

19. Erick and Julia Tallent get a divorce after twelve years of unresolved conflict which involved both of their extended families. Three of their children (Chad who is four, Maggie who is six, and Kyle who is eight) reside with Julia after the divorce, and the two oldest (Marie who is 10 and Jane who is 11) live with Erick. Erick is ordered to pay Julia \$400/month child support. Erick feels it is unfair for him to pay child support, and although he pays it he pays late and grudgingly. In turn, when the children with Julia ask for material items, she responds, "How do you expect me to buy that when your father is too selfish to pay the support?" Erick remarries Shelly who has two teenage daughters. Two years later, Erick and Shelly have a son.

Sally and David Thompson get a divorce after twelve years of marriage. The last year of the marriage was conflictual, but the conflict subsides after the divorce. The two children (Davie who is ten and Valerie who is eight) live with Sally and visit David regularly. David pays child support in a timely manner. David remarries Phyllis two years after the divorce. Phyllis has two children.

a. How are these two divorces different? How are they alike?

b. In which family is it likely the children will have the better developmental outcome? Remember to consider child factors, divorce factors, and remarriage factors, stepparent factors.

c. List all the changes that occurred in the Tallent family as a result of the divorce.

Classify each of the following as characteristics of upper class families (UC), middle class families (MC), lower class families (LC), or underclass families (UDC).

- a. inherited wealth
- b. emphasis on survival
- c. hopelessness
- d. joblessness
- e. status earned by achievement
- f. egalitarian families
- g. family is extended, often patriarchal or matriarchal
- h. proper rearing more important than education
- i. education very important
- j. emphasize respect for elders
- k. most influenced by economic fluctuations
- l. semiskilled and unskilled workers
- m. professionals and business executives
- n. farmers and small business owners
- o. Achievement and respectability important