

Court Orders Man to Pay Ex-Wife for 25 Years of Housework

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Court (Noun) /kɔ:rt/ an official group that hears and decides upon legal cases; the place where such cases are heard
Example: The defendant was found guilty by the court and was sentenced to five years in prison.
2. Order (Verb) /'ɔ:rdə/ to give an instruction that must be followed
Example: The students were ordered to stay completely quiet during the exam.
3. Minimum wage (Noun) /,mɪnɪmə 'weɪdʒ/ the lowest wage that an employer can legally pay
Example: As of April 1, the minimum wage will increase from \$13 to \$15 an hour.
4. Separation (Noun) /,sepə'reɪʃən/ being or becoming separate
Example: My parents haven't spoken to one another since their separation last year.
5. Property (Noun) /'prɒ:pərti/ something that is owned by a person or organization
Example: Your laptop is considered to be company property and must be returned if you resign.
6. Deserve (Verb) /dɪ'zərv/ to have earned or be worthy of something
Example: I think Argentina deserved to win the World Cup.



Cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, taking out the garbage... Housework can be a full-time job. But it's a job that people aren't usually paid for — until now. A woman in Spain is "very happy" after a court ordered her ex-husband to pay her for 25 years of housework.

The Spanish court ordered Ivana Moral's ex-husband to pay her over \$216,000 for all the housework she did during their marriage. The court decided the amount by using Spain's monthly minimum wage. The man was also ordered to pay Moral around \$530 every month, as well as monthly payments of about \$1,000 to his two daughters — now aged 14 and 20.

The couple had married in 1995 with a separation of property agreement. This meant they each kept the money they made during their marriage — and when it ended in 2020, Moral had no right to any of her ex-husband's money. And her ex-husband was very successful, building a gym business that allowed him to buy expensive cars, motorbikes, and an olive farm worth \$4.2 million.

However, after their marriage ended, Moral told the i news website, "Me and my daughters were left with nothing." Speaking to Cadena Ser radio, Moral said that during their marriage her husband did not want her to work outside of the home. Except for some work at his gyms, he made her focus on housework, so that she couldn't do anything else. Moral added that she is now very happy, because the court's decision was "well deserved."

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on Ivana Moral's story?
2. Would you agree that doing housework can be a full-time job?
3. Who does most of the housework in your home?
4. Do you know any couples who divorced after being married for a long time?
5. Is it common for couples in your country to sign a premarital agreement?