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(B) The family unit is the fundamental base in society, and its functioning is imperative to the development of children. Previously the Marriage Act 1959 outlined the rules for the dissolution of a marriage. This included the 14 grounds of divorce (someone had to be blamed) and a 5 year wait for a divorce to be finalized. This made divorce an arduous process and often the parties ended as enemies. This made the process rather ineffective. In 1975 the Family Law Act was introduced which ~~replaced~~ overhauled the previous divorce system. It introduced the no fault divorce - nobody was to be blamed. The only grounds required for a divorce was the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage. It also shifted the emphasis of the process on to the well being of the child and reduced the wait from 5 years to 12 months for a decree nisi and one more month for a decree absolute, dissolving the marriage. The couple were still able to live in the same house and attempt to "kiss and make up" without having to start the 12 months again. This was an effective step towards making the divorce process much less hostile. Details of the divorce such as the child's living arrangements and property division are encouraged to be settled out of court. This cooperation is

an attempt for both parents to reach a compromise instead of having a court order imposed forcefully upon them. Having the parents compromise is an effective way to give them an opportunity to find a solution they can both be happy with.

In 2005 Family relationship centres were established. These centres help to facilitate the peaceful resolution to family issues out of court. Dispute resolution sessions, planning for property and child living arrangements and counselling are all offered at the centre. This effectively helps to facilitate the dissolution of marriage peacefully or the resolution of disputes without tensions developing.

Overall, as societal values have progressed, the government has effectively responded to facilitate a just outcome.

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