

Marriage & Family

CHAPTER 1

Legal Definition

Marriage (US)—legal contract between 2 persons who are at or above a specified age and who are not already legally married to someone else.

Social Definition

- **Marriage**—a union between people (whether widely or legally recognized or not) that unites partners sexually, socially, and economically; that is relatively consistent over time; and that accords each member certain agreed-upon rights (Schwartz & Scott).

Supreme Court Ruling

- In 2013--Supreme Court found the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. The Court did not invalidate state bans on same-sex marriage, but rather decided that the U.S. must recognize state-sanctioned same-sex marriages.



TYPES OF MARRIAGE

Monogamy—one person married to another person of the other sex.

Serial monogamy—marrying many times by due to divorce or death

Polygamy—one person marrying several people of the other sex

Types of Marriage

Polygyny—male has two or more wives

Polyandry—female has two or more husbands

Cenogamy—all women and all men in a group are simultaneously married to one another.

Family Definitions

Family—two or more persons living together and related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
(US Census Bureau)

Sociological Definition

Family—a group of people who simply define themselves as family based on feelings of love, respect, commitment, and responsibility to and identification with one another.

Types of Families

- Family of orientation
- Family of procreation
- Nuclear family
- Extended family
- Patriarchal family

Functions of the family

- Regulation of Sexual Behavior
- Reproduction
- Social Placement
- Socialization
- Economic Cooperation
- Care, Protection, and Intimacy

Myths about traditional family

- Family members love and respect one another
- Members worked together for the good of the family
- Grandparents should be integral part of the family

Myths?

- Mothers should stay home and be happy
- Fathers worked and brought home paycheck
- Children were seen, not heard
- Universal nuclear family
- Different spheres for husbands and wives