Divorce

Test Section 4

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Ladies and gentlemen, this is the captain speaking. Firstly, I'd like to thank you for choosing to fly Mandarin Airlines. As we taxi out to the runway please make yourself comfortable... and for those of you sitting on the right side of the plane... please look to your LEFT!
Divorce

• 40+% of 1st marriages are likely to end in divorce
• 1960 – 1979: Refined divorce rate more than doubled before
• 1990’s: Declining
Reasons for Stabilizing Divorce Rates

• _____ people are marrying at a _____ ages.
• Improved their standard of living (less tension)
• Spouses are negotiating roles vs rigid gender roles
• There is _________ determination by the children of a divorcing generation to make their marriages work.
• Cohabitation has ____________.
Divorce Survey Results

• Make it harder to marry - 44% (48%)
• Make it harder to both marry and divorce - 27 (30%)
• Make it harder to divorce - 14 (15%)
• No change or nothing can be done by the system - 4 (4%)
• Make divorce easier - 2 (2%)
Deciding to Divorce
Divorce

• In-laws
  – Conditioned for trouble
  – Conflicting loyalties are a big issue

• Parenthood Survey
  – Situation + Values
Debate about benefits/harm of divorce

• Two camps

• Pros & cons of divorce

• Solutions?
Alternatives to Divorce

- Marital __________
- Marital __________
- _______
  - _______ and _____
  - Structured, with a clear contract, seems to minimize risk
The Divorce Process

• ________________
  – Life-long impact on those that experience it
• ______
• _______ Legal system
• Mediation can be ____
  __________________
Fact for the Day

The median length of first marriages is 8 years, for remarriages 5-6 years. About 4% of divorcing couples have been married less than one year. (National Center for Health Statistics, 3/22/95)
Bohannan’s Six Divorces

1. Emotional Divorce
2. Legal Divorce
3. Economic Divorce
4. Co-parental Divorce
5. Community Divorce
6. Psychic Divorce
Legal Process

• No-Fault Divorce
  – Before the 1970s, needed “grounds” for divorce
  – Unilateral Divorce – One partner can secure divorce

• Divorce Mediation
“His” Divorce

Involves

• loss of ____ with children
• ____ general loneliness.
• Anger and grief may be _______
• Male gender role often discourages _______
• ______ off financially
His Divorce (cont.)

• Disadvantages
  – Difficulty in maintaining a household routine
  – Often estranged from their children
  – Not ‘swinging bachelors’
  – Lose their main confidant

• Consequences
  – Poorer health and higher death rate
Her Divorce

Involves:
• financial ______
• emotional _______ as she tries to be the complete parent for the children
• Personal identity
• Gains in _______
Her Divorce (cont.)

• Disadvantages
  – Overwhelmed by parenting responsibility
  – Often lose old friends
  – Societal disapproval if give up custody of children
  – Economics - often brings change in lifestyle & poverty for her and the children

• Consequences
  – Loneliness, financial stress, poorer health
Outcomes of Divorce for Adults

• Both husbands and wives are ______

• Both experience feelings of loneliness, anger, remorse, guilt, low self-esteem, depression, and failure

• However, some outcomes are different for men and women because of the structure of society and traditional gender roles
Wallerstein’s Psychological Tasks for Adults Following Divorce

1. Ending the marriage
2. Mourning the loss
3. Reclaiming oneself
4. Resolving or containing passions
5. Venturing forth again
6. Rebuilding
7. Helping the children
Ketring’s Elements of a More Functional Divorce

• Divorce therapy
• Use mediation to create settlements
• Honor your agreements
• Maintain a functional co-parenting relationship with your ex-spouse
• Maintain contact and commitments with children
• Take time to heal before beginning a new relationship
Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 by Race/ethnicity, 2000
Divorce and Children: Wallerstein Vs. Hetherington

• Wallenstein – Qualitative micoranalysis
  – Conclusions: Serious psychological debilitations in children, often continuing on through adolescence and adulthood.

• Heatherington – Quantitative analysis
  – Conclusions: Majority of children are resilient
Why Children Have Problems Following Divorce

What “causes” the child to have problems after divorce?

• Interparental conflict
• Family Instability
• Life stress
• Parental loss
• Parental adjustment
• Economic hardship
Tasks for children

• Understanding the divorce
• Strategic withdrawal
• Dealing with loss
• Dealing with anger
• Dealing with guilt
• Accepting the permanence of the divorce
• Taking a chance on love
Is There a such things as a "GOOD DIVORCE"?

• Depends on your expectations
  – Divorce = lasting enemy
  – Divorce = End of romantic relationship; continued co-parenting relationship