

LAW OFFICE OF  
**SUSAN CASTLETON RYAN, P.C.**

10. The court appoints an attorney or my spouse will pay my attorney fees.

In Probate and Family Court, there are no “court appointed” attorneys. There are pro bono services located within the courthouse, such as the lawyer of the day, but such programs are meant to provide very brief legal assistance, rather than actual legal analysis. Very few situations allow for your spouse to pay for your attorney’s fees. Pursuant to a motion *pendente lite*, you may request the court order your spouse to pay a retainer to your attorney but you must prove you do not have an ability to pay and that your spouse does. Additionally, under a complaint for contempt, the judge may award attorney’s fees if the other party is found guilty of contempt.

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