

How Divorce affects Children

There are many reasons why couples divorce. Some reason why couples divorce may be:

- Sexual problems – unable to have a family
- Financial problems – unable to support family
- Arguments – conflicts and disagreement can cause divorce
- Cultural problems – conflicts in different cultural backgrounds

When two people get a divorce and children are involved, there are many effects on the children.

Children do not understand what divorce really is, especially at an early age. All they understand is that one parent is no longer living at home with them as before. This can be very traumatic for a child.

Children may blame themselves for the divorce thinking that they did something wrong and they are no longer loved. Some children may even do bad things just to get their parents attention long enough to stop them fighting.

The child's progress at school may suffer as result of problems at home. This means they won't achieve a proper education. When a child begins to do poorly in school, their self-esteem begins to lower. The child may turn to alcohol or drugs as a way to release tension.

A parent should always talk to the child about divorce. They should let them know what is going on. They should never argue or fight in front of the children as this can lead to the child thinking they have to take sides. A child wants to love both parents and doesn't want to be in this situation.

There are many stages to a divorce. There is the issue of who should get what, including children. The parents have to come to a decision as to who should take the children. This can be a lengthy process, involving lawyers and settlements in court. This is very frustrating for the children. Most couples do eventually sort out the arrangements for their children. Most usually stay with the mother, 90% to be precise. The father may visit them on weekends and special occasions. Birthdays and Christmas are special occasions where both

sides want to see the children. The children probably want to be with both their parents at times like this.

Parents should look past their differences and put the children first, the relationship between parent and child could at least survive if not continue to grow strong. Happy relationships don't always happen but the children should always be given first priority. Couples should maybe think twice about having children. They should only have children if they are sure that they love each other.

Children are obviously affected during divorce. Maybe couples do not realize how much they are actually affected. Who wants to put their children through all the frustration?