

## **10. DEFINITIONS**

alimony: Money paid, other than child support or subsistence payments, by one of the parties of this agreement to the other party to this agreement as a result of divorce transpiring between them.

assets: Assets as defined here shall include:

Bank instruments, to include:

Passbook accounts.  
Certificates of deposit  
Money market accounts  
Checking accounts under a single name  
Lawful currency of any country  
Individual retirement account trusteeships

Bonds

Gold, silver, or gems of any form

Items of personal property

Mutual fund accounts

Promissory notes

Stocks

Trusts

Real estate

child: A person who is either younger than 18 years of age or who is economically dependent on his or her parents for more than half the economic cost of his/her lifestyle.

child support: An amount of money paid on a recurring basis to a divorce parent who has custody of a domestic offspring while that offspring is a child.

domestic offspring: Offspring conceived during copulation occurring exclusively between BOTH parties to this agreement.

earned income: Remuneration in whatever form provided for services rendered in the course of employment.

encouragement: The skill to help children in self-esteem. It is a way to show children that they belong and are:

- Accepted
- Capable
- Loved

Look at the words *encourage* and *discourage*. They both include the word *courage*. Courage is an important part of self-esteem. It means a willingness to make an effort. An encouraged child has strong self-esteem. This child has the courage to cooperate, to try new things, and to be responsible. A discouraged child has little self-esteem and won't make an effort. This child doesn't have the courage to choose positive ways to belong.

Encouragement is based on the idea of respect. Like respect, it is something children need all the time. You can learn to get in the “encouragement habit.” Learn and practice some skills to show that you:

- Love and accept your child
- Notice when the child tries or improves
- Appreciate your child
- Have faith in your child

family: A group of people who live under the same roof and who often originate from a common genetic pool. These people are usually under one head or authority, who is usually the husband/father. The members of a family cooperate in the care and rearing of their own or adopted children, subject to the authority of the head of the household.

father: The male who is biologically responsible for the birth of a child. A man who has begotten a child.

fiduciary duty: A responsibility that married spouses have towards each other in some states, including California. This responsibility requires the spouses to act in good faith with regard to all financial matters affecting the marriage. It requires that they manage community assets and income in a way that benefits BOTH parties, rather than just one. This means, for instance, that they are not allowed to gift assets to third parties or sell them at less than their fair market value without the express written consent of their spouse.

husband: A married man. The Bible says in Eph. 5:23 that the husband is the head of the household.

I-message: A good way to talk about problems is with an I-message. I-messages tell how you feel when a child ignores your rights. They focus on you, rather than the child. I-messages don't label or blame. When you use an I-message, you simply tell how you feel.

### **I-Messages Have Three parts**

**To use an I-message, do three things:**

1. **Tell what is *happening*.**
2. **Tell what you *feel*.**
3. ***Explain* why you feel that way.**

Here is an I-message:

- **“When you don't call, I feel worried because I don't know where you are.”**

**Table 10-2: I-Message Example**

#	It uses these words	Example
1	When	“ <i>When</i> you don't call,
2	I feel	<i>I feel</i> worried
3	because	<i>because</i> I don't know where you are.”

Once you understand the parts of an I-message, use words that feel natural to you:

- “I feel scared when I find the iron left on. We could have a fire.”

Decide if you want to tell about your feeling, or just the problem:

- “I can’t set the table when it’s covered with toys.”

These are the most important things to remember about I-messages:

- They focus on you, not your child.
- They do not place blame on anyone.

liabilities: Accounts payable or loans payable by a party or the results of any adverse court judgments or liens against a party to this agreement.

love: (1 Cor. 13:4-8) Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

maturity: Maturity is the balance between courage and consideration. If a person can express his feelings and convictions with courage balanced with consideration for the feelings and convictions of another person, he is mature, particularly if the issue is very important to both parties. If you examine many of the psychological tests used for hiring, promoting, and training purposes, you will find that they are designed to evaluate this kind of maturity.<sup>58</sup>

misbehavior: Behavior of children that is destructive or harmful to them or the family or other individuals in the family. Misbehavior is characterized by any or all of the following characteristics

- Anger
- Selfishness
- Irresponsibility
- Hate
- Negative attitudes
- Destructiveness of property or possessions
- Revenge

mother: One of two people responsible for producing and raising a human being.

personal property: Tangible items or articles of property other than real property. Such items are generally thought of as transportable.

real property: Real estate, land, buildings, dwellings, structures and the fixtures or items permanently attached to them.

reflective listening: The process of repeating what you think your child feels and says. Think of yourself as a mirror that *reflects* your child’s feelings. You also reflect the *reason* behind the

<sup>58</sup> *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen R. Covey, 1989, Fireside, p. 217.

feeling. To listen reflectively, start by using the words “You feel” before the feeling, and “because” to tell the reason for the feeling:

- “*You feel* jealous *because* Mike got picked and you didn’t.”
- “*You feel* disappointed *because* Petra didn’t call.”
- “*You feel* impatient *because* you want to use the phone.”

After a while, reflective listening will feel more natural. Then you can use your own words:

- “Are you hurt that Carlo didn’t ask you to the party?”
- “You’re lonesome in our new apartment.”
- “Looks like you’re eager to get to practice.”

respect: Having a high or special regard for something: ESTEEM. In the context of human relationships, placing value on a person, and showing consideration for their likes and dislikes. Treating them ethically and in a way that makes them feel confident, secure, encouraged, and loved.

self-esteem: A belief that we belong and are: 1. Accepted; 2. Strong and capable; 3. Loved. Self-esteem helps our children know that they belong, can contribute, and are loved. It helps them create successes. It helps them get through problems. It helps them say “I can” and “I will.”

transmutation: An act, process, or instance of transmuting or being transmuted. Transmutation is a change or alteration in form, appearance, or nature of some thing.

In the context of family law, transmutation has been defined as a general term to describe arrangements between spouses to convert community property to separate property or vice versa.

unearned income: Unearned income comprises all forms of income other than earned income and shall include the following:

Gifts

Government entitlements to include:

Good stamps

Medicare and Medicaid

Social security

Welfare

Inheritances

Insurance proceeds

Pension, IRA, Roth IRA, and Keogh plans (both military and civilian)

Veterans educational benefits

verbal abuse: Words that attack, slander, or injure, that cause one to believe the false, and that speak falsely of one. Verbal abuse constitutes psychological violence. Without the element of falseness, the behavior can cause psychological harm but isn’t called verbal abuse.

YOU-message: A method of addressing problems that is accusatory and blaming. It uses the word “you” in the sentence. Examples:

- “You should know better.”
- “You stop that.”
- “You cut it out!”

wife: A married woman.