



# **Learning about the Law**

## **Lesson: Family Law – Marriage, Separation and Divorce**




**CLB 5-6 Instructional Package**



## Lesson Plan: Marriage, Separation, and Divorce (CLB 5-6)

### CLB Outcomes

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|  <b>CLB 5-IV: Sharing Information</b>       | Agree, disagree and give opinions in small group discussions or meetings.                  |
|  <b>CLB 5-IV: Comprehending Information</b> | Understand simple to moderately complex descriptive or narrative texts on familiar topics. |
|  <b>CLB 5-II: Reproducing Information</b>   | Reduce a page of information to a list of important details.                               |

### Content Outcomes

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- Identify basic definitions related to marriage, separation, and divorce
- Describe rules and practices related to marriage, separation, and divorce
- Give a comparison of Family Law in Canada and home countries

### Resources

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- People's Law School (PLS) wikibook *Learning about the Law*, section on *Family Law*, subsections on marriage, separation and divorce. Resource also available in print format. To order visit [www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/resources](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/resources).  
[http://wiki.clicklaw.bc.ca/index.php/Marriage\\_Separation\\_and\\_Divorce\\_Lesson\\_Module](http://wiki.clicklaw.bc.ca/index.php/Marriage_Separation_and_Divorce_Lesson_Module)
- PLS worksheets "Family Law: Marriage, Separation, and Divorce"
- Computer Lab (optional)

### External Resources and Referrals

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- For more information on children's rights in cases of separation and divorce, visit [www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca](http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca)
- Invite a family justice counsellor/ Legal Services Society officer to speak to the class about community services, legal aid and free legal aid or family justice services available for the residents of British Columbia
- Visit a community or government agency providing support to families and children

### Assessment Plan and Tools

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- Self-assessment checklist

## Sample Lesson Plan

| Time | Sample Tasks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Expected Outcome                                                                                      | Resources                                                                                                                    |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10'  | <p><b>Warm up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In small groups, students discuss the pictures and how they relate to family laws</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Generate interest</p> <p>Activate prior knowledge</p>                                              | <p>PLS Worksheet: <b>Get Ready!</b></p>                                                                                      |
| 25'  | <p><b>Vocabulary practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand out <u>one</u> definition to each student in the class</li> <li>First, students circle all of the words on the list that they already know and write their own definitions for those words</li> <li>Next, students look in the PLS booklet to find the words they don't know in order to try to understand them</li> <li>Finally, students circulate around the room to ask classmates about words they don't know in order to find the correct definition</li> <li>Students record the definitions on their worksheet</li> <li>Check and go over any new words</li> </ul> | <p>Prepare for reading</p> <p>Apply strategies to learn new vocabulary words related to the topic</p> | <p>PLS Worksheet: <b>Vocabulary Practice!</b></p> <p><i>Refer to Family Law section of Learning and the Law wikibook</i></p> |
| 15'  | <p><b>Pronunciation practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students break words into syllables and mark stress</li> <li>Drill pronunciation with students</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Pronounce words with correct word stress</p>                                                       | <p>PLS Worksheet: <b>Say it!</b></p>                                                                                         |
| 30'  | <p><b>Speaking focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students practice comparing and contrasting various topics in small groups</li> <li>Go over any new phrases and words for comparing and contrasting</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Compare and contrast in a discussion</p>                                                           | <p>PLS Worksheet: <b>Compare Share!</b></p>                                                                                  |
| 35'  | <p><b>Read and Discuss</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students skim PLS booklet to fill in notes about family laws</li> <li>Students write down laws they know in their own countries</li> <li>Students compare laws in Canada and their own countries in a discussion with partner</li> <li>Have each pair report back one similarity discovered about family laws in Canada and their countries and one difference</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Compare and contrast</p> <p>Skim text in order to take notes</p>                                   | <p>PLS Worksheet: <b>Read and Take Notes!</b></p> <p><i>Refer to Family Law section of Learning and the Law wikibook</i></p> |

# Family Law



| Time | Sample Tasks                                                                                                                                                                                          | Expected Outcome                                           | Resources                                                                            |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25'  | <b>Find out more</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students find more on family law topics related to children's rights, custody, and child support by conducting internet research</li></ul> | Get more information about family laws in British Columbia | Computer Lab<br><a href="http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca">www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca</a> |
| 10'  | <b>Self-Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Allow students to fill out self-assessment form independently</li></ul>                                                                  | Self-assessment                                            | PLS Worksheet:<br><b>What did you learn?</b>                                         |

## Get Ready!

Look at the pictures<sup>1</sup>. In groups, discuss the following questions.

What do these pictures illustrate?

What do you know about family laws in Canada?

Discuss family laws in your country. What are the laws around marriage and divorce?



<sup>1</sup> All images retrieved from: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images/?CTT=6&ver=14&app=winword.exe>

# Family Law

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## Vocabulary Practice!

Look at the list of words. Circle all of the words you already know and write your own meaning. For the words you don't know, look in the PLS wikibook to find the words.

**spouse**

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**civil**

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**common-law**

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**legal**

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**adultery**

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**divorce**

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**breakdown**

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**intention**

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**permission**

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**file**

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**court order**

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## Say it!

Mark the syllables and word stress on the words below. Practice saying these words with the correct word stress.

**married**

**mar'** ried

**divorce**

**separated**

**civil**

**common-law**

**legal**

**adultery**

**breakdown**

**intention**

**permission**

**court order**



## Compare and Share!

In groups, practice comparing and contrasting the topics below.

“Watching TV is similar to going to the movies. Both are relaxing forms of entertainment.”

“Watching TV is cheaper than going to the movies but movie theatres are more exciting than staying at home.”

“Watching TV is very different than going to the movies. In the movie theatre the screen is very large and the sound quality is great, whereas a TV does not have good sound quality.”

### Topics:

|                                                                |                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| getting married in Canada/getting married in your home country | legal marriage / common law relationship                     |
| going to court/making an agreement                             | agreement when you live together/agreement when you separate |
| divorce/ separation                                            | Family Law Act/ Divorce Act                                  |

## Comparing & Contrasting

### Useful words/phrases to compare

- same
- the same as
- similar to
- both
- as \_\_\_ as
- -er/more
- too

### Useful words/phrases to contrast

- (very, quite, extremely) different than/from
- unlike
- not at all alike
- opposite
- whereas
- on the other hand

## Read and Take Notes!

Read the PLS wikibook in order to fill in notes about the following family laws in Canada and your home country.

| Family Laws              | Canada | My home country |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| <i>being married</i>     |        |                 |
| <i>getting separated</i> |        |                 |
| <i>getting divorced</i>  |        |                 |

# Family Law

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**Discuss!** With a partner from a different country, compare which laws are similar and which ones are different in your countries and report to the class.

## Find out More!

Use a computer at school or at home to find out the following information. Visit the Legal Services Society's Family Law website at <http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca/> and find the following information (Hint: Look for a search bar or find the FAQ section.)

1. Where can you get legal aid for the family law problem?

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2. At what age can children choose which parent they will live with?

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3. Can you have the paternity test done before the baby is born?

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4. When can you stop paying child support?

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## What did you learn?

Fill this out on your own.

|                                                                                  | Yes, I can do this on my own. | I need to review this.   | I can't do this yet.     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I can understand key terms about family laws in Canada.                          | <input type="checkbox"/>      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I can read in order to find information and take notes on family laws in Canada. | <input type="checkbox"/>      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I can compare laws in Canada with laws in my home country.                       | <input type="checkbox"/>      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I can listen and understand others in order to make comparisons.                 | <input type="checkbox"/>      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I can research and find information online.                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

What else did you learn today? What other questions do you have about Family Law in Canada?

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## Vocabulary Practice!

### ANSWER KEY AND DEFINITION CARDS

|                    |                                                                                                                |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>spouse</b>      | someone you are married to or living with in a marriage-like situation                                         |
| <b>civil</b>       | related to citizens; non-religious; public or political                                                        |
| <b>common-law</b>  | a marriage-like relationship between two people who have lived together for many years                         |
| <b>legal</b>       | allowed by law                                                                                                 |
| <b>adultery</b>    | the act of being unfaithful to a marriage partner; having sexual relations with someone you are not married to |
| <b>divorce</b>     | the legal separation of two people who were married                                                            |
| <b>breakdown</b>   | fail; stop working                                                                                             |
| <b>intention</b>   | plan of action; goal; aim                                                                                      |
| <b>permission</b>  | agreement; allowed to do something by someone                                                                  |
| <b>file</b>        | to make an application; to arrange                                                                             |
| <b>court order</b> | a command by a judge to do something                                                                           |

## Say it!

### ANSWER KEY

married

**ma'** rried

divorce

di **vorce'**

separated

**se'** pa ra ted

civil

**ci'** vil

common-law

**co'** mmon **law'**

legal

**le'** gal

adultery

a **dul'** ter y

breakdown

**break'** down

intention

in **ten'** sion

permission

per **mi'** ssion

court order

**court'** or' der