



Florida House of Representatives

John Thrasher, Speaker

Representative, District 19

Reply to:

□ 2233 Park Avenue
Suite 302
Orange Park, Florida 32073-5569
(904)777-2110

□ 420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
(850)488-1450

September 28, 2000

David King, Esq.
1416 Kingsley Avenue
Orange Park, FL 32073

Dear David:

As my last term in the Florida House of Representatives draws to a close, I wanted to write to you and establish for the record that you authored HB 153.

The Florida Department of Revenue issued a number of new rules on February 13, 1991. Prior to 1991, there existed a longstanding but uncodified exception for deeds between divorcing spouses. The result of these rule changes was that if one spouse pursuant to a court order transferred his or her interest in their former marital homestead to the other spouse, the conveyance was taxable on the value of one half of the outstanding mortgage balance. The conveyance of real estate in this instance was not a free and voluntary act; nor was it a sale in the normal sense of the word. Property was not conveyed; what occurred was merely the removal of one spouse's name from the deed.

You discovered this during the course of your pro bono work for the legal aid office. Realizing that this amounted to an individual "being kicked when they were already down," you researched and drafted proposed legislation to correct this situation. Your tireless efforts in cooperation with myself and Senator Jim Horne through the 1995, 1996 and 1997 legislative sessions resulted in the passage of HB 153 which became law on May 30, 1997, with an effective date of July 1, 1997. HB 153 created F.S.201.02(7).

Through your personal efforts and determination, a wrong was righted, and a law was created to protect the citizens of our great state. I believe this citizen involvement in government is what the founding fathers of our great nation envisioned for America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Thrasher".

John Thrasher
Speaker of the House