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Category: Celebrity Divorce

Clearly, money can't buy him love. Just ask ex-Beatle Sir Paul McCartney who will not be receiving a Valentine, birthday greetings or a bottle of wine, from his estranged wife, ex-model Heather Mills.

That's because Sir Paul and Heather have been engaged in an extraordinarily acrimonious, extremely public, rancorous marital split, since announcing their separation in 2006. A legal battle which, unless calmer heads prevail, appears headed to final resolution in Court 34, in London's Court's of Justice.

To gain a sense of the potential magnitude of any financial outcome, if Sir Paul and Heather lived here in BC, I ran a child and spousal support calculation, using the spousal support advisory guidelines. Based on an annual income of 50 million dollars for Sir Paul, and no income for Heather, Sir Paul would pay child support for Beatrice, the couples 4 year daughter, of approximately \$390,132 per month, and spousal support ranging from approximately 1.4 to 1.6 million dollars per month! In the alternative Sir Paul could pay a one time lump sum spousal payment to Heather of between 120 to 140 million dollars. Not bad for a four year marriage.

But without the benefit of such Canadian child and spousal support guidelines, the case is expected to establish new legal precedents in the UK for the support of the spouses of wealthy husbands, after relatively short marriages. According to some reports Heather is demanding a combined payout settlement in the neighbourhood of approximately 150 million dollars. Notwithstanding Sir Paul's estimated fortune of a billion, or more dollars, Heather's demands have been vilified as nothing more than an outrageous cash grab by Sir Paul's legal team. A legal position no doubt vigorously rejected by Heather's lawyers, who aren't constrained by the terms of any pesky pre-nup from demanding whatever astronomical sum they believe Sir Paul is prepared to pay.

My question for Sir Paul is simple. What were you thinking! You are an intelligent sophisticated, successful, businessman with many and diverse business interests. At the time of your marriage you had already amassed a huge fortune. As I think I can safely assume that you can afford to have lawyers, or an entire firm for that matter, on retainer to assist you with any conceivable legal matter, did not one of them point out the risk of getting married without a good pre-nup? If not, you should look for better legal advisors, (by the way I'm available), but I doubt that's what happened. More likely you got the right advice, and you chose to ignore it.

The best pre-nup that money can buy, which you can certainly afford, would have provided you with certainty about the limits of your financial exposure to Heather, but it could also have done much more. It would also have determined, in advance, the parenting arrangements for your daughter, Beatrice. Most importantly, it would have saved your daughter from being exposed to the toxic atmosphere, fuelled by your two year legal dispute, with Heather.

Clearly, after the legal dust finally settles, either through negotiation, or legal proceedings, Heather will not need, or feed, Sir Paul at age 64, let alone 66. Love may be all you need for some couples, but most notably, for Sir Paul, love and a good pre-nup would be something worth singing about. 🎶