

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

TOPIC: THE FAMILY

1. **Alimony** - husband/or wife's provision for a spouse after a separation or divorce; also known as maintenance.
2. **Annulment** – the legal ending of a marriage/marriage is null and void
3. **Bigamy** – situation where someone who has a husband or wife living, and marries someone else
4. **Blended family** – a family unit made up of two adults and their children from previous relationships
5. **Divorce** – the process of legally ending a marriage
6. **Extended family** – in addition to a nuclear family includes additional generations and relations who live together in the same household; for example: aunts, uncles, grandparents
7. **Family** – a group of people related by blood, marriage or adoption and who share a common household/residence
8. **Incest** – sexual relations between close members of a family
9. **Inheritance** – the passing of assets or goods from someone who has died to others
10. **Kinship** – the relationship between members of the same family
11. **Legal separation** -separation of a married couple by court order
12. **Matrilineal** – Tracing descent through mother's lines
13. **Matrifocal** - a family headed by a mother, mother is the focal point
14. **Matriarchal** – where the mother /grandmother normally heads the household or is the authority
15. **Marriage** – a formal legal relationship between a couple
16. **Monogamy** – a situation where one woman is married to one man
17. **Nuclear family** – a family including both parents and their child/ children
18. **Patriarchal** – where the father/grandfather normally heads the household or is the authority
19. **Patrifocal** – type of family centred on the father, the father is the focus
20. **Patrilineal** – tracing descent through male's lines
21. **Polygamy** – the practice of having more than one husband or wife at the same time
22. **Polyandry** – having more than one husband at the same time
23. **Polygyny** – having more than one wife at the same time
24. **Sibling** – brother or sister
25. **Single parent family** – a family unit including one parent and his /her child/ children
26. **Status** – how highly a person is regarded in the social group