

Mom's marriage cuts daughter's aid

By KATHLEEN MORAN

When Gloria Martin McCabe said "I do" one year ago, she never dreamt she'd be bringing her daughter's college career to a screeching halt.

Yet that's what she fears is happening as she battles a maze of bureaucratic entanglements trying to regain financial aid for her daughter's college education.

From receiving up to 90 percent of expenses during the last two years for daughter Rebecca Robak's education at Kalamazoo College, Mrs. McCabe is now told she will have to shoulder almost the entire cost — up to \$10,000 this year. That's more than half her projected 1980 income of \$18,000 as a partner in Adams and Martin Personnel in Birmingham.

The difference between this year and last is simply that she got married.

The college and state contend that her husband's income must be considered in determining whether Ms. Robak is entitled to student grants or loans.

She and her husband, Dan, have considered obtaining a "paper" divorce to satisfy the bureaucrats. But the McCabes fear even that would be too late to save her daughter's once-in-a-lifetime foreign study which is slated to begin Sept. 27.

IT'S A CASE of discrimination against the financially independent, though married, woman, says an exasperated Mrs. McCabe, a resident of Troy's Northfield Hills.

"It's an injustice," she contends. "They're saying that because I married, my income automatically doubled."

It didn't — and she can prove it, contends Mrs. McCabe.

When they married on Aug. 15, 1979, the McCabes vowed to love and to cherish — but also to keep their finances entirely separate.

"I married him for the love and companionship, not for financial reasons," she said. "I didn't think I should have any claim to his finances, nor he to mine. To me, that's the only way to go

at this stage of my life."

Both had children from previous marriages and financial obligations to those offspring. The McCabes decided to keep their finances separate and even drew up wills that would leave any assets to their own children, not to the living spouse or stepchildren.

McCabe lives in his wife's condo and pays a mutually agreed upon sum for rent, utilities and food. They split all expenses. Both filed separate federal income tax forms, even though they would have realized a slight savings by filing together.

AFTER SUCH painstaking efforts to keep their finances separate, it came as a shock when Mrs. McCabe's daughter's application for financial aid suddenly encountered roadblocks.

Ms. Robak, 20, has received financial aid for most of her college expenses for the past two years, but now the various agencies which dispense student aid are balking at giving her any financial assistance, notes her mother.

The college says it must follow state guidelines and must consider the stepfather's income. The state maintains it must follow the federal requirements — and include the stepfather's income

(Continued on Page 10B)

Hills posts agenda

Following is the agenda for the Farmington Hills council session of Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at city hall, 31555 11 Mile at Orchard Lake Road.

• Public hearing on project plan for the economic development corporation of the city of Farmington Hills, Donald B. and Mariellen Greenbury project, including issuance of limited obligation revenue bonds of approximately \$1,700,000.

• Public hearing relative revised cost estimate for road improvement on Inkster Road, from Northwestern Highway to 13 Mile.

• Consideration of approval of contract between the Mercy Center and the city of Farmington Hills.

• Consideration of introduction of amendatory zoning ordinance C62-A-A (1) IRO preamble.

• Consideration of introduction of amendatory zoning ordinance C62-222.

• Consideration of enactment of amendatory zoning ordinances C62-221, C62-223, C62-224 and C62-225.

• Consideration of enactment of amendatory ordinance C-5-80 to the city code 80.870 regulating the use of alarm systems and certain telephone connections.

• Consideration of choosing delegate and alternate for Farmington Hills for

annual business meeting of Michigan Municipal League.

• Consideration of the initiating petition submitted relative to the provision of emergency medical services.

• Consideration of the approval of a consent judgment in the case of Ross vs. city of Farmington Hills (Northwestern Highway south of Middlebell).

• Consideration of resolution setting public hearing date for revised Roson Co. project plan.

• Consideration of electing delegates to the Michigan Municipal League workers compensation self-insurer fund.

• Consideration of citywide sidewalk program.

• City manager recommends award of low bid for the paving of Nine Mile, east of I-275.

• Recommends adoption of traffic control order for yield right-of-way for Gettysburg Road and Vicksburg Road.

• Recommends approval of 14 Mile Road school safety traffic study.

• Recommends adoption of 25 mph speed limit zone reduction tripartite agreement with Farmington School District and West Bloomfield for installation of electrical powered flashers.

• Recommends extensions of Waldron Drain.

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