an agreement without a judge. In this case, the parties went to mediation but did not settle.
Lump Sum	The person who starts the legal proceedings by filing a request with the court (in this case, Mrs. Davis):
Affidavit in Support	Financial support paid by one ex-spouse to the other after a marriage ends to prevent economic hardship
Spousal Maintenance	The person who must "respond" to the claims made by the Petitioner (in this case, Mr. Davis).
Respondent	A written statement of facts, sworn to be true, used as evidence. Mrs. Davis used this to list her monthly expenses.
Mediation	The ability of an individual to provide for their own needs without financial help from an ex-partner.