

Module code: MOD008471	Version: 3 Date Amended: 12/Mar/2026
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1. Module Title
The Law of Family Relationships

2a. Module Leader
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ARU Peterborough

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

You'll be introduced to the legal regulation of personal and familial relationships and the ways in which the state intervenes to regulate their formation, conduct and termination. The module explores the dissolution of marriage, financial provision on relationship breakdown, domestic violence and the occupation of the family home, property rights within the family, and the protection of children.

You will examine how law interacts with social, ethical, religious and cultural norms, and consider the balance between private decision-making and state intervention. Alongside this substantive focus, you'll develop key skills in legal research, problem solving, written communication and critical evaluation.

Although not part of the Foundations of Legal Knowledge, Family Law is highly relevant to professional legal practice. The module helps prepare you for practice areas such as family, child protection and domestic abuse, and supports skills that are transferable to a wide range of contexts including interviews, negotiation, advocacy and client care.

This module is underpinned by a Story-Based Narrative Learning (SBNL) approach, through which you will engage with evolving, realistic storylines that mirror the complexities of family law in practice. Working collaboratively, you'll co-construct and later independently construct client-based narratives, exploring how family law principles apply to lived experiences and social contexts. This approach encourages critical reflection, empathy, and deeper understanding of the human dimensions of legal decision-making.

6b. Outline Content

This module reflects the practical and professional skills needed by law graduates in the context of family law. Ethical awareness, sensitivity to cultural diversity and professional judgement are embedded throughout the teaching and assessment of this module.

Learning is structured through a Story-Based Narrative Learning (SBNL) framework that connects weekly topics through an unfolding family law narrative. Students initially co-construct the narrative as a group, collaboratively identifying key legal issues, before developing their own independent story-narratives to demonstrate applied understanding and professional reasoning. This pedagogy promotes active engagement, creativity, and the ability to analyse complex personal and legal situations in context.

Indicative content includes, as a minimum:

- The nature and formation of marriage
- The termination of marriage, including nullity and divorce
- Financial provision on marital or family breakdown
- Domestic violence and occupation of the family home
- Property rights and the family home
- Parenthood, parental responsibility and children's rights
- Protection of vulnerable children and state intervention (including wardship)
- The Human Rights Act 1998 and its implications for family law
- Alternative dispute resolution in family law contexts

Practical skills are central to your success in this module. You will be supported to:

- Apply family law principles to realistic, client-based factual scenarios
- Identify and analyse appropriate legal and non-legal sources
- Critically evaluate the role of family law in contemporary society, including its cultural and ethical dimensions
- Communicate advice and analysis clearly in writing, reflecting sensitivity to personal and social issues

You will co-construct authentic case studies and scenarios to develop your ability to apply family law in practice, with formative opportunities to refine your legal analysis and professional judgement.

Through the SBNL framework, you will also develop reflective and narrative skills that support deeper understanding of client perspectives and ethical dilemmas. This iterative process of co-construction and independent construction enhances your employability, adaptability, and professional identity as a developing legal practitioner.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a thorough knowledge and a clear and largely accurate understanding of selected aspects of the law relating to the dissolution of marriage, the recognition of parenthood and resolution of disputes over children, protection against domestic abuse, and the related law's conceptual framework;
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Locate and analyse moderately complex legal and associated non-legal materials from a range of sources;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply the relevant law to realistic factual situations, identifying the issues involved and selecting appropriate legal responses and solutions;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate sensitivity towards affective issues in family law practice and how different approaches can be used to resolve disputes.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	26	1-4	1 x 20 minute screencast per week over 12 weeks(total 4 hours). 2 x 2 hour workshops weekly (24 sessions in total). Sessions combine knowledge input, skills development, and active collaborative learning pedagogies. ACL modules only and excluding ARUL and SAM)
Student managed learning	124	1-4	Independent reading, legal research, skills practice, PPDP reflection, and formative tasks via Canvas and the Legal Skills Hub.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
3,000 word coursework applying the law to an authentic scenario					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*). In addition, students are required to: (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above (b) pass any pass/fail elements [* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]
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