

The Breakdown of Clergy Marriages **Pastoral Care and Practical Provision**

SECTION I

Introduction and Responsibilities

Introduction

From time to time clergy and their married partners will experience difficulties in that marriage. Clergy are encouraged to bring such difficulties to the knowledge of their Bishop at the earliest opportunity.

The Bishop's Role

The Bishop will encourage the cleric and his/her spouse in their marriage by providing the necessary support through time and resources for reconciliation. This may include: -

- paid time off from duty for an agreed period
- counselling support
- the opportunity to attend a retreat together e.g. Mary and Martha
- pastoral support for the cleric and his/her spouse.

If however, resolution of difficulties or reconciliation is not possible and the marriage breaks down irretrievably then it must be recognised that the Church in Wales has not only a pastoral responsibility for the cleric and his/her spouse but also a responsibility to assist with practical problems that arise as a consequence of the breakdown of the marriage.

The Bishop is responsible for ensuring that the cleric concerned receives appropriate pastoral care, and as far as possible that the cleric fulfils his/her responsibilities towards both the spouse and any children.

The Bishop is also responsible for ensuring that the Archdeacon visits the spouse and any children to offer pastoral support and to assist them with practical problems arising as a consequence of the marriage breakdown.

The Archdeacon's Role

The Archdeacon is appointed by the Diocesan Bishop to act on his behalf as "The Visitor". The role is a practical one offering non-judgemental support to the spouse at the time of the marriage breakdown and for as long as necessary thereafter whilst the spouse rebuilds his or her life. This role is **not** that of a counsellor. There are specialist counselling support services available should the spouse require this type of support.

The Visitor will initially be required to: -

- Agree a location for a first meeting – wherever the spouse would feel most comfortable.
- At the first meeting with the spouse, you should explain the nature and role of a Visitor and what the spouse should expect from you.

- Stress your confidentiality; but at the same time make clear that the Bishop has a right to know some of the facts.
- If the spouse has remained in the parsonage house, assure him/her that the family may remain in the vicarage for at least three months. If the family intend to stay in the vicarage for the time being, it may be helpful to have an ansaphone installed; all queries to be referred to the Churchwardens.
- Tell your clergy spouse that there may well be press interest and that he/she should be aware of the potential effect of intrusive enquiries. Any press enquiries can be referred to the Diocesan Communications Officer. A clergy spouse may see press interest as an opportunity to tell their story but the clergy spouse should be aware that the press is likely to see the story as a scandal and as such the clergy spouse must be prepared to have the press rake over the full family history in a very public way.
- It may be necessary for you to arrange to see the Area Dean and Churchwardens, and to enlist their help and support for all parties concerned.
- Be prepared to listen carefully to assess immediate needs. There should be petty cash available from your diocese.
- Do not rely on your clergy spouse to keep making contact. “He/She must be alright if he/she hasn’t phoned me“is a mistake we have all made. But we must be sensitive to the spouse’s need to cope on his/her own when he/she feels able.
- It may be helpful for you to have a referral sheet for you to record essential information.
- Be mindful that the clergy spouse may consider the church to be the cause of the marriage break up.
- Ensure that clergy spouse is informed of the organisation Broken Rites and that this organisation is a self help support group established to support clergy wives at the time of separation and thereafter. Information can be found at Annex 5 and ensure that the clergy spouse is given a leaflet from Broken Rites.
- You should maintain a record of your meetings with the spouse. A sample record is attached at Annex 1.

There may be other social, emotional and spiritual care matters that emerge from the relationship with the spouse that may require a response. Attached at Annex 2 and 3 are background notes which you might find useful in supporting the clergy spouse or child(ren).

The principal role is however one of identifying those matters that require a practical response, including finance, housing, accessing state benefits, pensions, legal advice. Section 2 of the guidance includes information on each of these areas.

SECTION 2

Finance, Housing and Pensions

I. Finance

This section deals with personal finance.

Unless the spouse has a substantial personal income or private means, money and housing are likely to be two major concerns. You will need to establish the position.

As soon as practical and assuming the spouse needs help from the Visitor, as much as possible should be discovered about the spouse's circumstances so as to be able to assess the sorts of solution which will be practical e.g.:

- Is the spouse earning, and if so, how much?
- Is there a family to support e.g. children or is there an elderly relative e.g. a parent also being cared for. If so, you will need to establish the school arrangements and any caring arrangements that exist.
- How much financial support is the cleric providing and how secure is this?
- Does the spouse have any other sources of income e.g. Child Benefit, other state benefits, interest etc.?
- Are relatives able to provide any help?
- What capital does the spouse have and how accessible is it e.g. is there a jointly owned property and will it need to be sold?
- What preferences does the spouse have about where they want to live and the type of accommodation?
- Have the cleric and their spouse reorganised their financial affairs i.e. set up separate bank accounts, agreed the division of property?
- The spouse should be encouraged to prepare an annual budget. It may be that the spouse has no experience of e.g. paying the household bills; they may need help in preparing this. A sample form for recording Income and Expenditure systematically is attached at Annex 4.

State Benefits

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has replaced the Department of Social Security and parts of the Department for Education and Employment. Jobcentre Plus and the Pension Service have replaced the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service.

- The Jobcentre Plus network provides help in finding jobs and pays benefits to people of working age.
- The Pension Service offers a telephone-based service, backed up by local services for those who need face-to-face advice or a visit.
- The Disability and Carers Service supports those who are sick or disabled or caring for someone who is sick or disabled. Its services can be accessed from Jobcentre plus network.

Advice and information may be obtained from the relevant local office, the Department for Work and Pensions website www.dwp.gov.uk and the Citizens advice Bureau www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Other benefits to be aware of include Housing and Council Tax Benefits, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Carers Allowance.

- Spouses with childcare responsibilities could apply for Child Tax Credit.
- Spouses with child care responsibilities and working over 16 hours per week could apply for Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit and help with childcare.
- Spouses without child care responsibilities and working over 30 hours per week (or working over 16 hours per week if aged over 50 or disabled) could apply for Working Tax Credit.
- Spouses with caring responsibilities e.g. elderly parent, the elderly parent could apply for Carers Allowance or Attendance Allowance or if aged under 65 Disability Living Allowance.

Any maintenance payments by the cleric are not taken into account in the means testing of these benefits. Further information is available from the department for Work and Pensions www.dwp.gov.uk and the Inland Revenue www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/leaflets/credit

2. Housing

This section deals with accommodation and housing needs.

The clergy spouse may remain in the parsonage with the child(ren) for a period of three months whilst alternative housing arrangements are made. Unless the clergy spouse has an alternative house to move into immediately the spouse should be encouraged to remain in the parsonage whilst other possible alternatives are explored. The spouse may need support to make this stand.

Representative Body Housing

It may be that the Representative Body through the Diocesan Parsonage Board has vacant houses in the area available for rent. The Visitor should explore with the Diocesan Secretary the possibility of renting a parsonage.

The Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that those without a home are re-housed. The local Housing Office will provide a list of all housing associations operating in the area and the necessary application form.

Clergy Retirement Housing Loan Scheme

Financial assistance in the form of a preferential loan is available to clergy and their spouses who are approaching retirement and can be extended to others in certain circumstances, including situations such as the breakdown of clergy marriages. The Representative Body may consider applications for a housing loan from clergy spouses. Information concerning its applicability can be obtained from either the Finance Department or the HR Department of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales.

Assistance with Removal Expenses

The Diocese may assist with removal expenses. You should explore with the Diocesan Secretary the level of assistance that might be available and the procedure for accessing such assistance.

Housing Benefits

There are two benefits with particular relevance to housing, they are, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

Housing Benefit is paid by local Authorities to those who are on low income and are paying rent. The benefit is means tested and takes into account income, savings and personal circumstances such as size of family. The Local Authority will look at whether the amount of rent being charged is reasonable and whether the home is a reasonable size for the individual or family. Claims for Housing Benefit can be made up to 13 weeks before the entitlement begins, so a claim can be submitted before moving into the accommodation.

Council Tax Benefit is paid by local Authorities to those who are on a low income as a rebate on their council tax bill.

A single application form for Housing and Council Tax Benefit is available from the local Benefits Agency, or from the Department for Work and Pensions website: www.dwp.gov.uk. In addition to the Government website and leaflets, information is also available from organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau www.citizensadvice.org.uk and Shelter www.shelternew.org.uk Tel. 0808 800 4444.

3. Pensions

This section deals with state pensions pension sharing on divorce.

Encourage the clergy spouse to find out from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) details of how to qualify for a State Retirement Pension. The booklet NP46 "A Guide to Retirement Pensions" can be obtained by telephoning 08457 31 32 33 (or via www.thepensionsservice.gov.uk). Information is also available from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

A woman who is separated from her husband, and who does not qualify for a State Retirement Pension based on her own National Insurance contribution records when she reaches State Pension Age, may be able to claim the married woman's pension when her husband claims his state pension. Similarly, if her own entitlement is less than the married woman's rate, she may be able to make a claim based on her husband's contributions. (The State Pension Age is currently 65 for a man, 60 for a woman. For women born in April 1955 or later it will be 65. For those born between April 1950 and March 1955, there is a phased increase in the State Pension Age).

Those who are divorced, and do not qualify for a full Basic State Pension from their own contributions, may be able to use their former spouse's contribution record (but only that up to the time of the divorce) to increase the amount they receive. Those who get divorced after pension age, and are receiving the married woman's State pension, may be able to use their former husband's contribution record to get a full State pension.

A pension forecast can be obtained for the DWP, using form BR19 (Tel. 0845 3000 168 www.thepensionsservice.gov.uk).

The Clergy Pension Scheme

The retirement benefits that accrue to a member of an occupational pension scheme, as a result of their pensionable service in work to which the scheme relates, belong legally to that member. Clergy must complete two years' pensionable service before qualifying for a prospective pension.

A spouse who is separated, but not divorced, is eligible to receive the survivorship pension on the death of the scheme member. A former spouse has no entitlement to a survivorship pension if the marriage had ended in divorce, whether or not the member had remarried. (In the event of the member having remarried, a pension would be payable to the legal widow(er).)

However the Pensions Act 1995 provides for the Court, on a divorce, to make a Direction 'earmarking' part of the scheme member's pension rights (or death in service lump sum – see below) in favour of the spouse. This can only apply where a petition for divorce was initiated in July 1996 or later. The Direction cannot take effect until the member retires and applies to draw their benefits. On prior death the arrangement dies with them. Similarly, the arrangement ceases on the member's death after retirement.

An 'earmarking' provision made under the Pensions Act 1995 does not cover the prospective survivorship pension under the scheme. The whole of the entitlement to such a pension would still be payable to the legal widow(er), if there were one, or no such pension would be payable if there were not.

The Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 provided for the Court to make a "pension sharing order", effectively 'splitting' a scheme member's pension on divorce. The division is effected by reference to the 'cash equivalent' – i.e. the actuarially assessed capital value – of the member's accrued rights. The allocated part of the cash equivalent is then transferred to a qualifying arrangement in their own name (such as another occupational scheme or a personal pension) nominated by the former spouse. It provides absolute rights. The process can only apply where a petition is initiated in December 2000 or later (but 'earmarking' remains another option on such cases).

Sharing under the 1999 Act, by relating to the capital value of the member's rights, encompasses the whole package of benefits. The survivorship pension subsequently payable to a legal widow(er) would therefore be reduced to reflect that part of the member's rights (including the contingent benefit) transferred to the former spouse.

A lump sum is payable if a scheme member dies in pensionable service. The amount of the benefit is fixed but the Representative Body has discretion as to who receives it. The benefit can be divided. Scheme members may nominate prospective recipients. Although nominations cannot be binding on the Representative Body, as that would circumscribe the discretion, they are taken fully into account. Each case is investigated individually and payment to, for example, a surviving spouse would be a natural consideration but is not automatic. A former spouse could be a recipient of all, or part of, the benefit. It will clearly be essential to the Representative Body to have been notified if a separation or divorce has occurred.

An Earmarking Order by a Court under the Pensions Act 1995 may include part of any contingent lump sum death benefit. It is important to remember that such a benefit only becomes available if the scheme member is in pensionable service at the date of death.

'Sharing' under the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 relates to rights from pensionable service accrued. The lump sum death benefit would not be included. If the scheme member remains in pensionable service, however, he could include a former spouse in his nomination.

It is not possible to have both an Earmarking and a Sharing Order.

4. Charities

There are a number of charities established specifically to help clergy and also clergy spouses and families. A list of these can be found at Annex 6.

It is advisable to telephone the charities and explain the spouse's circumstances in some detail before applying for a grant. Often charities will not make a grant where the spouse has more than a few thousand pounds capital, as is the case with state benefits. However the charities take a realistic view of the cost of raising a family and will very often consider grants for families on relatively high incomes for specific items such as school clothing and re-housing costs. In some cases applications for interest free loans may be considered.

It is advisable to submit applications to the "Sons" and "Friends" simultaneously. This will ensure that all the charities involved can work together and will prevent problems of duplication.

SECTION 3

Other Matters

Legal Advice

Early legal advice from the Law Centre, Solicitor or Citizens Advice Bureau is helpful. Divorce need not be inevitable and the option of a legal separation could be considered.

How to find a solicitor

Advice should be sought from a solicitor on separation, division of capital, maintenance and arrangements for children. Spouses must be allowed to decide for themselves and you should never fall into the trap of suggesting only one or two solicitors, except to say that the Diocese/Visitor may know several solicitors who give fair service at a reasonable cost.

Spouses should seek a family law solicitor with one of the following accreditations:

- A Resolution – *first for family law* member, or better still with a relevant specialist accreditation.
- A Law Society ‘Family Law Panel member’, or better still, Family Law Panel Advanced member.

Citizens Advice Bureaus will also know of solicitors specialising in matrimonial cases.

Solicitors offer a free 20/30 minute initial consultation. A spouse could go to two or three solicitors for free initial consultations until they find a solicitor that they feel comfortable with.

It is helpful to all parties concerned if the solicitor knows of your existence, but you should not be drawn into providing evidence or information to either solicitor, as your role is purely advisory.

The possibility of legal aid

If the spouse’s income is small, the spouse may be entitled to Legal Aid. Spouses seeking legal aid should look for solicitors with the Legal Services Commission (LSC) Quality Mark. The Community Legal Service (CLS) Directory gives details of specialist Solicitors who are contracted to carry out publicly funded work.

Mediation

All solicitors are instructed by the Lord Chancellor that they should look for reconciliation and refer, where appropriate, for counselling. And there should not be a move for early or quick divorce except in extreme cases.

Conciliation and mediation services which can really help the parties concerned either through the decision making process or on the decisions have been made.

Mediation Services enable the couple to meet together with the help of a third party to seek a satisfactory resolution. The individuals could then go back to their solicitor for legal advice to check that what had been proposed was reasonable, and then an agreement can be drawn up. Family mediators work in various settings including in voluntary organisations, private practices

and in solicitors offices and charge at different levels. Some mediators can provide mediation which is publicly funded for those eligible.

Grounds for divorce

Under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 the sole legal ground for divorce is the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage. However, evidence must be provided for this under one of five categories:

- a) That the respondent has committed adultery and the petitioner finds it intolerable to live with the respondent;
- b) That the respondent has behaved in such a way that the petitioner cannot reasonably be expected to live with the respondent;
- c) That the respondent has deserted the petitioner for a continuous period of at least two years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition;
- d) That the parties of the marriage have lived apart for a continuous period of at least two years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition ... and the respondent consents to a decree being granted;
- e) That the parties of the marriage have lived apart for a continuous period of at least five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition...

Spouses should be aware that a petition under grounds a) b) or c), if accepted by the court could result in the cleric being disciplined. If the cleric was deprived of office this would affect the cleric's income and ability to make maintenance payments. Therefore, some spouses, who might otherwise apply under a) b) or c), may prefer to wait and apply under category d).

Publicity

To avoid publicity in the area where the husband/wife is in ministry the location of the divorce proceedings can be moved to any part of the country. Any press enquiries should be referred to the Diocesan Communications Officer.

Insurance Cover

Discuss the arrangement of insurance cover for any maintenance settlement in divorce proceedings, so that in the event of the death of a former spouse, maintenance will continue for as long as is needed. At a later stage the drawing up of new wills should be considered.

Harassment

Should there be persistent harassment from an estranged spouse; an injunction can be obtained so that the spouse is restrained from causing a nuisance or even coming within certain limits of the house. An order could be sought excluding the spouse from the matrimonial home. This should be discussed with a solicitor if it is an issue, at an early stage.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

THE BREAKDOWN OF CLERGY MARRIAGES
ARCHDEACON'S RECORD

Name of Spouse..... Telephone.....

Address.....

Date of Marriage.....

Names and D of B of children.....

.....

Circumstances of breakdown:

Date of separation / divorce.....

Nature of help required:

Information given:

Notified about:	Assistance Programme	Y/N
	Benefits	Y/N
	Pension and Housing rights	Y/N
	The organisation Broken Rites	Y/N

Other matters:

Date seen byArchdeacon

THE BREAKDOWN OF CLERGY MARRIAGES SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE

Introduction

Every marriage breakdown is unique and it is therefore impossible to describe a “typical” situation. Some spouses may rely heavily on the Archdeacon for practical assistance while others prefer to be self-sufficient. Some may cope well with the situation and even experience it as a release from a long and difficult marriage, while others may feel intense emotional pain and see no future for themselves. Some may maintain their church affiliation, other may reject it. Some may have strong and supportive friends while others may have none.

Despite these differences most spouses are likely to experience social, emotional, spiritual and practical changes in their lives. Of these four types of change it is the practical which is the focus of the Archdeacon, and some ways in which the Archdeacon may offer practical assistance. What follows in this section are some general comments about the social, emotional and spiritual needs of the spouse, and how the Archdeacon might practically respond.

Social Needs

Again, it is impossible to generalise about people’s needs and we should not presume to know what is required. However, gentle enquiries of the spouse might reveal their need for, say, financial assistance with child minding which would allow them an evening out, or funding for a rail journey to visit friends or relations. These are examples of practical responses, which should fall within the remit of most Archdeacons’ and are guided by the expressed needs of the spouse.

Emotional Needs

When a marriage breaks down the spouse may be left with powerful emotions that should be seen as ‘normal’ given the circumstances of loss. Examples may be tiredness, anger, frustration or despair. However, emotions may sometimes appear (to the spouse and others) to be “abnormal”, the person experiencing a feeling of freedom or even euphoria. Often emotions will be chaotic, changing during the course of the day, and in conflict with themselves. The spouse might enquire of you, “Am I going mad?” and behind such a question might lie anxious thoughts about being unable to cope with the demands of the present and the future. The Archdeacon is not acting as a counsellor in this situation.

While it is likely that the Archdeacon will hear the expression of powerful emotions from the spouse, they should not encourage or facilitate such expression. Rather, they should remain clear about their own practical role and, if the spouse so wishes, assist in arrangements for counselling (see below) in the same way as they may facilitate contact with other professionals such as lawyers or accountants.

Counselling

Many people going through separation/divorce find it helpful to have counselling at some point, particularly where the decision to part was not theirs. However the time for this is usually not in the immediate crisis of breakdown. Extended family and friends, if they are available, tend to be best placed to offer the love and support that's needed at this stage. Dealing with the practical issues often needs to take priority in the early aftermath. Emotional needs are frequently "put on hold" amidst the pressure of appointments, setting up arrangements and putting them into action. It is as the practical situation begins to settle that there can be an "emotional backlash" and this is when counselling may be sought.

How the spouse comes to terms with the losses and moves on with their life will depend on a whole variety of factors. It might be appropriate for the spouse or family members to consider counselling. Spouses and family members can access free confidential counselling support through the Churches Counselling Service. www.ccs-wales.org.uk. Telephone number 0800 7833540.

Spiritual Needs

Clergy spouses may have confused and angry feelings about "the church" and clergy, and these emotions may be projected on to you as a representative of the Bishop. Be prepared for this possibility and (however unreasonable it may appear to you) try to accept that for the moment these are symptoms of this person's inner reality.

Once again, even if you have training in spiritual direction, it is probably unwise and confusing to deviate from the practical role. With the consent of the spouse it may be appropriate to make contact with a priest (possibly outside their own diocese), or at least someone who does not know the couple – who can listen to the person's feelings and offer spiritual guidance. Alternatively, there might be circumstances in which it is appropriate to fund or help organise a spiritual retreat for the spouse in a place where she or he is not known.

The spouse's relationship with the church and "Christianity" is likely to be sensitive and in flux.

Practical Involvement

While these social-emotional-spiritual events are taking place the person may be faced with practical problems such as earning a living, thinking about care of the children, legal and financial arrangements and future housing.

Ideally, you will offer to the spouse a holistic response to his or her situation. Social, emotional, and spiritual care will be offered when appropriate and at the request of the spouse, your essential role is the practical facilitation of this teamwork by others.

Confidentiality

The basis of confidentiality, as opposed to secrecy, is consent. You need to be clear where the boundaries of confidentiality lie. Child protection issues could be an exception to these boundaries, and if so, it would be wise to consult the Diocesan Child Protection Officer. A suggested procedure for establishing the basis of confidentiality is:

- I. Discuss with the clergy spouse the question of confidentiality.

- II. Seek advice.
- III. Examine whether there were any legal issues: for example with the Diocesan Child Protection Officer or Diocesan Registrar.
- IV. Limit the revelations: consider what you are going to reveal and what you are not. Being given permission to divulge information is not an excuse for gossip.
- V. Confide in the client: tell the client exactly what you have decided to do, what you will reveal and what you will not.

Domestic Abuse

It is possible that the spouse may have suffered or continues to suffer some form of domestic abuse; this can become acute, especially around a time of separation. Children can also suffer emotionally and/or physically with domestic abuse. Particular help can be obtained from www.cofe.anglican.org/info/papers/domesticabuse.pdf

**THE BREAKDOWN OF CLERGY MARRIAGES
THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN**

The needs of any children must also be considered. They will need to maintain contact with both their parents and extended family on both sides. Often at the time of breakdown parents find it difficult to discuss together the future arrangements for their children but one of the aims of the Archdeacon should be to make this possible.

The future of any children is a prime concern. It is important for the welfare of the children that the parents should continue to accept joint responsibility for them. This could become a catalyst for understanding, acceptance and change for each member of the family.

It should be remembered that children from a clergy home can often feel pressures from the congregation and their peers which other children might not have, so when the family collapses this can produce particular trauma which they have difficulty in articulating.

It is probable true that the ideal way to meet children's needs is sooner or later for the whole family to get together. You may need to advise the family to seek expert assistance from conciliation or mediation services which are now nationwide. They offer a neutral forum for joint discussion.

Parents need to consider where the children will live and what contact they will have with them. It is no longer appropriate to talk about "custody" and "access". The Children Act uses the terms "residence" and "contact" which do not have the same adversarial overtones. Indeed Courts now prefer not to make any orders, but to encourage responsible agreements between parents, taking into account the needs and wishes of the children.¹

How children may react

Depending on their age and stage of development children, even adult children, will react to family difficulties in a variety of way:

Stress / Illness	Disruptive behaviour at home / School
Confusion / Torn Loyalties	Lack of respect for mother / others
Lack of Trust	Insomnia / bed wetting / nightmares
Inability to develop relationships	Running away from home / leaving home early
Anger	Eating disorders
A belief that abuse is normal	Inability to concentrate
Isolation	Failing at school
Shame	Behavioural problems
Fear of a return to violence	Insecurity
Anxiety	Resentment towards mother
Feelings of responsibility	Aggression to self / others

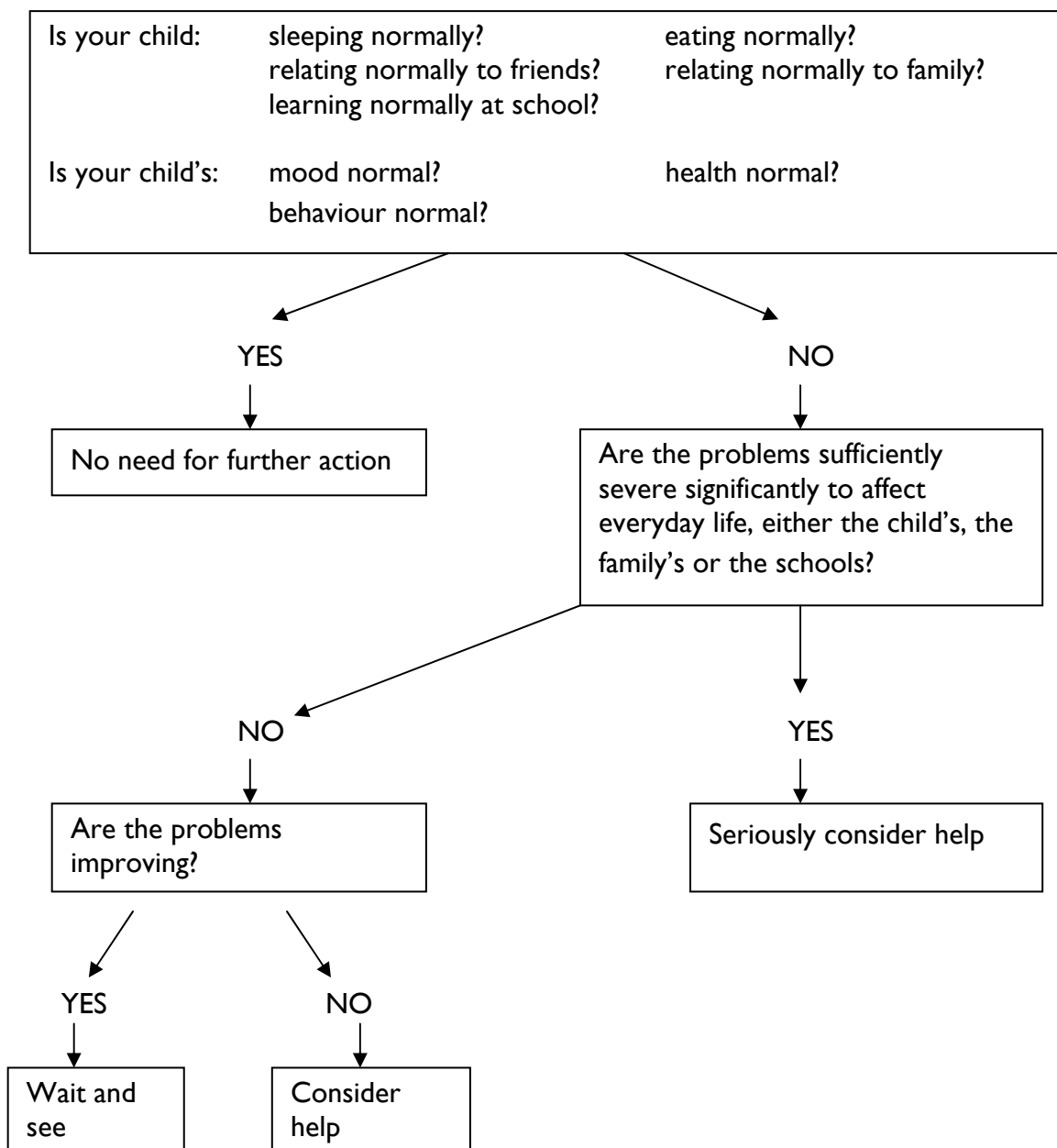
¹ When parents who are divorcing or separating have been unable to reach agreement about arrangements for their children, and one has issued a court application, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) can become involved. A Children and Family Reporter will meet the parents and children and write a report for the court, which can take about 13 weeks. See www.cafcass.gov.uk

Sometimes these behavioural changes will subside as the child's routine returns to some sort of normality. Some problems however may need professional help. This can place an added burden on parents and may add to feelings of failure and guilt but it is important for the parents to see this as a way of caring for their children under stress rather than an exercise in apportioning blame.

Additional Factors

Health issues, mental, physical or emotional can have a major effect on family dynamics. It is important that such problems are acknowledged by all concerned. The child's / children's perception and experience of events will not necessarily be the same as that of the parents. A further problem children face is the difficulty of communicating the impact of their experiences to others.

Does your child need help?



Child Protection

If there is a situation where there is concern for the safety and welfare of children with either parent or where they may be exposed to a situation which puts them at risk (including domestic abuse), you must report your concerns to the police or Social Services and Diocesan Child Protection Officers. (A list of Diocesan Child Protection Officers may be found at Annex). It should be remembered that abuse takes different forms and these may be emotional, physical, sexual abuse and neglect.

Sources of help

There are so many sources of help for children with emotional and behavioural problems that it can be confusing for parents, particularly at a time of distress. Key agencies are family doctors, health visitors (under fives) and teachers. They may refer you on to other professionals working in a multi-disciplinary team. These may include counsellors, youth workers, child psychologists, paediatricians, or social workers.

The children's charity NCH have an excellent website www.itsnotyourfault.org "Are you worried your parents are splitting up? If so, this website is to help you understand and feel a bit better. Practical information for children, young people and parents going through a family break-up."

The Department for Constitutional Affairs has published leaflets aimed at children affected by divorce:

- "Me and My Family" for children aged 5-8;
- "My Family's Changing" for children aged 8-13;
- "My Family's Splitting Up" for older children;
- "Parents and Children" and "Parenting Plan" for parents.

They may be found at www.dca.gov.uk/family/divleaf.htm

The following websites and help lines may also be of use:

Childline – www.childline.org.uk Tel. 0800 1111

Kidscape – www.kidscape.org.uk

Parentline plus – www.parentlineplus.org.uk Tel. 0800 800 2222

NCH – www.nchafc.org.uk

NSPCC – www.nspcc.org.uk Tel. 0808 800 5000

ANNEX 4

**THE BREAKDOWN OF CLERGY MARRIAGES
HOUSEHOLD BUDGET**

INCOME	£
Stipend/Salary	
Benefits	
Interest	
Maintenance	
Other	
Total Income	

EXPENDITURE	£
Rent or mortgage	
Council Tax	
Water rates	
Gas	
Electricity	
Service agreements	
House Insurance - building	
- contents	
Life Assurance	
Pension Contribution	
Food - Groceries	
- Milk	
- Fruit/vegetables	
- Meat/fish	
Clothing - Self	
- Children	
- Repairs	
Shoes - Self	
- Children	
- Repairs	
Toiletries	
Cleaning materials	
Linen	
Medicines	
Dentist	
Telephone	
Newspapers	
Children - School fees	
- Travel	
- Uniform	
- School trips	
- Pocket money	
- Presents	
Entertaining	
Holidays	

TV licence	
Hire purchase agreement	
Car - Road Tax	
- Insurance	
- Petrol	
- Servicing	
Garden	
Repairs contingency	
Total Expenditure	

The Organisation - Broken Rites

The organisation Broken Rites is an independent interdenominational group offering mutual support and information to separated and divorced wives of clergy, Ministers and Church Army Officers.

The organisation has been in existence for 25 years and is a self funded self help group originally set up through the efforts of clergy wives who had experienced separation and divorce.

The organisation is there to:

- Give support and understanding on a one to one basis when needed (often over the telephone).
- Holds local group meetings.
- Provides information and access to sources of help such as visitors, counselling support, legal and financial help and if needed spiritual support.
- Acts as a pressure group within the various churches to raise awareness about the needs of separated or divorced.
- Raise awareness of the difficulties and issues involved such as pension and housing.

The Church in Wales through the Representative Body supports this organisation through an annual subscription. Further information can be obtained from the HR Department, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9XF or at www.brokenrites.org.uk

Financial Assistance Charities

Church Charities

Friends of the Clergy Corporation

1 Dean Trench Street
London SW1P 3HB
Tel: 020 7799 3696
Email: enquiries@clergycharities.org.uk
www.clergycharities.org.uk

The Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy

1 Dean Trench Street
London SW1P 3HB
Tel: 020 7799 3696
Email: enquiries@clergycharities.org.uk
www.clergycharities.org.uk

These two charities have the same application form now. They do help separated and divorced wives/spouses and children of clergy of the Church of England, the Church in Wales, the Church of Ireland, and the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

Newton's Trust

Chapter House

19a The Close

Lichfield WS13 7LD

Tel: 01543 306100 or 306104 (direct)

Fax: 01543 306109

Email: enquiries@lichfield-cathedral.org

This charity will consider financial help for separated and divorced wives of clergy of the Church of England, the Church in Wales and the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

The Foundation of Edward Storey (for women)

Storey's House

Mount Pleasant

Cambridge CB3 0BZ

Tel: 01223 364405 Fax: 01223 321313

Email: info@edwardstorey.org.uk

www.edwardstorey.org.uk

This charity is only able to help women with a close connection with the Church of England. This would seem to rule out separated/divorced wives of clergymen working for the other Anglican churches but it does not always do so. "We have found that many clergymen have worked for the Church of England at some time during their careers even if not currently and this allows us to help their ex-wives".

St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy

14 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6AH

Tel: 020 7388 4954

Email: stluke@stlukeshospital.org.uk

Those spouses divorced or separated from clergy partners have access to treatment at the Hospital as do their children who remain in full time education. This facility continues until the clergy partner either remarries or dies. This help applies to the Church in Wales (and other Anglican churches) as well as the Church of England.

Other Charities (U.K.only)

Elizabeth Finn Trust
1 Derry Street
London W8 5HY
Tel: 0207 396 6700 / 0800413 220 (helpline)
Email: info@elizabethfinn.org.uk
www.elizabethfinntrust.org.uk

Family Welfare Association
501-505 Kingsland Road
London E8 4AU
Tel: 020 7254 6251
www.fwa.org.uk

Independent Age (formerly RUKBA)
Independent Age,
6 Avonmore Road, London
W14 8BR
Tel: 020 7605 4200
www.independentage.org.uk

OTHER CHARITIES WHICH ASSIST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Frank Buttle Trust (help with school fees and sometimes expenses – under 16s) (U.K. only)

The Reynolds Trust (help for students in further and higher education who are either estranged from their parents or caring for their parents – 16-21) (U.K. only)
Audley House
13 Palace Street,
London SW1E 5HS
Tel: 020 7828 7311
Email: info@buttletrust.org
www.buttletrust.org