



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 5

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF SPOUSAL
MAINTENANCE AWARDS IN DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS

FROM: Chadwick Brown, Staff Attorney

RE: Background on History of No-Fault Divorce Law in Wisconsin

DATE: October 7, 2010

The enclosed articles, requested by members of the Special Committee on Review of Spousal Maintenance Awards in Divorce Proceedings at its August 24, 2010 meeting, provides information relating to the history and practice of the law in Wisconsin relating to no-fault divorce.

Enclosure 1 is an article from a series of 47 articles on Wisconsin's legal heritage authored by Wisconsin Attorney Joseph A. Ranney in honor of the state's Sesquicentennial in 1998. It gives a description of Wisconsin divorce law prior to the enactment of the no-fault divorce system in 1977.

Enclosure 2 is an editorial from the *Wisconsin Journal of Family Law* [Vol. 30, p. 40] by Tom Walsh, Chairman of the Wisconsin Bar Association Family Law Section Board. In this editorial, Attorney Walsh expresses his opinion of reversion back to consideration of fault in divorce proceedings.

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Enclosures