



Family Law for Children

.....

Information for kids about
separation and divorce.





Family Law for Children

This work book has been prepared by Community Legal Education Association of Manitoba.

All legal information contained is intended for general purposes only and
should not form the basis of legal advice of any kind.

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INTRODUCTION

It's upsetting when you first hear your mom or dad talk about moving out. What does it mean? What will happen to you?

You're not alone. Other kids have wondered the same things. You will be taken care of and you'll have a chance to see both of your parents. This book will help you understand what is happening and answer your questions.

Not everything in this book will apply to you and your family. If you don't know where to start, have your mom, your dad, another family member or a teacher help you.

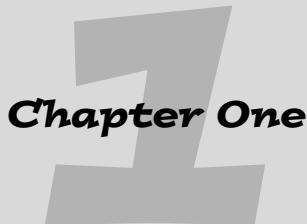


Note to parents, guardians and teachers:

This booklet is not meant to be read cover to cover. Please choose stories, explanations and activities that will help your child cope and understand the changes taking place.



Everything is Changing



The family

Families are different all over the world. They come in a variety of sizes and colours. Some have a mom, a dad and children. Others have a single mom or dad, two moms, a grandmother and grandfather, a foster mom and dad, step mom and lots of children. Yours is cool.

When a parent leaves home, things do change. What does that mean for you, as a member of that family?

When parents separate or divorce

From the moment you're born, your mom and dad have a responsibility to care for you, whether they live together, have never lived together or are just drifting apart. Parents must provide food, shelter, clothing and support until you are 18 and maybe even longer if you are disabled or are still in school.

When the family changes- your dad or mom moves out or your grandmother dies and your grandfather can't care for you alone – things change. People outside your home – either extended family, like your aunts and uncles or **social agencies** (page 8), like Child & Family Services (CFS) – may step in to help.



When parents separate, it's up to your mom and dad, or whoever has looked after you, to decide where you are going to live and with whom. If your mom and dad can work things out between them, they

can make an agreement. There doesn't need to be a fuss, as long as it is written down.

Your parents may both get lawyers to work out where you are going to live and who is going to pay for what. Lawyers are the people your parents hire to help work out questions about separation and divorce. Your parents may even go to court. Perhaps they'll visit a **Community Elder** to help sort it out. You may see a counsellor to help settle some things about how you feel about your new living arrangements. The battle may surround you and it may be about you, but the real argument is between two adults. They don't stop loving you; they just can't live together anymore.

● **A Single Mom's Story —**

- Eight months after Eliza was born, her dad Ron went back up north and Eliza and her mom Cathy began their lives together, without him.
- All that happened so long ago that Eliza only remembers living with her mom. Her dad sends some money to help pay the rent on their apartment, for daycare while Cathy is working, and some money for food, clothing and the other things Eliza needs like dental care and dancing lessons. Every few months, Eliza sees her dad. If she's lonely for him, she can call him. She always loves it when he calls her. Whenever she sees him, he spoils her with treats. But things get difficult when he doesn't send the money on time and her mom Cathy starts worrying about money.

The legal picture

When one parent leaves the other parent with a child, the parents may never want to see each other again, but the child is still a shared

Social agencies – government and community organizations, which help families and individuals who are having problems getting along in their daily lives because of poverty, lack of work, immigration, violence, or some other reason.

Community Elder – a member of the community who is respected by others for his or her knowledge and wisdom.



Child Support – *money one parent pays to the other parent to pay for things like rent, food and clothing for a child.*

Petition, petition for divorce, answer, affidavit – *names of various court documents.*

Support order – *the document prepared by the court saying what amount must be paid by the parent, who doesn't live with the child, for the child's food, clothing and other living expenses.*

responsibility. The payments one parent makes to the other parent help to pay for things like rent, food and clothing for a child, and are called **child support** payments.

Whether or not mom and dad have been married, if a parent does not pay child support, Manitoba laws can make sure the child support is paid, even if one parent travels and lives outside the province.

One or both of your parents may find another partner. If that happens, you may become part of an entirely new family. These changes do not mean that your father and mother are no longer responsible for you and your wellbeing. They are responsible for you until you are at least eighteen. They are still your parents.

If your parents are married and have been living apart, one or the other parent may file a **petition for divorce**. Even if they have never married, or have never lived together, your parents must still pay child support based on their income.

Lawyers are the people your parents hire to help work out questions about separation and divorce, like an agreement for support. They may ask the court to make a **support order**. Lawyers are trained to understand family law and to help parents understand how family law affects them.

Your mother and your father may hire different lawyers to file a **petition** or a **petition for divorce** seeking separation and divorce and asking for custody. A lawyer for the other parent may help prepare an **answer** to the petition. Lawyers may also help each parent write an **affidavit**, which says what has happened from that parent's point of view. Going through this process may take months; it may take years.

Family Court

If things can't be settled otherwise, your mom and dad will go to Family Court. It isn't the same as courts on television. You probably won't have to go to court at all; most kids don't.

In a small town or a remote community, the courtroom may be a room in a church or a community centre. It may also be a small courtroom. Certain rules must be followed in court. In chapter three, we'll go into more detail.

— Meeting the judge

If parents can't agree on arrangements for your support, they will meet with a **judge** and their lawyers to try one more time to work things out. The judge can send them to conciliation or **mediation** or set a date for a trial. Read on to find out what these terms mean.

Parents going to court will appear in front of another judge who is in charge of Family Court. Lawyers each make their case in front of the judge. The judge makes the final decisions about parenting arrangements, **child support** payments and where children will live.

— Family Court counsellors

If your parents can't agree, the judge may order a visit to a counsellor. You may also be involved in this process and it will give you a chance to tell someone what you need or want to happen. The judge's solution may not be the one you asked for, but you will have someone to hear your point of view. The counsellor may visit with you, your brothers and sisters, your parents, and even your teacher. You'll learn more about what to expect from your visit with a counsellor in chapter three.

Judge – person in court who makes the final decisions about parenting arrangements, child support payments, and where children will live.

Mediation – a way of talking about problems and exploring solutions to help solve them without an argument.

ACTIVITIES – Chapter One

1— Word Search (ANSWERS ON PAGE 64)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | I | D | L | C | P | N | O | R | S | Q | R | U | P | C | T |
| E | D | S | T | R | G | E | I | P | D | J | M | N | Z | D | N |
| D | L | C | N | O | I | T | A | R | A | P | E | S | P | T | E |
| I | A | N | M | P | O | S | D | L | Q | B | S | J | T | C | R |
| A | G | R | E | E | M | E | N | T | G | E | U | R | F | H | D |
| T | A | Z | W | C | O | U | R | T | C | D | I | V | A | S | L |
| I | U | Z | A | R | V | Y | C | N | G | B | C | A | M | K | I |
| O | M | S | C | O | U | N | S | E | L | L | O | R | I | Q | H |
| N | P | U | W | V | N | T | D | R | O | J | E | G | L | U | C |
| W | Z | E | L | I | Q | C | E | A | R | L | A | W | Y | E | R |
| C | H | I | L | D | S | U | P | P | O | R | T | D | V | A | P |

WORD LIST:

- Agreement
- Family
- Judge
- Child Support
- Children
- Lawyer
- Counsellor
- Mediation
- Court
- Parent
- Divorce
- Separation



2— If there are big changes happening in your family you probably have lots of questions. What would you like to ask your mom? What would you ask your dad?

Ask your mom:

1. _____

?

2. _____

?

3. _____

?

Ask your dad:

1. _____

?

2. _____

?

3. _____

?

3— Fill in the blank: (ANSWERS ON PAGE 64)

1. If things can't be settled between your mom and dad after a separation or divorce has taken place, a _____ will get involved. (*teacher?* or *judge?*)
2. _____ are hired to help your parents understand the law. (*judges?* or *lawyers?*)
3. If your mom and dad have lived together but have never been married, the law _____ make sure child support payments are made. (*will?* or *will not?*)
4. Lawyers help their clients write _____, stating their views of what happened. (*the proceedings?* or *an affidavit?*)
5. To make sure you have a home to live in, clothes to wear and that all of your needs are met, Manitoba laws make sure _____. are made. (*meal times?* or *child support payments?*)





Mediation: Coming Up with a Plan for You

Chapter Two



- Dad Gives Randy a Tough Time —
 - Every Tuesday and Thursday night during the winter, Randy's dad took him to hockey. His dad, Matt, never talked very much.
 - But if Randy didn't do well on the ice, his dad shot insults at him, faster than a hockey puck. Randy felt upset.
 - When he got home, he couldn't wait to get out of the car. Banging his bedroom door shut, he'd listen to his dad's few words to him. Then silence. He hadn't heard his mom laugh or talk much for months.
 - Next morning, Randy's mom told him that they were leaving his father and moving in with her parents, his grandparents. He was going to miss his dad but he wouldn't miss the insults.
 - He packed his suitcase, wondering what would happen to Tank, his cat. His dad always forgot to feed him. So, he took the cat with him to his grandparents' house.
 - Randy's mom told him that his father and she would start going to mediation to try and make things work better for them all. For the next three months, they saw the mediator twice a month. After a few weeks, Randy's dad started taking him to hockey again. Now, if Randy didn't make the goal, his father didn't call Randy names. Randy went to see the mediator once alone to explain how he saw things and how he felt about everything that was happening.

What is mediation? Why are Randy's parents going without him? What are they hoping to do?

If your parents can't agree on anything without arguing, they may go to **mediation**. Either their lawyers or the judge may suggest it. Like your hockey or baseball coach, the mediator tries to help your parents work better as a team by giving them ways to talk with each other and make some changes, without an argument. The mediator won't tell your parents to smarten up or tell them what to do. Your parents need to learn to talk with each other and find their own answers.

Mediation may help your parents decide what to do, but what about you? You probably won't go into the sessions with your parents, but your feelings and wishes will be considered. Sometimes, arrangements will be made for you to talk with the mediator or another counsellor to tell them what you need and want. The solutions you work out when you are eight, may not work when you are twelve or sixteen. Arrangements can change, like you do.

If mediation doesn't work, the lawyers may help each parent to prepare an affidavit, which says what has happened from that parent's point of view.

Separation and divorce are all about change. If your parents have been legally married, they need to go through a legal process to get a divorce. Divorce means two people no longer have a contract between them agreeing to their marriage. They may start to have other partners. The important thing to remember is that they do not stop being your parents.

Mediation – a way of talking about problems and exploring solutions to help solve them without an argument.

Case management –
a meeting between the judge, your parents and their lawyers.

Separation means your parents live apart in different places, often with different partners. Either way they will have to work out parenting arrangements for you. Parenting arrangements can be written down in a parenting agreement or they can be part of a court order decided by a judge.

In mediation or through **case management**, your parents may come up with a parenting agreement, which states where you are going to live and when, who is going to pay for what, who will take you to hockey practice, sign your report card or meet you off the bus and stay home with you when you are sick. Arrangements will be made for you to see both of your parents.



Mom Leaves Dad; Everyone Gets Help –

After Joey and Tasha's mom left home suddenly, both of the children had trouble sleeping. Their dad called a counsellor and asked her to see the children. He told her that his wife and he were in the middle of a divorce. The counsellor asked the kids' dad to get the signatures of both parents on the paper agreeing that the kids should get some help.

Two weeks later, Joey and Tasha's dad arrived at the counsellor's office with the signed document. She agreed to see the two kids separately and together and arranged to see their dad as well. The counsellor also asked to see their mom to get the whole picture. After the counsellor met with each parent, they agreed to work with her to help figure out what sort of custody and parenting arrangement would work best for the children.

In the sessions, the counsellor asked Joey what he liked to do after school and so he talked about his music. She asked him if he was sleeping well and if he was eating properly. "Dad's a good

- cook; he's the best but I miss my mom's cookies," he told her.
- "Every year, she made them at Christmas. What's going to happen at Christmas now? Will we see mom? I miss her."
- "When I meet with your parents, I'll explain how much you miss your mom and suggest a visit very soon," the counsellor promised him.
- The counsellor met with the parents soon after. She suggested that Joey and Tasha live with their dad with visits from mom every other weekend. The parents agreed. They went to their lawyers who wrote up a consent order for the judge to look at and sign.

Parenting orders spell out different arrangements for your care. The judge may order **sole custody**, **joint custody** or **shared custody**. The orders also spell out who makes what decisions about home and school. Most times, both parents will pay some of your living expenses and spend time with you.

Sole custody means one of your parents has legal responsibility for you and will make decisions about your school, your activities and your health. Both parents can get reports from the school. You may live all or most of the time with the parent who has **sole custody** or you may live part of the time with each parent. The court may control **access** to the other parent. This means the judge may state when and how you can see your other parent, especially if one of your parents has been violent or has a drinking problem. Someone may stay with you when you see him or her. You'll learn more about this in chapter five.

Joint custody gives both parents the legal responsibility to make decisions together about where you live, your school, your activities and your health. You may live mostly with one parent or you may live part of the time with each parent.

Custody – *part of a parenting arrangement, means who has legal responsibility for the children and can make decisions about how they will be cared for.*

Access – *visits with your parent.*

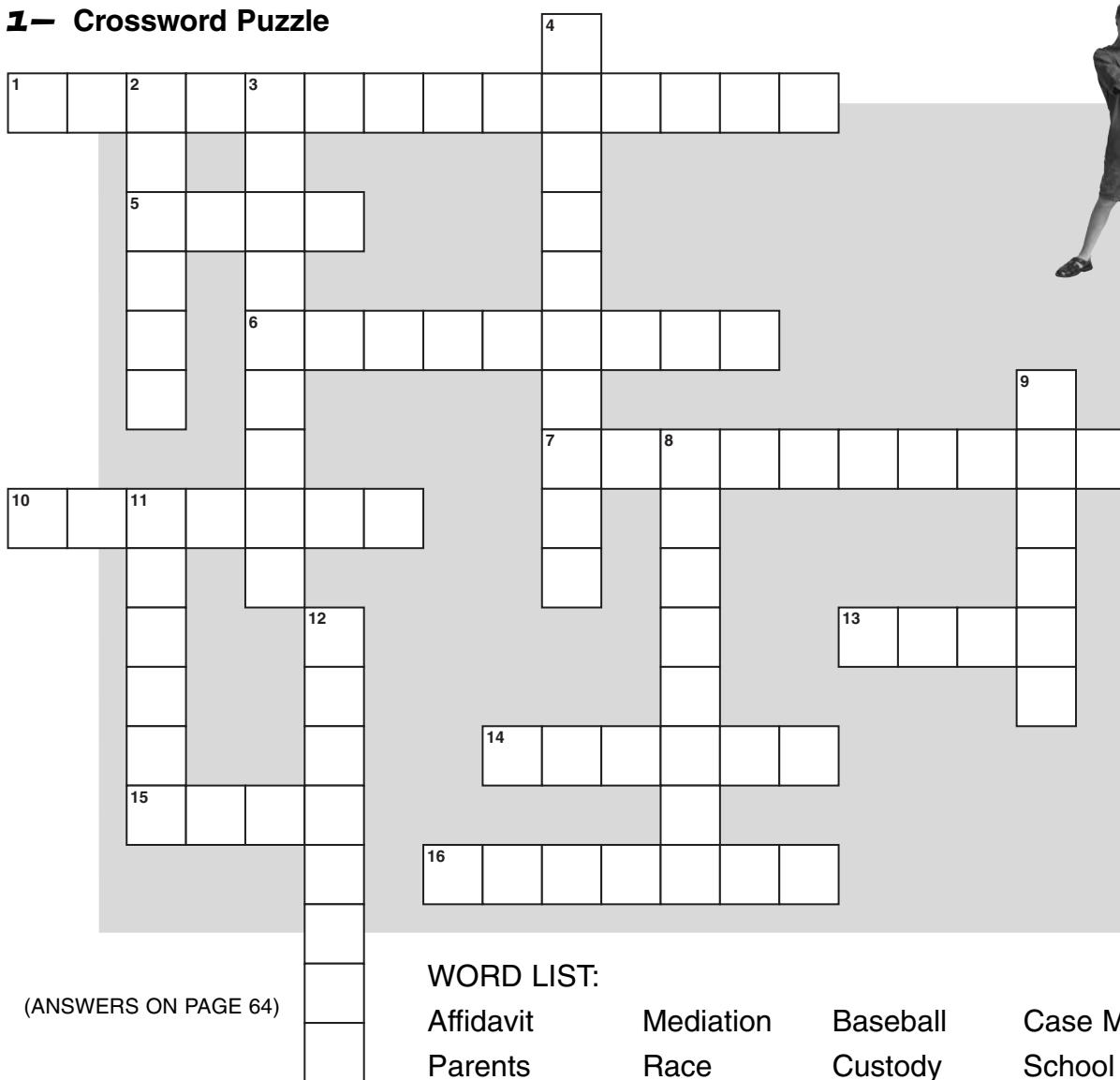
Shared custody shares the legal and physical responsibilities for your care, equally between both of your parents. Probably you will live half the time with your mom and the other half the time with your dad.

Together, your parents will work out what works best for you. Lots of kids today have two homes. Learn more about this in chapter four.



ACTIVITIES – Chapter Two

1— Crossword Puzzle



(ANSWERS ON PAGE 64)

ACROSS

1. a meeting between the judge, your parents and their lawyers
5. _____ and seek
6. document prepared by a lawyer
7. you receive one of these if someone wants you to come to their party
10. care of the children
13. where you live
14. your mother, father, brother, sister
15. run fast
16. the adults you started life with

DOWN

2. Place you go to learn
3. A way of talking about problems and explaining solutions to help solve the problems without an argument
4. Parents living apart
8. Holiday
9. Game played with a ball and 11 players per team
11. Evening meal
12. Game played with a bat and a ball

2— Transfer the letters to answer the following riddle. (ANSWER ON PAGE 64)

RIDDLE: This is the place where judges, who specialize in family law and deal with separation, divorce and custody, work to help families solve their disputes.

ANSWER:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3 | 15 | 21 | 18 | 20 | 15 | 6 | 17 | 21 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 19 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 3 | 8 | | |
| A = 1 | B = 2 | C = 3 | D = 4 | E = 5 | F = 6 | G = 7 | H = 8 | I = 9 | J = 10 | K = 11 | L = 12 | M = 13 | N = 14 | O = 15 | P = 16 | Q = 17 | R = 18 | S = 19 | T = 20 |
| U = 21 | V = 22 | W = 23 | X = 24 | Y = 25 | Z = 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3— Write a letter to your parents telling them about some of your worries and questions.

- Who will look after your cat if you are leaving the cat behind when you go to a new home?
- How often can you see your grandmother?
- What about your uncle who always takes you fishing?
- Will you have your own room?

Dear Mom,



Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

Chapter Three



Susan's in the Middle —

Susan's parents never agreed on anything. Her dad liked rap music, her mom liked country. Her dad was into motorcycles; her mom was into business. When they separated, Susan hoped the arguments would stop.

Her parents visited a lawyer friend and wrote their own separation agreement. No court, no fuss. Susan's mom bought a house close to the school and Susan spent one week with her and one week with her dad.

After the separation, her dad kept the house and started his own motorcycle repair shop out back. Susan loved hanging out there with him.

Then one day Susan's dad let her ride his Harley on the back roads all by herself. Excited, Susan told her mom all about it. Her mom got mad. "What kind of a parent is he anyway? You could have been killed!" she exclaimed.

Her mom phoned her lawyer friend. She wanted sole custody. Susan's dad told Susan he would get her a lawyer when she turned 12. She was already eleven. What Susan's dad told Susan wasn't right. She wouldn't be getting a lawyer for herself.

This time, Susan's dad and mom met with a judge and arrangements were made for Susan to talk to a counsellor. It was good to have someone to talk to about how strict her mom was and how cool her dad was. She was tired of being in the middle of their arguments about her.

- “I plan to race motorbikes when I grow up. I should live with my dad, because he’ll let me do what I want. I don’t want to hurt Mom’s feelings but she’s too strict,” she told the counsellor.
- The counsellor had a meeting first with Susan’s mom, then with her dad, and talked a lot with Susan. Finally, Susan’s parents went back to see the judge. Susan’s mom didn’t get sole custody. Susan didn’t go to live with her dad either. The judge asked both parents to think carefully about how they were treating Susan and to get help if they couldn’t stop using her to settle their arguments with each other.

When you’re twelve or even when you’re fourteen, you don’t get to decide where you want to live, although your thoughts and feelings will be considered. You may talk with a counsellor who will listen to your point of view and may present it in a report. The judge in charge of Family Court will make the final call after taking into consideration the best interests of all the children involved. The key is finding a solution for where you live and with whom that works best for you and your parents.

Going to Family Court when parents don’t agree

You probably are not going to get a chance to talk with a judge face-to-face unless she is a part of your family. If your parents can’t agree on where you will live, the judge can order an **assessment** to get a clearer picture of what your life is like with each parent. The idea is to make sure that you are safe and that you get to see both parents. You won’t have to tell the world your business; you will probably talk to a counsellor a few times. Many counsellors like to speak with children more than once to make sure they understand how the family works together. Maybe you’ll play a game of cards or checkers with the

Assessment – a report prepared to help the judge understand what children involved in a legal process need and want.

counsellor or be asked to draw a picture of what your family is like. You may meet with a private counsellor, an Elder or perhaps with someone in a government program like Family Conciliation.

Family Conciliation helps make peace within families

In Thompson, Winnipeg, Brandon, The Pas, Dauphin, Swan River and communities near these cities, kids whose parents are separating or getting a divorce are often sent to Family Conciliation. Family Conciliation provides services to families going through separation or divorce. Court Ordered Assessment through Family Conciliation is aimed at helping Family Court judges understand what the children involved in this legal process need and want. Your first meeting may be in your home with one of your parents. Later, you'll go into the program's offices. If you are 8, 9, 10 or 11, you may want to join their Children's Group and meet other kids who are going through similar family changes.

Your thoughts and feelings are important. Let the counsellor help you understand what is happening and deal with the changes that are taking place in your life. Nobody can stop the changes, but things will be better if you can get help coping. You want your voice to be heard.

The counsellor will look at your parents' work schedules, which parent helps you with school or sports and how they help. A parent, who has not been involved at all in your life or who has been abusive, may not be allowed to see you. But most of the time, you will do best if you can see both of your parents. Counsellors write reports based on what they learn about you and your family life. They will make suggestions to the judge about where and with whom you live, and how you can see your other parent.

The counsellor looks at the whole picture and tries to be fair. What if your mom is on the road traveling for her job? What if dad does shift work, working late at night or all night sometimes and all day other times? Does your mom have a room for you? Are you sleeping on the couch at your dad's? The plans made for your care and the schedule that works best for all of you should consider these things.

The arrangement for your brother may not be the same one that is made for you. If he is 17 and has a part-time job, he will likely continue to live closest to his school and his job. As you get older, things may need to change. Just because you don't like what is happening, doesn't mean it will stay that way. But, it doesn't mean that it will change the way you want it to change either. Try to talk freely with the counsellor and help make changes.

It takes some time for all these meetings to take place – possibly several months. In the meantime, try not to worry. An **interim order** will be made based on what the judge learns about where you are currently living and whether or not that arrangement is working well for you now.

Interim order – *the temporary plan made about where you should live and with whom. It says what happens now. It may change after the judge has read about a counsellor's meetings and suggestions for you.*

● **Mary is Not Just a Babysitter —**

Soon after Mary's mom and dad split up, her dad married Carol. Mary stayed with her mom. Her dad moved in with Carol and her two younger children. All that first year, Mary's dad made sure he spent time with her alone, even if they just went for a walk around the neighbourhood. Mary was 10 then. "No matter what happens, I'm here for you," he told her.



When Mary's dad told her Carol and he were going to have a new baby, Mary signed up for a babysitting course at school. She was so excited about having a sister at last.

After her new baby sister was born, things changed. Mary didn't get to see her dad alone anymore. "Things will get back to normal, honey. Just give us a bit of time. Ellie is pretty cute, eh? She just needs some extra time right now," her dad would say.

When Mary was 12, things changed again. Whenever she went over to see her dad, he would suggest Carol and he needed a break. At first, Mary was pretty proud of being left alone with the kids. But after three months of babysitting and never spending time with her dad, she got tired of it. Her dad didn't even know that she was on the champion soccer team. There was no time to talk with him.

Mary's mom noticed that Mary no longer wanted to visit her dad. "Maybe, we can do something, honey," she told her daughter when Mary explained. Mary's mom called up her lawyer to see about having someone talk to Mary's dad about the situation or about changing the parenting arrangement. Mary's dad was asked to attend a parent-education program.

Before you get upset about the way things are, here's what people in the law say about all of this: kids seem to do better when they see both parents, so the legal system tries to help create parenting arrangements to let it happen. But things change. Arrangements can be changed if the situation changes. When you're older, for instance, you may not want to spend all summer at your grandparents' cottage with your mom. You need time out with friends or to work.

Speak out when things go wrong

It's tough to tell an adult that what he or she is doing is upsetting you when you're only nine or even when you're twelve. Is there someone you can go to like a favourite grandparent? What about your teacher at school? Talk to them and share your ideas as honestly as you can. Maybe they can speak for you, especially if changes are going to be made for your care. Everyone wants to make the best possible decisions for you.

Parents are people. They make mistakes like everyone else and want to make it better when they've made one. Give them a chance to make things better by telling them what's wrong and what you're feeling.



ACTIVITIES – Chapter Three

1— True or False Questions (ANSWERS ON PAGE 65)

1. When you are 12, you will talk to a judge about where you will live.
 True False

2. You will always have your own lawyer, when your parents separate or divorce.
 True False

3. Your voice will be heard by someone trained to listen and to learn from what you say.
 True False

4. Just because your mom gets to keep the family house where you've always had your own room, you will live with her, as always.
 True False

5. As long as it's safe for you, most kids do better if they can spend time with both parents.
 True False

6. Parenting arrangements cannot be changed after you turn twelve.
 True False



ACTIVITIES – Chapter Three

2– Match the word with the description – draw a line between them. (ANSWERS ON PAGE 65)

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Judges • | • Help settle arguments |
| Counsellors • | • Make the final decisions |
| Lawyers • | • Talk with children |
| Mediators • | • Draw up parenting arrangements |

3– Write another letter to your parents.

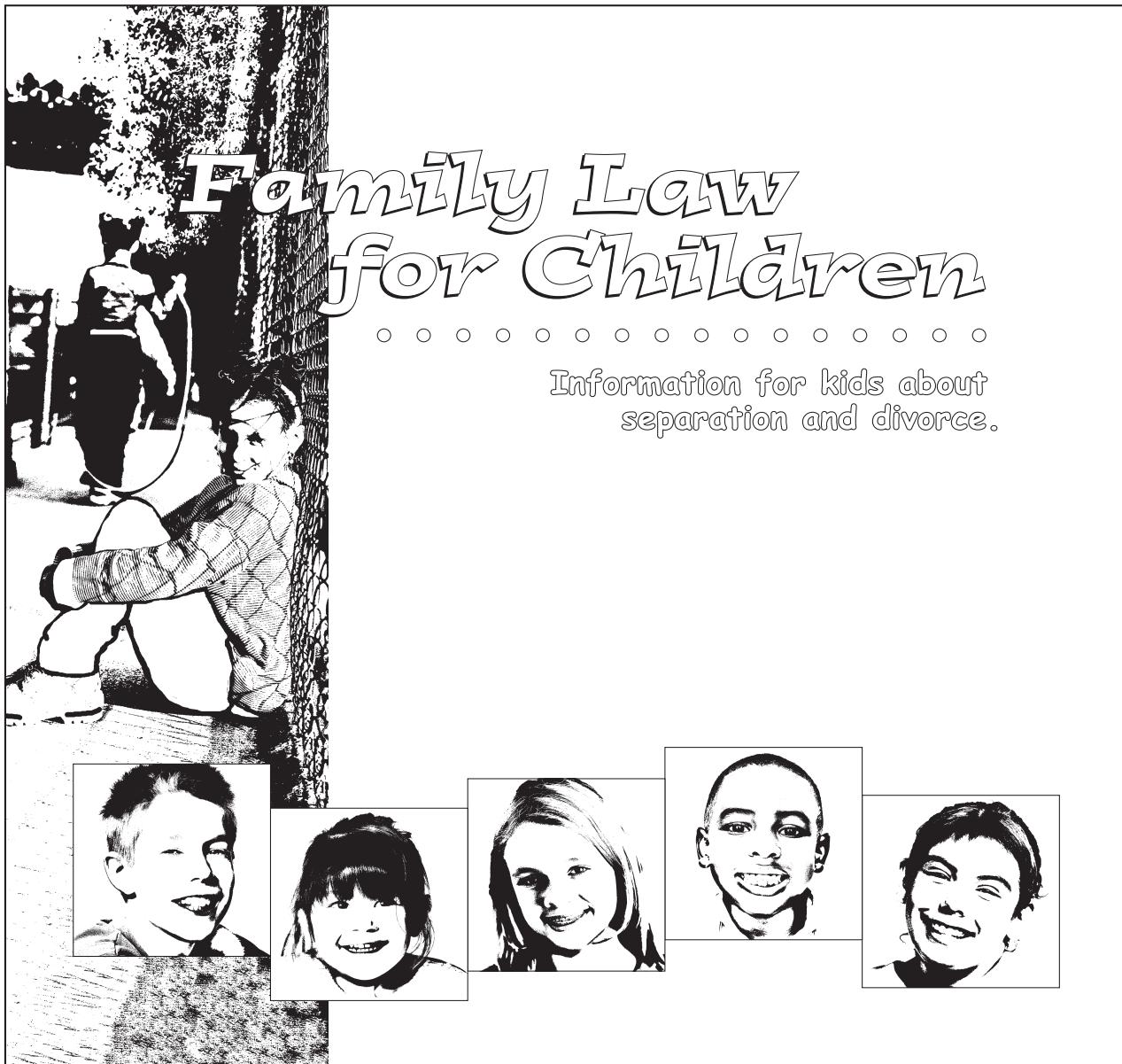
Tell them what you need to make you happier. What about the family dog? Having your own room? Do you want some Saturday nights with your grandparents? Sleepovers with friends? What about sports and time out with each parent? Remember, this letter won't direct what happens but it can help spell out what you need and think about the situation. Give it to your counsellor or someone you trust.

Dear Dad,



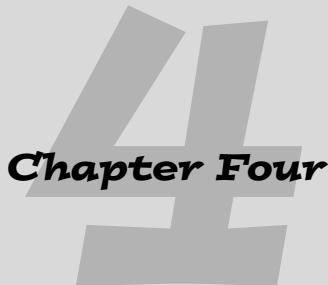
ACTIVITIES – Chapter Three

4– Colour the front cover of this book.





Living in Two Homes



Jacques Gets Used to It —

It was just after Christmas when Jacques' parents separated. He hadn't even seen them arguing. "The hardest thing is being told," he says now. "You don't know what to do or what to say."

"I'd go to my dad's house and I'd miss my mom; at my mom's I missed my dad. When it first happens you are so sad, you cry and you don't know what to do or what to say. My mom asked me how I felt about it but I was too mad and too sad to answer."

That was two years ago. Jacques says it's different now. "I sort of have two of everything - two homes and different things at both places. I collect stuffed animals but I keep them all at my mom's. At my dad's house, I collect DVDs and computer games. It's awesome. It's fun living in a new house and having two houses, two birthdays and two Christmases. You get two of everything. You're special."

"Then, your parents fall in love with someone else and it's different. Dad is getting married this summer. Mom's new friend is fun; he plays hockey with me and he's good. My Dad's new wife isn't as fun."

Today, Jacques finds things he likes about both houses. On bad days, he can tell you a lot about what is wrong. On the days he finds the different rules and the different houses too much, he tells himself or his younger sister, Ami, "You get used to it. Just think of the good stuff."



If your parents have **joint custody** spelled out in their parenting arrangement, chances are good you will be living in two households like thousands of other kids in Canada. You'll have two different homes, two different sets of rules and often a whole new group of people. It might not always be fair, then again, it might be the best solution and a whole lot of fun.

Some parents recreate a bedroom to make it exactly like the one you had in your first home. Others move in with a new partner who already has kids and suddenly it's crowded. Bringing kids from two different families together under one roof makes life complicated. Sometimes, it's unfair. You will adjust to the changes.

Despite parents' arguments with each other, your best interests as the child must be considered. That's the way it is. And as Jacques advises, "You get used to it. Just think of the good stuff."

What are your rights in this situation?

You have the right to see both parents. You don't have the right to choose which home you would prefer. That's a good thing in many ways. You might make a decision, which seemed to suit you when you were eight, only to find out you were wrong. Or you might lose touch with your other parent or grandparents. You also are not expected to choose between your parents and then feel guilty about it. Think about it. Maybe your mom won't let you stay up until 10 and just keeps saying, "when you're older." Dad focuses more on your hockey game; he thinks you'll be a star. When he tells you athletes go to bed early, it makes sense. Your mom puts money into your bank account and shows you how to use the ATM. Your dad always forgets to give you cash but at least you always have some. You've always loved birds

Joint custody – both parents have the legal responsibility to make decisions about where you live, your school, your activities and your health.
You may live mostly with one parent or you may live part of the time with each parent.

but dad was into woodworking. Your mom's new partner shares his binoculars with you and takes you into the country to do some pretty cool bird-watching. You may end up with the best of two possible homes.



“Our Feet are Sore!” Agree the Twins –

- When the twins' mom and dad first separated, both parents wanted Monica and Reg to live with them. Their mom and dad lived a block apart, so they decided to have them spend one night with dad, the next night with mom. Mom took them to art classes. Dad helped coach soccer. It was better than being split up like the twins in the movie, *The Parent Trap*, where each parent had a twin. The two were close and couldn't imagine being apart. Still, they got tired of the deal their parents had made.
- “We've got our suitcases and our school books and our dog Joey. Our feet are really sore from carrying them all from one house to the other every day,” complained nine-year old Monica. Reg agreed.
- There was no time to see their friends. Monica was afraid she wouldn't be able to play soccer because she often forgot where her soccer bag was. Would she be kicked off the team? Reg got in trouble at school when he kept losing his school books. Their soccer coach noticed that things weren't going well and spoke to Monica's dad. The parents agreed that spending a week with one followed by a week with the other would be easier for them too.

When Things Work Out —

Sometimes, the separation happens when you are so young that you don't remember the arguments and the fun times. Jessica lived weekdays with her mom and her mom's new partner. Her dad worked out of town. When her dad came back on the weekends, she lived with him. "It doesn't cause me any pain because I know that I will see them both and it's been that way, as long as I can remember," Jessica explained. "I used to bring an overnight bag to school. Now, it's just easier to leave things in both places."

Even when Jessica was young, she always knew her schedule.

She liked to know where she was going to be and when she was going to be there. "When I was little, Mom made me go to see my dad even though I wanted to stay with her. If she hadn't made me do that, I wouldn't know my dad, so I'm happy that she did that. I was only three, so I was alright with it."

Jessica is lucky. Everybody lives close to each other. She still gets to see her grandparents, aunts, uncles and the rest of her parents' families regularly. She can walk over to her dad's new house where he built Jessica her own bedroom.

Living in two households is a common solution for kids when both parents are close to the kids, but they can't get along with each other. Separation and divorce are adult problems but they often mean that as children you have to move, just when you've learned your postal code!

You have a right to be a part of your parents' lives and to have a place in their homes as you are growing up, whether they live alone, whether they remarry and have new children, or whether they start living back at home with your grandparents. No matter what housing arrangements you get involved in, they are always your parents.



ACTIVITIES – Chapter Four

1— Draw a map to define your territory and the places where you live.

Include each of your homes, your school, the arena, the library and other places where you go regularly.



ACTIVITIES – Chapter Four

2 – A fill-in crossword (ANSWERS ON PAGE 65)



WORD LIST:

4 Letters

kids

talk

5 Letters

court

elder

order

judge

wrong

house

6 Letters

family

lawyer

7 Letters

interim

program

8 Letters

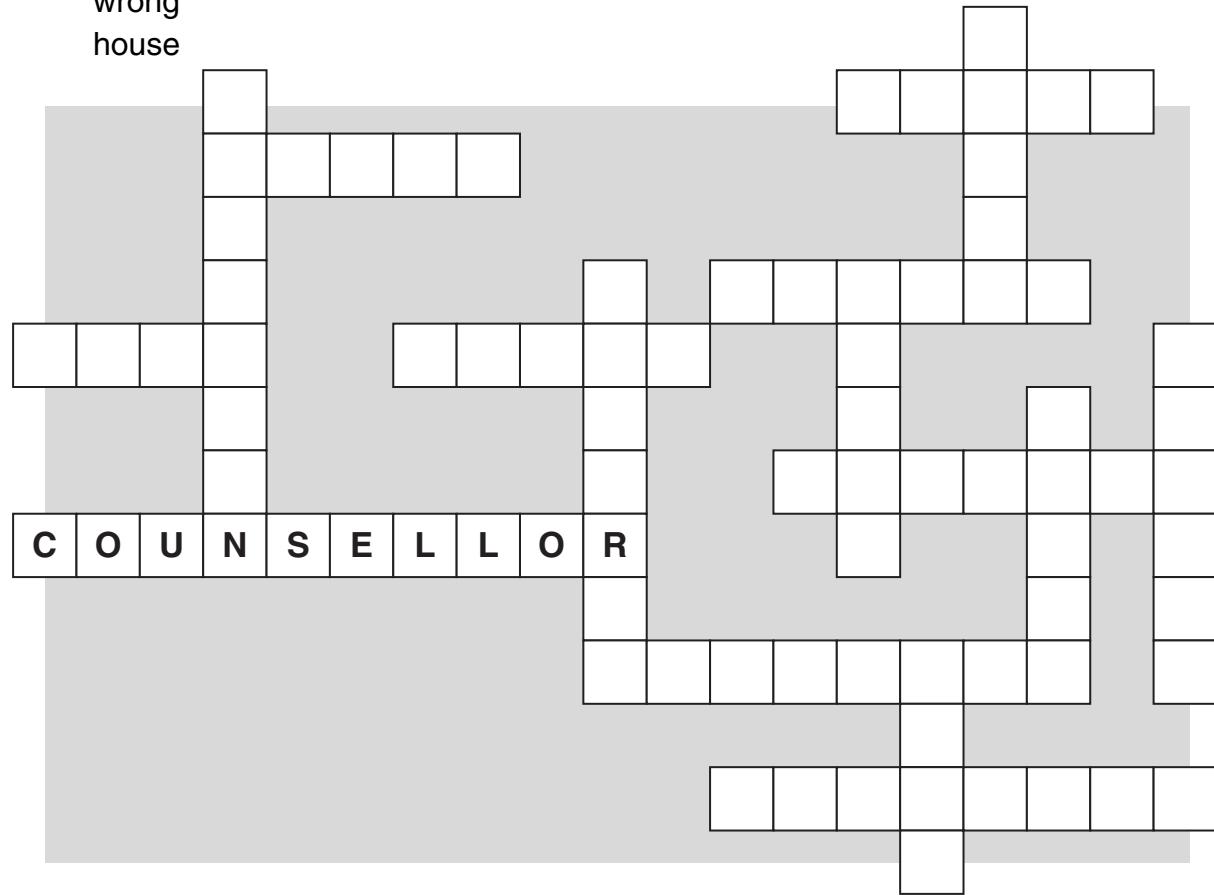
feelings

decision

mediator

10 Letters

counsellor



3— Unscramble the following words (ANSWERS ON PAGE 65)

1. sohem = _____
2. jniot yucsotd = _____
3. rapnetgin ateerenmg = _____
4. ffrednite = _____

4— Match the following clues with the words above. (ANSWERS ON PAGE 65)

1. The deal your parents make about you. _____
2. The two places you live. _____
3. Living equal time with each parent. _____
4. If it's not the same, it's _____. _____





What Happens if There is Violence?

5 **Chapter Five**

- **Tofer's Family Finds Shelter –**
- Eight-year old Tofer always looked out for his two younger sisters. Being the older brother made him feel very proud. If they were okay, then he was okay too.
- When Dad arrived home one night, Tofer knew he had already been drinking. Mom tucked \$20 into Tofer's pocket and pushed the kids out the door, suggesting they get themselves something to eat. Tofer could hear his dad yelling. Junie, the youngest one began to cry and Bernice was sniffling. So Tofer took the girls for hamburgers.
- After they had eaten, Tofer took the girls home and tucked them into bed, sitting with them until they slept. When the argument began to get louder, he slipped outside and called "911".
- His dad was gone when the police arrived. They took Tofer's mom, Tofer and his sisters to a shelter where they could be safe until his mom decided what to do.

Sadly, Tofer isn't the only kid who lives in a household where abuse – hitting, punching, yelling and other bad things – happen. Alcohol or drugs often make one or both parents lose control and strike out in anger.



Abuse is wrong. What does that mean? Nobody should be allowed to hit another person or to call them cruel names. Some kinds of abuse, like hitting, are against the law. Sexual abuse is also against the law. That means, for example, no one is allowed to creep into your bed and start touching you. If a father, uncle or friend hurts you, tell

another adult you trust. Get help. If the police come to your house, try talking to them. Can you ask your grandmother, your mother's best friend or another community member for help?

Just because one of your parents hits you when he or she is drunk doesn't mean he or she doesn't love you. It's confusing. No wonder you have mixed feelings like fear, dislike, even hatred of the violent parent. Try to find someone to talk with about how you feel and who can help you work out your feelings.

Will your dad or mom go to jail if you tell the police what happened? Should they? Will you be taken away from your parents? Your words won't send anyone to jail. Their abusive actions might.

If you are taken to a shelter with your mom, you will be offered help to find a safer way of life.

Some kids are hurt by their parents or by the people their moms or dads choose to be around. Adults make bad choices sometimes. It's not your fault. It's their problem. But when violence takes place in families, it affects everyone. Abuse is against the law.

When things get too tough:

1. Call "911" or your local police station for help or get someone to do it for you. The police will come to make sure neither you nor anyone else in the house is hurt. They may separate your parents and take one or both of them away to cool down. If someone has hurt someone else, the police **charge** the violent person with assault.
2. If you have grandparents, a close aunt, uncle or neighbour with whom you feel safe, tell the police and they may take you there. If

Charge – *is when the police accuse someone of breaking the law. The person must go to court to answer the charge or to be punished for what he or she has done wrong, if the court decides the person has broken the law.*

**Protection order,
prevention order,
peace bond – court
orders for protection, to
keep an abusive person
away from your family, your
home, your school or a
parent's place of work.**

you don't have anywhere to go, they may call Child and Family Services (CFS) to help.

3. Speak as openly as you can about what has happened. As soon as you can, write down what happened or draw a picture of it.
4. Ask for help and support. Find out what is going to happen to you.
5. Your parents may get help for their problem. Your talk won't send anyone to jail. Your parents' abusive actions might.
6. It's safe and sensible to ask questions.

How can the law help?

With the help of the police or a lawyer, your mom or dad may get a **protection** or a **prevention order** to keep the abuser away from your family, your home, your school or a parent's place of work. You may also hear about them getting a **peace bond** for protection against someone who is not family.

If a person disobeys either of these orders or goes against the peace bond and tries to enter your home or anywhere else they've been told to stay away from, the police can remove them and charge them with an offence. These orders are legal documents, put into place to protect you and your family.

Your school and after-school program may be out of bounds too. The staff will be told about the orders or the peace bond. Ask them about it if you're unsure.

If someone is hurt, criminal charges are laid by the police. Your family goes to Criminal Court, not the Family Court that helps settle the

family's differences. It's not like on television where things are settled in an hour or even a day.

The person who was charged with the **assault** will have a lawyer. This lawyer is called the Defence. The Crown or prosecutor is the name given to the lawyer who will present the victim's case. There are rules to follow in court and both the Defence and the Crown must follow these rules.

If an offender goes to court and is found guilty, he or she might be sent to jail or to a place where they can get help for their drug or alcohol problem. The idea is to protect you and your family. If necessary, other arrangements will be made for your care. See chapter six.

Don't expect anything to happen quickly. It takes time for court cases to be settled. You will be taken care of and there will be someone to help you get through it. It's a tough time for everyone but it will get better.

If Mom or Dad is abusive and violent can you still see them?

If you've been allowed to see your dad or your mom every week, you will probably still be able to see them. It may take some time for visits to be arranged, however, after dad or mom have been charged.

If a "no contact order" is in place, you may not be able to see your mom or dad for a while. This is done for everyone's protection.

Assault – it is against the law to hit someone or to beat them up. When anyone hurts someone else in this way, the police will charge him or her with assault.

Testify – to speak in court and tell what has happened to you or what you've seen. You may have to swear an oath on the Bible or promise that you are telling the truth and not making up stories.

Will you have to see an abusive parent?

If a parent is abusive or violent and you are afraid of them, you may still have supervised visits with them. This means you will have someone with you during your visit. Kids seem to do better if they can see both parents regularly. If you are afraid of a parent and cannot handle visits, speak to a counsellor and explain your side of the story.

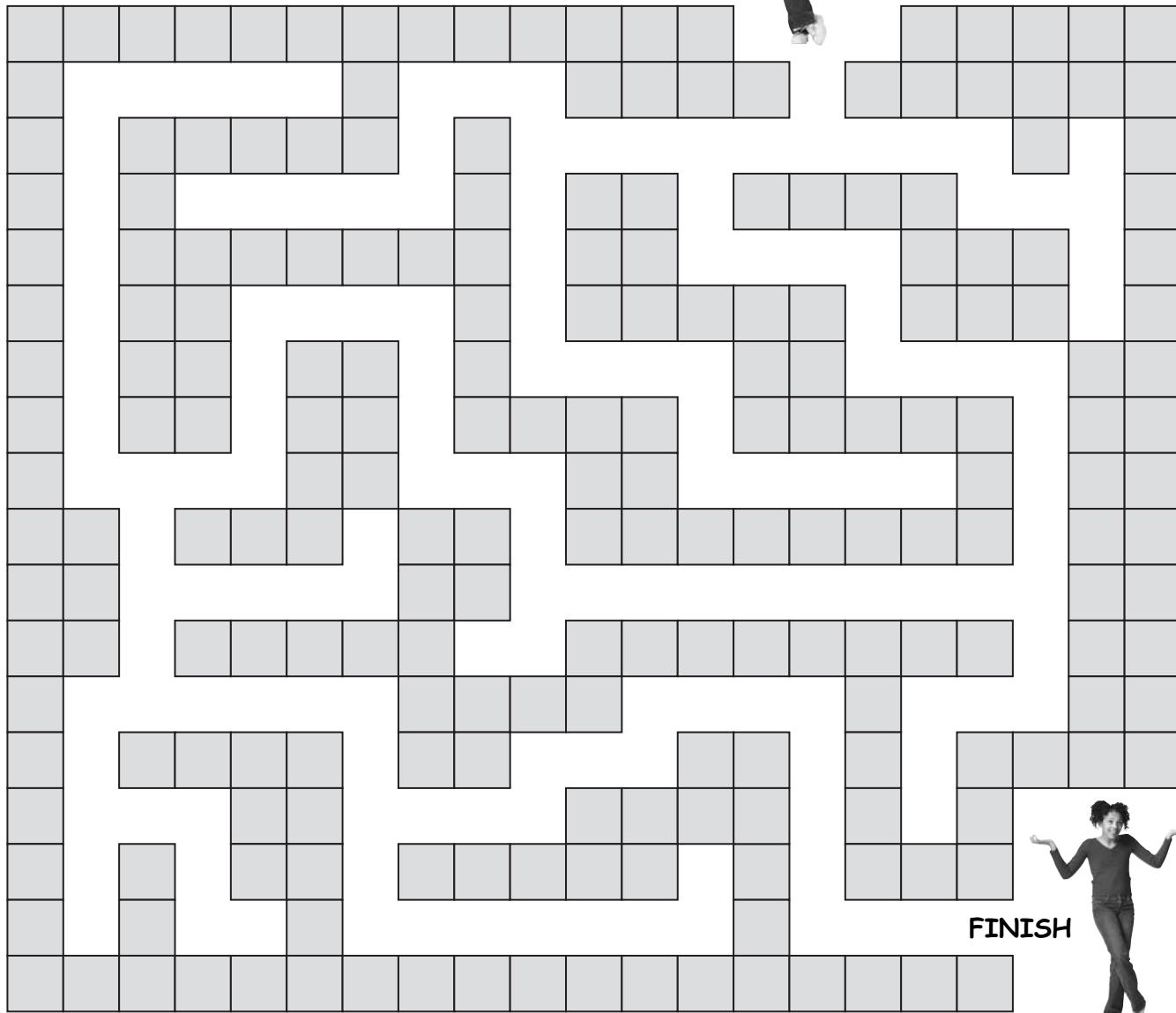
If your mom or dad has a mental illness or a drug or alcohol problem, your visits may be arranged in a place away from your home like an access centre. In Winnipeg and Brandon, these centres provide a safe place where staff stay with you during your visit with the parent. Your parents will not see each other. Rules are strict and each parent must agree to them. The visiting parent must arrive before you and your other parent. They cannot leave until you are safely gone. This is meant to prevent them from knowing where you live. You won't have to be afraid of their anger.

If you have to go to court

Most times, you will not have to go to court. If you've been a victim or a witness (someone who has seen the abuse), you may have to **testify** or talk in criminal court about what you've seen. While you're waiting to testify outside the court room, you will sit with someone who knows all about going to court and can help you understand what is going to happen and give you support. The judge may talk to you directly in Criminal Court.

ACTIVITIES – Chapter Five

1— Maze (ANSWER ON PAGE 66)



2— Get together a group of five or six friends and set up a variation on the old “he said”; “she said” game.

You'll need a blank sheet of paper for everyone playing and a pen or pencil each.

1. Start by writing the name of two characters, any names made up or real, at the top of the paper. Then fold it underneath to hide the names and PASS IT TO THE PERSON ON YOUR LEFT...
2. Next, write where they met. The crazier, the better and the more fun your results will be. Use your imagination. Now fold over the paper again and PASS IT ON...
3. Write what were they wearing when they met? PASS IT ON...
4. Now write, what did he say to her? PASS IT ON...
5. What did she say to him? PASS IT ON...
6. Where did they go together? PASS IT ON...
7. What happened in the end? PASS IT ON...
8. Now unroll the piece of paper and read aloud the stories you have all written between you.

3— Match the word with the description – draw a line between them. (ANSWERS ON PAGE 66)

Protection order •

• Telling your story in court

Abuse •

• Violent offences are tried here

Testify •

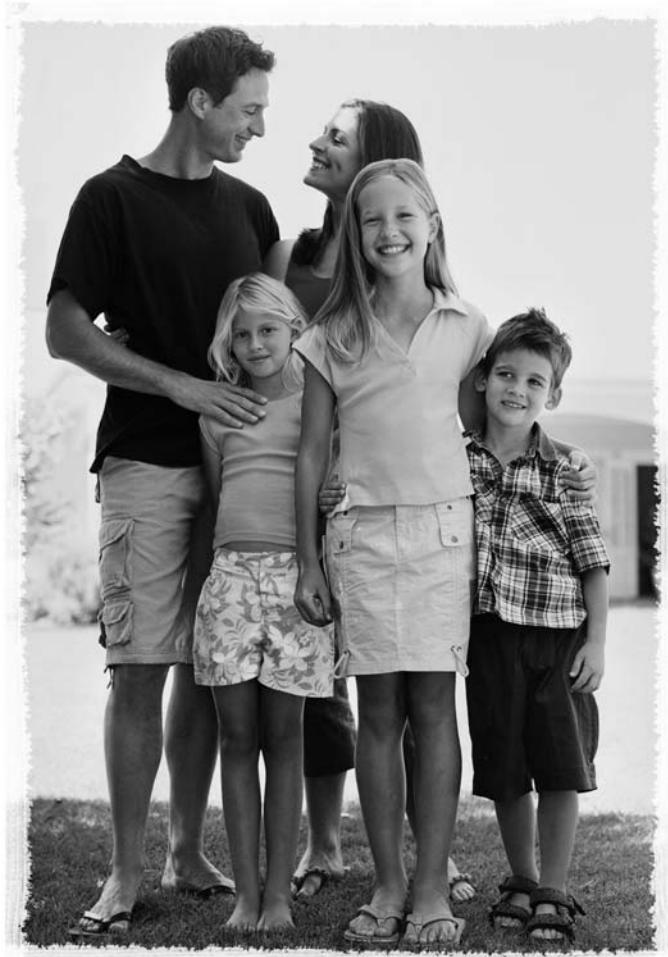
• Protects you from a violent parent

A field trip •

• Hitting, hurting, shouting

Criminal court •

• A fun outing with an adult.



Blended, Extended Families Guardianship and Foster Families

6 **Chapter Six**

Melody's Story —

Everything seemed to go well for Melody's mom and dad until her dad got a job out of town. Her dad moved out and her mom started to see someone else who cared about both Melody and her sister Violet. Melody was happy.

Melody still saw her dad whenever he came back into town. Then her dad moved back to town and introduced them to his special friend, Jenna. Jenna was going to have a baby and Jenna and Melody's dad were going to get married. Maybe now Melody would have the baby brother she always wanted. Melody had even more family and everything seemed just right to her. She spent some time with her mom and her sister Violet; she had her own room at her dad's home and spent time with her new brother and his mom.

Blended families, like Melody's, made up of kids from two different moms or dads all living under the same roof, can be challenging. The more people you put into a room together, the harder it can be for them to get along with each other without arguing, right? Blended families are a little like that. You have six people sharing a bathroom instead of two. Different people often have different beliefs, like different foods, and have different ideas about bedtimes, school and discipline. This makes blended families complicated.



Maybe your mom or dad marries someone who already has kids and you suddenly have a whole lot of sisters and brothers. No one asked you if you wanted the family to grow. Blended families can be fantastic; but they can also be tough. No matter what kind of changes happen with your mom and dad's living arrangements, your mom is your mom and your dad is your dad. But at the same time, you may have to share their time and money with other parents and kids. Then again, you may share their home and their last name.

What's in a name?

With blended families, you won't necessarily have the same last name as your brothers and sisters. You may not have the same last name as your mom.

If your parents were married, either your mom or your dad could have changed their name, they may have joined their two last names, putting them together with a hyphen (like Jones-BigSky) or your mom and dad could have kept their own names. Even if your parents never got married but have lived together as common-law partners they may have taken each other's names.

The name on your birth certificate is your legal name. Your last name may be the same as your dad's, your mom's or it may be another name that they chose for you when you were born, such as a combination of their last names.

If your mom wants to change your last name to that of her new partner and you are over 12 years old, your signature is required. If you don't want to change it, you don't have to sign the form. The name you are given at birth is yours to keep.

Child support – *money one parent pays to the other parent to pay for things like rent, food and clothing for a child.*

Guardianship – when someone like a grandparent, or an aunt or an agency applies to a court to be allowed to take care of you the way your parent would.



Just because you have your father's last name doesn't mean your father has custody of you. Even if you don't have your father's last name, he will still have to pay **child support**.

● **Ron's Grandmother Takes Charge –**

● Ron's mother had trouble with drinking. She drank a lot and when she did, she got angry and started yelling, calling Ron names and hitting him. If Ron's grandmother was around, she would step in between Ron and his mom.

● One night after Ron appeared at his grandmother's house quite late, she decided it was time for a change. She wiped away his tears and told him not to worry. Tucking him into bed that night, she promised, "I'm going to speak to your mom myself. You are going to stay with me until she gets her drinking under control. I love you."

● After Ron moved in with his grandmother, he missed his mom a lot but he didn't miss the way she treated him. Things began to get better. His grandmother helped him with his homework and his grades improved. He made some friends and started to play baseball.

● Ron's grandmother applied for **guardianship**. She filed papers at the court asking that she be appointed his legal guardian or caregiver, making her responsible for his care and schooling and giving her the right to make decisions for him. When permission was granted, she became like his parent. He decided to call her "Big Mom".

What is guardianship?

A member of your extended family or a child and family services agency may assume your guardianship if your mom or dad can no longer take care of you properly. These child protection issues may be caused by their drinking or drug abuse problems or because of mental illness. If staying where you are puts you at risk of harm, you will be moved to a safe place until the situation improves. If your parents can't or won't change their ways of behaving, guardianship or care and responsibility for you may be taken away from them.

If you cannot live with your mom or dad, you may go to live in a foster home with one or more other children. You may go into a group home where trained staff will provide care and support. You'll be safer whether you live with a foster family or another relative.

Foster care and foster families

Foster kids are good kids, just like all other kids. "They are just like you and me," says the Nova Scotia newsletter published by foster kids – *The Voice*.

Kids go into foster care, when their own parents can't take care of them, because of the parents' problems, not because of the kids' problems. If a friend, teacher or any other adult sees that you are not getting proper care or that you are being abused or neglected by your parents, they must notify an outside agency. It's the law. You probably won't be taken into care immediately. A social worker will talk to you about what is happening in your family. The social worker will also talk to your parents about your situation.

If your parents have to go to court, the entire process is very private. It's up to you what you decide to tell your friends.

If you have extended family, like grandparents or aunts and uncles, you may move into their home. Your aunt may become your foster mom. Many kids grow up with their grandparents or aunts in the role of their parents, especially if their own parents have problems that prevent them from taking care of their children properly.

If you want to read more about the foster kids who write *The Voice... of Youth in Care* visit www.youthnewsletter.net



ACTIVITIES – Chapter Six

1— True or False Questions (ANSWERS ON PAGE 66)

- True* *False* 1. Your parents are getting separated. You will go into care.
- True* *False* 2. You don't have your dad's name. You aren't his kid.
- True* *False* 3. You take your dad's name, now he has custody of you and you must live with him.
- True* *False* 4. Your grandmothers, aunts, uncles, and grandfathers are extended family.
- True* *False* 5. When someone like a grandparent or aunt or an agency applies to take care of you and be considered your parent, it is called guardianship.
- True* *False* 6. If you tell anyone the problems you have at home, you'll go into care.
- True* *False* 7. Foster kids are bad kids; their parents have given up on them.
- True* *False* 8. Blended families are made up of kids from two different moms or dads all living under the same roof.
- True* *False* 9. Extended families and blended families are common solutions when dads and moms argue and get separated.

2— Make yourself a family tree and trace your roots through talking with your grandparents, aunts, mom, dad, stepdad and mom, foster families, group homes and others.

3— Word search (ANSWERS ON PAGE 67)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | U | B | R | O | T | H | E | R | B | W | L | C | S | T | B | U | A | V |
| O | K | T | Q | Q | N | H | J | P | I | K | R | E | T | D | J | R | Q | K |
| N | E | L | F | L | E | G | F | C | Z | M | S | T | E | P | M | O | M | V |
| J | D | N | B | J | R | C | Q | E | Y | F | I | S | P | T | W | J | U | G |
| A | K | I | M | H | A | B | X | D | G | L | S | D | D | I | Y | Z | U | R |
| Z | E | S | I | G | P | X | M | W | N | H | T | A | A | B | E | A | E | N |
| A | X | U | A | C | R | S | V | O | T | U | E | G | D | F | R | T | O | P |
| Y | E | O | J | Z | E | P | W | A | M | S | R | L | O | D | C | I | G | Q |
| U | N | C | L | E | T | N | Y | Z | P | E | H | I | I | O | T | J | H | F |
| A | F | F | H | Y | S | F | T | V | W | E | X | A | E | P | E | G | K | L |
| B | D | G | N | X | O | M | V | U | O | M | N | N | O | H | O | M | T | D |
| C | B | E | I | O | F | W | R | G | R | A | N | D | P | A | R | E | N | T |
| G | Z | D | D | H | P | T | V | R | V | N | A | Y | A | P | R | M | W | X |
| H | I | R | E | T | H | G | U | A | D | O | B | N | J | D | V | O | C | G |
| X | J | W | Y | Z | C | S | Q | N | P | A | J | K | D | D | T | H | K | B |
| U | K | N | V | U | L | R | G | D | Z | V | T | R | A | D | R | Y | E | C |
| T | W | G | M | N | T | B | B | C | U | N | G | U | M | C | V | O | P | B |
| K | V | C | I | H | O | Q | S | H | T | E | X | W | T | N | U | A | Z | A |
| S | R | E | Q | B | L | P | R | I | U | P | E | Y | P | S | F | W | Q | B |
| H | C | I | E | I | Z | K | Q | L | R | H | G | D | R | H | Z | M | N | Y |
| E | F | L | J | D | O | J | P | D | F | E | G | Y | O | L | J | R | A | A |
| G | M | C | N | P | A | N | O | Y | A | W | O | P | I | W | H | D | B | F |

WORD LIST:

- Adoption
- Aunt
- Baby
- Brother
- Cousin
- Dad
- Daughter
- Fosterparent
- Grandparent
- Grandchild
- Guardian
- Home
- Mom
- Nephew
- Niece
- Sister
- Son
- Stepdad
- Stepmom
- Uncle





When Mom or Dad Moves Away



Jordan's Mom Kristy Wants to Move —

Jordan's mom Kristy was still going to school when Jordan was born. His dad Stefan was a student too. They didn't live together and Jordan only saw his dad once or twice. All of Kristy's family lived out of town. They never liked the idea of Kristy keeping Jordan without marrying his father, Stefan. So they offered no family support. When she couldn't pay the bills any other way, Kristy went on **social assistance** (page 58).

When Jordan was almost seven, things changed. Kristy's mom sent Kristy and Jordan a pair of airline tickets to Calgary asking them to visit everyone there. Jordan charmed his grandparents and his mom was over the moon about seeing her sister and brother-in-law again. They offered Kristy support in caring for Jordan, if they stayed in Calgary. Both Jordan and his mom wanted to stay. Family support could make their lives easier. When Jordan's mom checked out a school for him, the after-school care program offered her a job.

Kristy returned to the city determined to move. The problem: when Jordan's dad found out they were considering a move, he would probably try to stop them. He had taken her to court once already to get visiting rights. She was afraid he'd do it again. She would have to convince him to change the parenting arrangement. Could she do it?

To help her, Kristy visited her minister in the church and he offered to talk to Jordan's dad. After a few days, the minister called to say that mother and son were going to be able to move.



- He arranged for two separate lawyers to help draft a new parenting agreement and both parents signed, separately.
- Off social assistance and with family support, Kristy and her son, Jordan moved to Calgary. Life seemed better for them all.
- Jordan's dad even told the minister he'd like to come out for a visit some time.

Kristy and Jordan were lucky. Changing their parenting agreement had made their move to another city possible, without any further fuss or extra money. Sometimes it doesn't work out quite as well.

When either your mom or your dad gets a new job out of town or otherwise wants to try and find a better life somewhere else, they usually must first convince the other parent to allow the move. This can be tough, especially if the parent with whom you don't live doesn't have a lot of money. He or she may worry about not seeing you, if you move away. If the parents can't agree, both parents can go to court, state their reasons for wanting to move or not wanting the move, and let a judge decide.

Because the law believes that kids do better seeing both parents, the judge will consider both sides of the story. How hard would it be for the parent left behind to find the money he or she needed to see you? How involved are you with the parent left behind? You won't be able to decide whether to move or not for yourself. But you should have a chance to talk with someone and say what you think about it.

Many parenting agreements state that neither dad nor mom can take a child out of the country or even out of the province, without the written permission of the other parent. Sometimes parents find it hard for one parent to take you away on holiday somewhere far away from home.

Social assistance (welfare) – *money given by the town, band council, city or province, where a person lives, to help pay for things like food and a place to live.*

Criminal offence – any action that is against the law.

What to do if you worry about being taken away

Abduction or kidnapping means a child is taken away from his or her home without the permission of a parent who has sole custody or joint custody. The parent who takes the child has no legal right to take him or her away without the agreement of the other parent who has custody. If a parent abducts a child who is under 14 years old, that parent could be charged with a **criminal offence**.

If you are taken out of the province or the country, without proper permission, the parent who takes you can be charged with abduction. It is against the law. What can you do to help yourself?

Unless the parent who is planning the move has sole custody of you, both of your parents have to agree to your moving away from everything that you know as home.

Learn some skills to help you in case you are afraid you will be taken out of the province or country.

1. If you feel uncomfortable and think something is happening that you don't like, talk to your other parent or talk to a teacher at school.
2. Know your home address and phone number. If possible, know your parent's work number as well. Keep a picture of your family with whom you live. It will help you show other people where you live.
3. Learn how to make long-distance calls. If you call collect, the person you are calling – your mom or dad who has been left at home – accepts payment for the call and will be there to talk with you. You can make collect calls even if you don't have any money.

4. Know your parent's e-mail address and know how to use the Internet.
5. Find out if you are able to travel with your mom or dad. Do you want to? If either your mom or your dad wants to get you a **passport**, tell the other parent about it. If you are over 12 years old, you have to sign your own passport. Ask why you need a passport, if it's something new to you.
6. Be sure your teacher knows who is allowed to pick you up after school. Ask your parents to give the school a copy of your parenting agreement or order. This can stop you being picked up by someone whom you don't want to see or don't trust.

Canada has agreements with 68 countries around the world to help parents and their kids get back together if the kids have been abducted by one of their parents and moved to another country.

If you are under 16, most countries will help you return home if you have been taken away from your home against your will. Try to find out what is happening.

When divorce or separation leaves parents feeling angry about the way things have been arranged, they sometimes do foolish things to keep you with them. If one of your parents comes from another country where they have family support that they don't have where they live now, this may be more likely to happen. Sometimes your mom or dad may fear that you will not know anything about the culture of the country where they were born or about a way of life that is quite different from the way you live in Canada.

Passport – a legal document, containing details about your birth which is used for identification, whenever you cross a border from one country to another. You may already have a passport to get you into the USA.

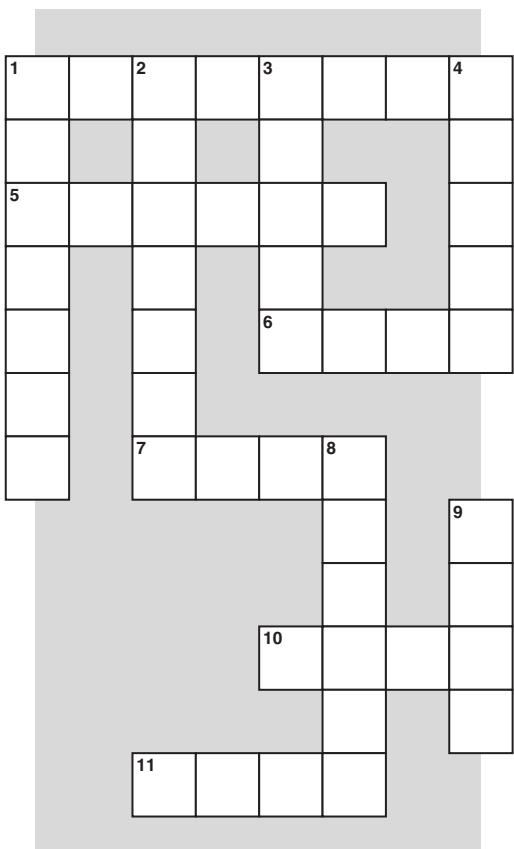
It's against the law for you to be taken away against your will and against the will and permission of the parent with whom you live. But unfortunately it sometimes happens.

If the court does give the parent with whom you live permission to move away, you still have the right to see your other parent. You still have the right to keep your father and/or mother's name, as before.



ACTIVITIES – Chapter Seven

1— Crossword Puzzle (ANSWERS ON PAGE 68)



ACROSS

1. The document you need to go into another country.
5. What the counsellor writes after meeting with you.
(Clue: Your school sends one home with your marks.)
6. You do this when you're sleepy.
7. Best friends do this a lot; they tell each other everything.
10. Be aware of your rights. _____ them.
11. Wild animals are caught with this device. (Clue: Rhymes with map.)

DOWN

1. The adults you started life with.
2. The help you need to live; something to lean on.
3. Where you hang out with friends and eat cake and ice cream.
4. Just before you become a teenager. (Clue: Rhymes with Teen.)
8. When someone nabs a child unlawfully.
9. Society's rules of behaviour.

WORD LIST:

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------|-------|---------|----------|------|
| Kidnap | Report | Know | Support | Laws | Talk |
| Parents | Trap | Party | Tween | Passport | Yawn |



2— How many words can you find within these words? (ANSWERS ON PAGE 68)

1. Separation
2. Guardianship

3— Transfer the letters to answer the following riddle. (ANSWER ON PAGE 68)

RIDDLE: The deal your parents make about you.

— — — — —
16 1 18 5 14 20 9 14 7 1 7 18 5 5 13 5 14 20

A = 1 B = 2 C = 3 D = 4 E = 5 F = 6 G = 7 H = 8 I = 9 J = 10
K = 11 L = 12 M = 13 N = 14 O = 15 P = 16 Q = 17 R = 18 S = 19 T = 20
U = 21 V = 22 W = 23 X = 24 Y = 25 Z = 26

4— Write your story using at least four of the following words:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| • move | • divorce |
| • maintenance | • guardianship |
| • court | • love |
| • arguments | • custody. |



ACTIVITIES – ANSWER KEY

Chapter One

– pages 11 to 13

1— Word Search

3— Fill in the Blank

1. judge
2. lawyers
3. will
4. an affidavit
5. child support payments



Chapter Two

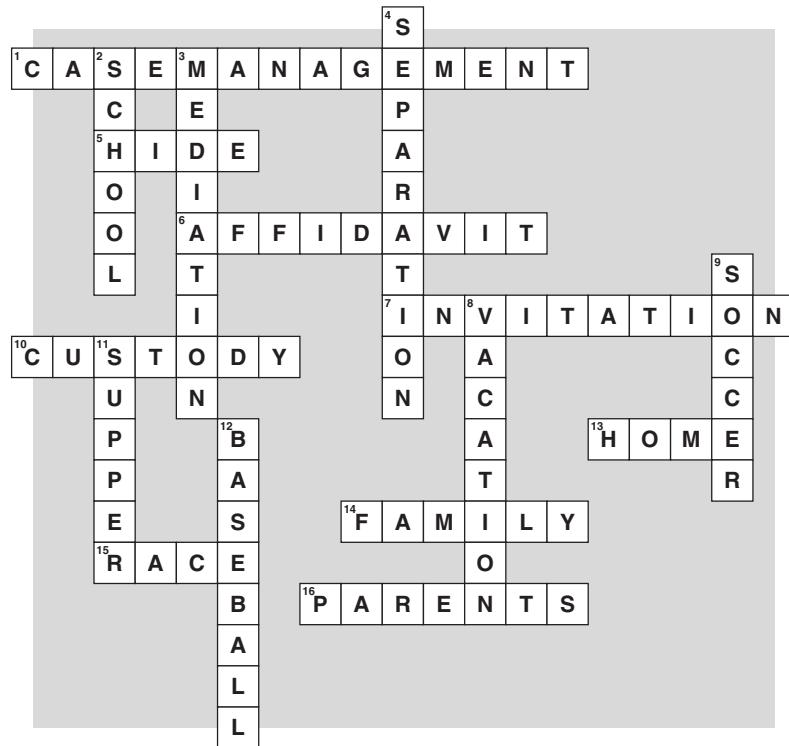
– pages 20 and 21

1— Crossword Puzzle

2— Riddle

ANSWER:

Court of Queen's Bench

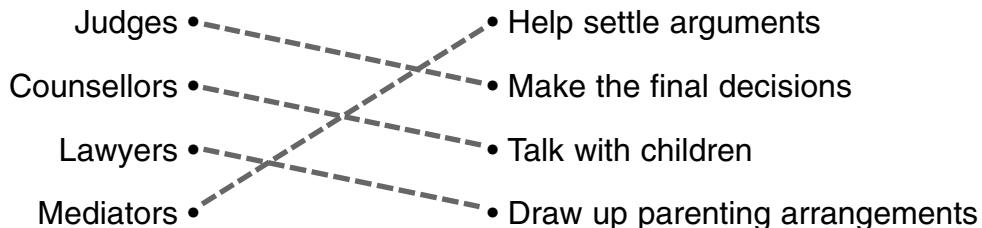


Chapter Three – pages 29 and 30

1 – True or False

1. False 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. True 6. False

2 – Match the word with the description

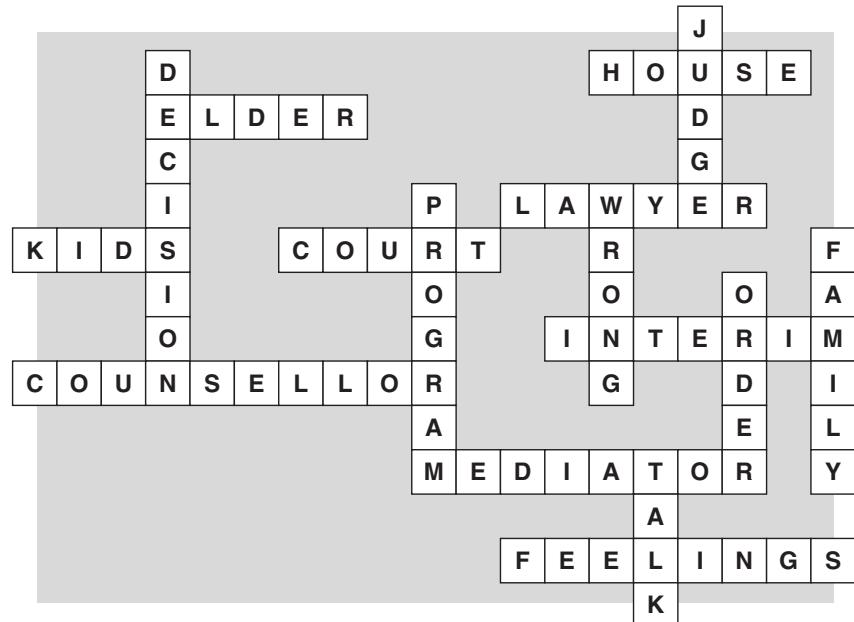


Chapter Four – pages 38 and 39

2 – Fill in Crossword

3 – Unscramble

- sohem = homes
- jniot yucsotd = joint custody
- repnetgin ateerenmg = parenting agreement
- ffrednite = different

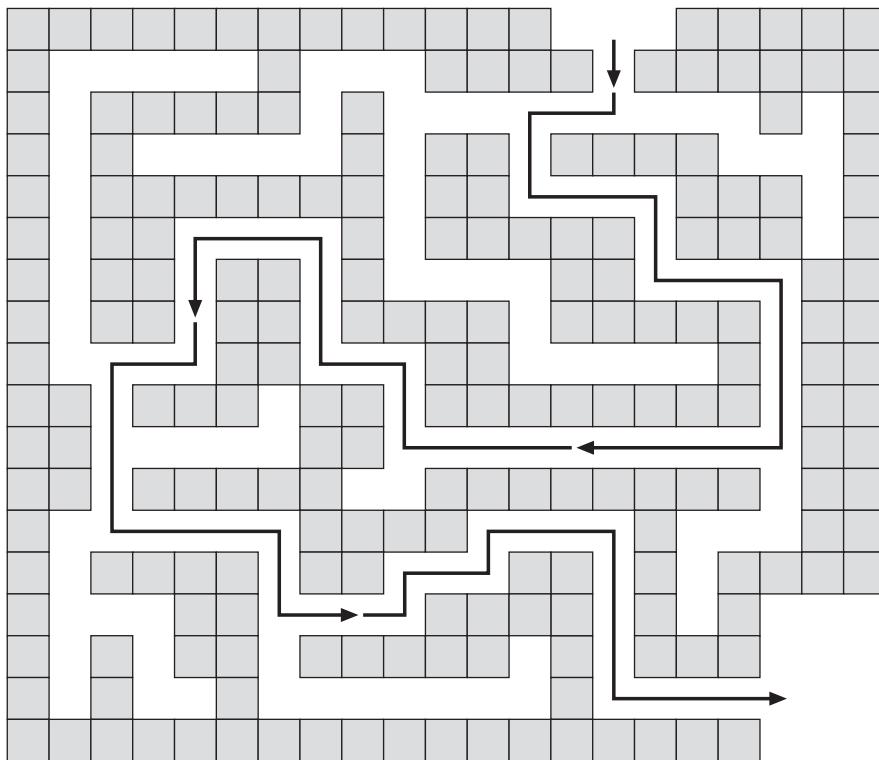


4 – Matching

- parenting agreement
- homes
- joint custody
- different

Chapter Five – pages 46 and 47

1— Maze



3— Match the word with the description

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Protection order • | • Telling your story in court |
| Abuse • | • Violent offences are tried here |
| Testify • | • Protects you from a violent parent |
| A field trip • | • Hitting, hurting, shouting |
| Criminal court • | • A fun outing with an adult. |

Chapter Six – pages 54 and 55

1— True or False

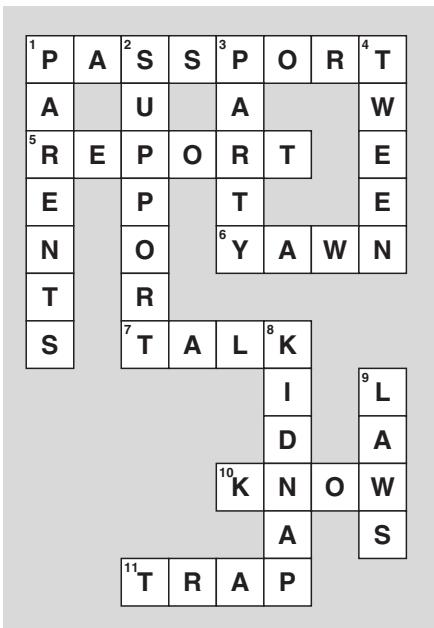
1. False
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. True

3— Word Search



Chapter Seven – pages 62 and 63

1— Crossword Puzzle



2— How many words in the word?

1. Separation:

| | | | | | |
|-------|------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| part | nip | sit | piston | rite | par |
| pin | set | spare | ear | nap | rap |
| pet | pair | tear | pat | pit | net |
| pain | tire | pan | nest | ten | paint |
| stare | it | rest | rasp | spine | pear |
| rat | note | trap | pine | sear | past |
| not | art | step | near | ton | pert |
| tar | port | eat | pest | pint | ant |
| spit | seat | tip | tap | pants | spite |
| neat | tin | sat | pirate | sprite | rate |

2. Guardianship:

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| guard | rig | ran | pang | ship | rug |
| hand | harp | hip | rush | and | ping |
| dip | sugar | raid | hasp | dig | gush |
| aid | rag | dug | pad | ad | sag |
| hug | pin | asp | spar | nip | din |
| grasp | par | grid | pig | push | gun |
| dish | ran | an | pan | rid | pun |
| rip | sin | sip | sun | | |

3— Riddle

ANSWER:

Parenting Agreement

**Community Legal
Education Association**



**Association d'éducation
juridique communautaire**



Department of Justice
Canada Ministère de la Justice
Canada