

THE FAMILY LAW AND SOCIETY CASES AND MATERIALS

Second Edition

Brenda M Hoggett · David S Pearl



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The Family, Law and Society

Cases and Materials

Second edition

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Preface

In the first edition of this book, published in 1983, we said that the aim of the book was to introduce the student of family law to a far wider range of material than is to be found in statutes or law reports or even a conventional law library. We have maintained the same approach in this edition, but readers will notice a number of changes. The issues of family economics and private and public support are now dealt with together in the first part of the book, which is largely concerned with relationships between adults. The chapter on domestic violence now forms the link between that part and the later chapters which are concerned mainly with children. The pivotal case is thus *Richards v Richards*, dealing with the balance between the interests of adults and the interests of their children. The last chapter deals with issues which may be thought the most important of all — the structure of the courts and the way in which family disputes are resolved. If authors are allowed to advise their readers we would entreat them to bear in mind the issues raised in that chapter when reading all the other chapters in this book.

There has been so much discussion and activity recently over the whole field of family law that much new material has been included and some of our favourite pieces have had to be abandoned to make way for it. This has kept the book at the same length. It was completed in March 1987 but we have made a few additions at proof stage and anticipated the bringing into force of the Family Law Reform Act 1987 and the Adoption Act 1976.

Many of our colleagues and friends have helped in the preparation of this new edition. We should particularly like to thank Rosy Thornton (for allowing us to publish certain findings drawn from her research work on homelessness), Patricia Pearl (for achieving wonders with the photograph of the second-named author), and especially Jonathan Whybrow (for contributions too numerous to mention to the chapters on child law and, we hope, to its reform in the future). The staff at Butterworths have worked like Trojans to ensure that the book reaches the bookshops in time for the beginning of the academic year 1987–1988. Above all, however, we must thank our families — John (husband), Gillian (wife), Julia (daughter), Julian, Daniel and Marcus (sons) and Ben and Sarah (step-son and step-daughter). The exciting fact about family law is that all of us live it every day!

General Election Day
11 June 1987

Brenda Hoggett
David Pearl

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