

NOVA SCOTIA COURT OF APPEAL
Citation: Rondeau v. Rondeau, 2011 NSCA 5

Date: 20110114
Docket: CA 323131
Registry: Halifax

Between:

Judith Karen Rondeau

Appellant

v.

Ronald Lorne Rondeau

Respondent

Judge: The Honourable Justice M. Jill Hamilton

Appeal Heard: November 16, 2010

Subject: Family Law; Material change in circumstances re spousal support

Summary: On hearing the husband's application to terminate or reduce spousal support, the trial judge found there was a material change in circumstances because of the mere passage of time, the husband's health issues (which did not reduce his income), the husband's age (61) and perhaps because the husband wished to accumulate money for his retirement. Having found such a change, the judge reduced the amount of spousal support, reduced the amount of required life insurance and refused to order the husband to compensate the wife for his arbitrary removal of her as a beneficiary under his medical and dental coverage, contrary to the Corollary Relief Judgment.

Issue: Did the judge err in finding there was a material change in circumstances?

Result: Appeal allowed. There was no material change in circumstances that permitted the judge to alter the amount of spousal support, reduce the life insurance coverage or ignore the consequences to the wife of the husband's arbitrary removal of her from his medical and dental coverage.

<p><i>This information sheet does not form part of the court's judgment. Quotes must be from the judgment, not this cover sheet. The full court judgment consists of 10 pages.</i></p>
