# TRUMP'S TAX PLAN & DIVORCE:

A GUIDE FOR MEN

Divorced or thinking about it? Why you NEED to act now.

Already paying alimony?
What you need to know.

Got a Prenup? Ho<u>w thi</u>s impacts you.

> JOHN A. BLEDSOE, JD MBA ATTORNEY AT LAW

### TRUMP'S TAX PLAN & DIVORCE: A GUIDE FOR MEN

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### DISCLAIMER AND NOTE TO THE READER REGARDING LANGUAGE

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Although this publication contains information to give you a general understanding of the topic, it does not provide specific legal advice. By reading this report, you understand that there is no attorney- client relationship between you and the publisher. This report should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice from a licensed professional attorney in your state.

Note to the reader: although alimony may be paid by either spouse, in the vast majority of cases from history to the present day, men have paid alimony (also known as spousal support) to their estranged wives and/or former wives. As the cultural norms have begun to shift, including women earning higher wages and the legalization of same sex marriage, there has been a rise of cases that defy the traditional gendered arrangement of alimony. As this report is written to men and for the sake of simplicity and brevity, we will use language that reflects the vast majority of cases. However, the advice is still applicable to payors of alimony regardless of gender.

### **READING THIS REPORT & ACTING NOW MAY SAVE YOU MILLIONS**

I'm so glad you found this report! You have come to the right place. Information is power, and you're lucky to find out early what is happening to everyone. If you are a man who is considering divorce, separated from your spouse, has been previously divorced, or even if you are a happily married man with a standing prenuptial agreement, you NEED this information today.

Last year about 600,000 people (mostly men like you) saved about \$12.3 billion dollars on their taxes by deducting their alimony payments. With one stroke of his pen, President Trump has completely changed the game. Luckily, there is still time for you to protect yourself and your family, but you need to act now. If not, you may lose out "big league" as Trump himself might say!

Here are some things you'll learn in the next few pages:

- How deducting alimony from your income taxes <u>used</u> to work and what has changed.
- How the previous deduction worked as a 'divorce subsidy' that benefitted separated couples allowing them to collectively pay less in taxes.
- How this could raise the tax bills of alimony payers through the roof and impact you and your family!
- How you still have time to avoid this change, get the alimony tax deduction for life, and protect your family and your finances!

After you read this report and are ready to act, get in touch with my staff at (949) 363-5551. We'll set up a confidential case consultation and let you know what the next move is.

CLICK THIS BUTTON or call (949) 363-5551 to request a PRIORITY Confidential Case Evaluation (Spaces are limited!)

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY OF THE ALIMONY DEDUCTION**

Allow me to introduce myself: My name is John A. Bledsoe. *I am a family law trial attorney with over 25 years experience, and I have been designated by the California State Bar as Certified Family Law Specialist*. My firm serves professionals, executives, business owners, entrepreneurs and also middle-income earners. We tackle some of Orange County's toughest divorce and family law cases.

I'm sure you heard President Trump's new tax bill was recently passed. The myriad of changes that we will soon see have been the subject of a media frenzy. One of these changes few have understood the magnitude of is the elimination of the "above the line" tax deduction for payors of alimony (also known as spousal support). I'm writing this report today to help you understand how this new tax law may affect you.

The alimony tax deduction has been a cornerstone of family law in the United States since 1942, the year our congress repealed *Gould v. Gould*. Previously, wives who received alimony were not responsible for paying any taxes on the support they received from their former husbands. With this change, the payor of alimony was now free to deduct the amount from his income and the person who received it paid taxes on it.

Having the husband claim the deduction was beneficial to divorced couples, even ex-wives who were now responsible to pay income taxes on alimony! Why? Because people in higher income brackets pay higher amounts in taxes, so allowing the higher income earner to deduct the alimony put them in a lower tax bracket. The person who received the alimony typically had little or no other income, meaning they paid comparatively lower taxes on it. Overall, this meant the divorced couple had more money to divide amongst themselves, and sent less money to Uncle Sam!

In practice, this meant that divorced couples where a substantial amount of alimony was paid would pay less taxes than if they had stayed married (causing some to disdainfully dub the deduction as a 'divorce subsidy'). However, divorce is profound financial stress even with this tax credit. Establishing two new separate households, paying legal fees and a myriad of other circumstances strain the finances of divorced men and women. The alimony tax deduction was a balm that helped the divorced couple soothe the financial strain of divorce. Children benefit as well, as their standard of living is the same as their parents. The new arrangement will help the IRS collect more to fund tax cuts for some people, but it will decrease the amount of money divorced families have to care for themselves and their children!

# TRUMP'S NEW TAX PLAN & WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR DIVORCE OR SEPARATION

Let's cut right to the chase: <u>men who finalize divorce or separation agreements</u> <u>after December 31, 2018 will no longer be able to deduct alimony that they pay to</u> their wives from their taxes!

Although the law only affects divorce orders signed after December 31, 2018, men who may wish to modify their current support order must take heed as well. If your support order is modified after the same date the law goes into effect for everyone else, it seems from the information that is available that you will also lose the ability to deduct alimony from your taxable income.

Men who are happily married with a standing prenuptial agreement also need to act! The amount of alimony agreed upon in prenuptial agreements was done with the previous guidelines in mind. So if you divorce anytime after the rule goes into effect, you'll be paying quite a bit more than you anticipated to your ex-wife and Uncle Sam!

This is likely to have a ripple effect on the whole process of divorce or legal separation. Here are some things we may see-

- The overall standard of living declines for the parties declines as more money is sent to the IRS (since the taxes are now being paid by the person in the higher income bracket).
- The supported spouses, usually women, will be paid less. This is not because the husband is saving money, but because the husband has less available money after paying taxes to pay alimony.
- Children (who overall tend to be more in the custody of their mothers) will suffer as their standard of living declines. This will compound the stress and suffering that divorce already brings to the lives of children.
- With less money to go around, the battle over the amount of alimony will become more contentious-meaning legal fees rise and divorce becomes more expensive due to litigation.

I hate to paint such an awful picture but the truth is grim. The money the IRS gains from this change will be used to finance tax cuts for others, but it will come at the expense of men, women, and children in divorced and separating families.

### **HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF**

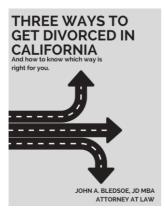
Here's the good news: men or supporting spouses who finalize divorce or separation agreements BEFORE December 31, 2018 will be grandfathered in to the right to deduct their spousal support from their income for tax purposes. Their supported spouses will be able to pay taxes on the corresponding amounts of support but at much lower tax rates!

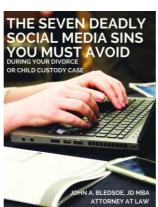
If you were planning to divorce, **NOW** is the time to act! If you want to modify your current alimony/spousal support order, **NOW** is the time to act! If you have a standing prenuptial agreement that deals with an amount of spousal support, **NOW** is the time to act!

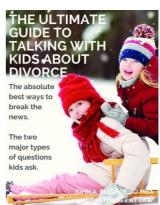
You have time to act, but not very much! Public Court Systems are very inefficient. And these cases take time to resolve, usually several months. If you delay even a bit too long, chances are good that you will forever miss your chance to claim the alimony tax deduction. If you're ready, get in touch with my firm today by calling (949) 363-5551 or click here to request a PRIORITY Telephone Confidential Case Evaluation. Spaces are limited, so act now.

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Other questions? Call my office or email <u>information@bledsoefirm.com</u> with your query.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John A. Bledsoe began practicing family law in 1991. Since then, he has practiced throughout the state of California, been sworn in before the Supreme Court of the United States of America, and become an expert in divorce and family law matters. His expertise has been recognized formally by the State Bar of California, who named him as a certified family law specialist (an elite sector of family law attorneys designated by the State Bar). He has earned the prestigious Client Champion (Gold) Award by Martindale-Hubbell, the most trusted name in legal ratings. Mr. Bledsoe has also received the prestigious AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell, recognition of professional excellence given to less than ten-percent of attorneys. He has also been rated 10.0 Superb on Avvo.

In addition to his law degree (juris doctorate) Mr. Bledsoe also has a Master's of Business

Administration degree in finance. He has years of previous experience of financial auditing and has completed the coursework for the Certified Financial Planner Designation. He brings a special expertise to the complex financial matters found in many family law cases. He has tried several hundred family law matters and settled over a thousand more. Mr. Bledsoe is the father of five daughters and a son. He has been married to his wife, Debra, for over thirty-five years.

Our firm offers a confidential initial case evaluation. Call (949) 363-5551 or go to <a href="https://www.justfamilylaw.com">www.justfamilylaw.com</a> to learn more.