



# Family Law Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 27

### PART I

#### PRINCIPLES OF PARTS II AND III

#### **1 The general principles underlying Parts II and III.**

The court and any person, in exercising functions under or in consequence of Parts II and III, shall have regard to the following general principles—

- (a) that the institution of marriage is to be supported;
- (b) that the parties to a marriage which may have broken down are to be encouraged to take all practicable steps, whether by marriage counselling or otherwise, to save the marriage;
- (c) that a marriage which has irretrievably broken down and is being brought to an end should be brought to an end—
  - (i) with minimum distress to the parties and to the children affected;
  - (ii) with questions dealt with in a manner designed to promote as good a continuing relationship between the parties and any children affected as is possible in the circumstances; and
  - (iii) without costs being unreasonably incurred in connection with the procedures to be followed in bringing the marriage to an end; and
- (d) that any risk to one of the parties to a marriage, and to any children, of violence from the other party should, so far as reasonably practicable, be removed or diminished.

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 05/12/2005.

**Changes to legislation:**

Family Law Act 1996, Part I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.