

Spousal Maintenance in Texas-General Rules  
New Law Effective for cases filed 9-1-2011 and after

Length of Marriage	Old Law	New Law
0-10 years	none	none
10-20 years	up to 3 years	up to 5 years
20-30 years	up to 3 years	up to 7 years
30 + years	up to 3 years	up to 10 years

Maximum Amount of Alimony

Old Law	New Law
\$2500/month	\$5000/month

\* or 20% of spouses average monthly gross income, if less

The spousal support is still need based:

1. To provide *only* for a spouses *minimum* reasonable needs
2. Requirement that spouse can't earn sufficient income
3. Only for the minimum period necessary, and an award can be reduced later

There are limited exceptions for an incapacity or disability caused by the other spouse, or a child's disability requiring a spouses continuing care.

See Section 8.051 *et seq*, Texas Family Code

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