

equal shared parental responsibility	the presumption that the parents of a child will consult each other and agree on 'major long-term issues', such as education etc.
ex-nuptial child	a child born outside of marriage
extended family	a family with other relatives besides parents and children living in the same household
family	two or more persons who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household
family violence	conduct towards a member of the family that causes them to fear for their personal wellbeing or safety

guardianship

the long-term
responsibility for a
child

injunction

a court order which
prevents someone from
doing something or orders
them to do something

in loco parentis

the idea that adults who are
taking care of a child have the
same rights and
responsibilities as the parents

intestacy

a situation in which laws
operate to distribute a
person's property when that
person dies without leaving a
will

intimidation

behaviours such as
nuisance phone calls,
harassing or threatening
someone

in-vitro fertilisation
(IVF)

a practice whereby ovum and sperm are united in a test tube where they form an embryo which is then implanted into a woman's uterus so that she can produce a child

irretrievable
breakdown

a marriage that has broken down to such an extent that there is no possibility of the parties reconciling

liable parent

a parent who is obliged to pay child maintenance to the other parent

lobby group

a collection of people with specific aims who join together to try to pressure the government to change the law so as to achieve those aims

maintenance

a payment made by one person to help contribute to the care and welfare of another person

marriage

the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life

mediation

the process by which a conciliator or mediator listens to both parties to a dispute and makes suggestions in an effort to bring the two parties to agreement

minor

a person under the age of 18 years; also known as a 'child'

monogamy

the idea that a person may only be married to one person at a time

nuclear family

a husband, a wife and their children