

1 Resolution # 10 (01) - 2001 Annual Chapter Forum

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4 TITLE: Decrease Verbal Abuse in Marital Separation and Dissolution

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6 SUBMITTED BY: District IX

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8 DATE: November 9, 2000

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10 DISPOSITION: ADOPTED

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12 Whereas, the Academy recognizes that one out of every two marriages ends in
13 divorce and adolescents over 18 are not considered in the purview of
14 the court; and

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16 Whereas, the Academy recognizes that there is an increased incidence of risk
17 taking behavior, promiscuity and substance abuse in adolescents
18 whose families are undergoing marital separation and divorce; and

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20 Whereas, the Academy seeks to reduce verbal/emotional abuse and is preparing
21 a policy on the psychological maltreatment of children, therefore be it

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23 RESOLVED, that the Academy endorse collaboration with other professional
24 associations and volunteer groups, including, the American Bar
25 Association Family Law Section, to reduce verbal/emotional abuse
26 through further efforts toward public education on anger management,
27 conflict resolution, mediation and conciliation.

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29 REFER TO: 2001 Annual Chapter Forum

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38 BACKGROUND

39 INFORMATION: Background Information from the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects
40 of Child and Family Health (2/8/01)

41 The COPACFH is currently revising its statement, "The

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REFERRAL:

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Pediatrician’s Role in Helping Children and Families Deal with Separation and Divorce.” Any suggested content additions or revisions are welcome and should be directed to COPACFH chair Joe Hagan at hagan@together.net. A collaborative effort with external organizations seems to indicate that a task force be created, which would require approval from the AAP Board of Directors.

Background Information from the AAP Task Force on the Family

This resolution calls for the Academy to “develop a policy to collaborate with the American Bar Association Family Law to reduce verbal/emotional abuse through further efforts toward anger management, conflict resolution, mediation and conciliation.”

At this time, the Task Force is not addressing the specific issues raised by the resolved portion of this resolution. However, the forthcoming final report from the Task Force (not yet complete as of this date) will include a section on “Divorce and Discord” that address the impact of divorce and marital conflict on children as well as a section on “Counseling, Referral, and Relationship Education.”

Background Information from the Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (COCAN)

The COCAN is not currently addressing the issue raised in the resolved portion of this resolution. The COCAN was not clear as to what is being recommended and feels that they are not inclined to specifically recommend collaboration with the American Bar Association Family Law. In addition, the COCAN does not agree with the resolved as the suggested interventions should not be recommended in cases of the battered wife.

*Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health
Task Force on the Family
Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect

**To view the responses from the Academy,
please check the 2001 Disposition Document**