



Scott T. Taylor

Family Lawyer & Mediator

## Lifestyles of the Rich and Frivolous

*Category: Child Support*

Ten thousand dollars a month for child support! Yes you can believe what you've just read. It's the child support that Canadian born actor Jim Carrey was ordered to pay for the support of his daughter Jane, when he divorced Melissa Carrey, in California, back in 1995. Melissa is now bringing an application in a Los Angeles Court for an increase in child support for Jane, now 15 years of age.

There is no doubt that all parents can appreciate the cost of raising children. As a parent of a hockey playing son and a dancing daughter I know first hand how expensive children can be, however, reading Melissa's Affidavit in support of her application for increased child support is an eye-opening experience. Welcome to the lifestyles of the rich and frivolous.

This is not to suggest however, that anyone should be crying the financial hardship blues for Jim Carrey. Jim earns an annual income higher than the gross domestic product of most small nations, estimated to be somewhere between twenty to forty million dollars U.S. As described in Melissa's Affidavit, Jim has two residences, one purchased in 1994 for approximately 4.5 million dollars and another reportedly purchased for 9.5 million dollars. At one of the residences he allegedly employs a full-time housekeeper, butler, gardener and a personal chef. He also has no difficulty getting around either, in one of his five vehicles or limousine chauffeured by his personal driver, or in his 25 million dollar personal jet.

Melissa does acknowledge however that when Jim does have access to his daughter, estimated to be about 10 percent of the time, it appears that no expense is spared. She mentions to illustrate that he recently flew Jane first class to New York to visit him on the set of a current movie and last year took Jane on a first class African safari for one week. For the millennium celebration he took Jane, along with all of the Carrey family, on a chartered yacht trip to the Caribbean.

While there is no specific increase in child support being claimed, Melissa does describe where

the additional money would be spent. There is no swimming pool, tennis court or gym at Jane's residence. Accordingly, Jane must travel to the Los Angeles Tennis Club for tennis and to a Pilates exercise studio for classes.

Melissa would like to purchase another residence with these amenities for Jane or, as an alternative, "build an area in our house where Jane can do her Pilates and also build a practice studio where Jane can store and practise her musical instruments". The estimated cost of such an additional is approximately \$200,000.00.

There's the horseback riding lessons which cost \$60.00 per hour and of course the personal trainer which would cost approximately \$50.00 per hour. Let's also not forget the photo shots at \$1,500.00 plus, necessary for the talent scouts, and the skiing trips with private skiing instructors. There's also the need for Jane to receive an increase in her weekly allowance to be able to dress "to keep up with all of the new trends" and to have some personal security, since she "is often followed around by photographers."

The application will apparently be heard sometime later this month and I'll try and report on the decision. But in the final analysis, it doesn't really matter how much child support is ordered or paid, since no dollar amount will ever truly replace the value of a real family. 