

The Importance of Working Out Your Differences Divorce is too Costly!

Approximately one million children experience the ripping apart of their families by divorce each year

- 20% to 25% of youths from divorced families in comparison to 10% from non-divorced families developed “serious social, emotional, or psychological problems”** (Hetherington, E. M., & Kelly, J., (2002). *For Better or Worse, Divorce Reconsidered*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company).
- 40% of children of divorce have no contact with their nonresidential father and those with contact average only 69 days a year of contact.** (Halle, T., (2002). *Charting Parenthood: A Statistical Portrait of Fathers and Mothers in America*. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends.)
- 38% of children living with a divorced mother live below the poverty level as opposed to and overall rate of 22% in the United States.** (Thompson, R.A. & Amato, P.R., (1999). *The Postdivorce Family: Children, Parenting, and Society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.)
- Compared to children from intact families, adolescents in divorced families are two to three times as likely to drop out of school, become pregnant or engage in antisocial and delinquent behavior.** (Hetherington, E. M., Stanley-Hagan, M., (1999). *The Adjustment of Children with Divorce Parents: A Risk and Resiliency Perspective*. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, Vol. 50, No. 1, pp. 129-140).
- Children living with an unmarried mother are fourteen times more likely to experience abuse than children living with both biological parents.** (Oliver, W.J., Kuhns, L.R. & Pomeranz, E.S., (2006). *Family Structure and Child Abuse*. *Clinical Pediatrics*, March 2006).

Approximately 200,000 adults and 150,000 children each year suffer serious problems due to divorce.

86% of unhappily married people who remained in their marriage found that, five years later, their marriages were happier; rating very happy or quite happy. (Waite, L.J. & Gallagher, M., (2000). *The Case for Marriage*. New York, NY: Doubleday).

More than two-thirds of those who have divorced would advise others to ‘work it out or go see a counselor,’ (Knox, D. & Corte, U. “Work It Out/See a Counselor”: Advice from Spouses in the Separation Process. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, Vol. 48(1/2) 2007).

80% of people do not improve their lives by divorcing their spouse. (Hetherington, E. M., & Kelly, J., (2002). *For Better or Worse, Divorce Reconsidered*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company)

Unhappily married people who divorced were no happier, five years later, than unhappily married people who stayed married (Waite, L.J., Browning, D., Doherty, W.J., Gallagher, M., Luo, Y., & Stanley, S.M., (2002). *Does Divorce Make People Happy? Findings from a Study of Unhappy Marriages*. New York, NY: Institute for American Values).

50% of couples divorcing: conflict and problems they had in the marriage continued or became worse. (Ahrons, C., (1994). *The Good Divorce*. New York, NY: HarperCollins).

59% of divorces were caused by non-serious issues such as; incompatibility, growing apart, lack of communication, loss of love, etc. (Amato, P.R., Previti, D., (2003). *People’s Reasons for Divorcing: Gender, Social Class, the Life Course, and Adjustment*. *Journal of Family Issues*, Vol. 27, No. 5, pp 602-606).

\$Billions per year; cost of divorce to US Taxpayers. (*The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce & Unwed Childbearing*, Institute for American Values)

\$8,000; cost to an employer in lost productivity due to an employee divorcing. (Turvey, M.D. & Olson, D.H., (2006). *Marriage & Family Wellness: Corporate America’s Business? A Marriage CoMission Research Report*, Minneapolis, MN: Life Innovations)

Higher rates of depression, suicide, alcohol abuse and mental health treatment exhibited by divorced people compared to married. (Sweeney, M.M. & Horwitz, A.V., (2001). *Infidelity, Initiation, and the Emotional Climate of Divorce: Are There Implications for Mental Health?* *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, Vo. 42, (September): 295-309)

People are 10 times more likely to suffer serious problems due to divorce than smokers are to die from smoking related diseases. (Wallerstein, J.S., (2005). *Growing up in the Divorced Family*. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, Vol. 33, No. 4, Winter 2005

“We didn’t learn to break promises and (marriage) vows from big bad bullies at school – we learned from watching our parents deny every word they once said to each other.” ~ Elizabeth Wurtzel