

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Opening Activity

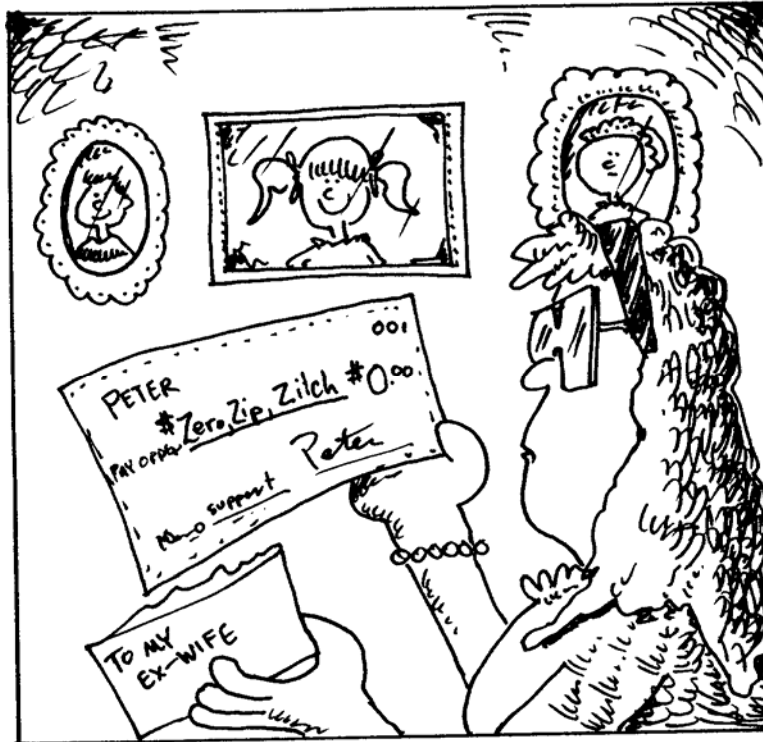
You be the Judge

Name: _____ Period: _____ Row: _____ Date: _____

You be the Judge is a legal puzzle designed to exercise your mind and reasoning power. Read the facts of this real life court case. Then put your judgment against that of the real jury or trial judge.

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53. The Defense of She Makes More Than Me!



Peter Peterson abandoned his wife and two children (ages 12 and 14) four years ago. His ex-wife, Sally, is currently working two jobs and has been given assistance by her family and her local church. Both Sally and her two children have adequate food and shelter. Peter stopped making support payments to his ex-wife six months ago because his ex-wife's salary is about \$4000.00 a month and his is only \$3400.00. Peter feels that his ex-wife is no longer in need of his assistance and makes more money than he does as well. The district attorney of the local court has charged Peter with criminal non-support of his children. In order for the prosecution to gain a conviction, it must show that the children were in "necessitous circumstances" at the the relevant time.

Is Peter guilty of criminal non-support?

How do you think the court will decide the case? EXPLAIN
