


AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Roselene Jensen Kelley for the Master of Science
(Name of student) (Degree)

in Family Life presented on SEPTEMBER 29, 1967
(Major) (Date)

Title: SOME FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH RECONCILIATION
DECISIONS AMONG COUPLES WITH MARITAL PROBLEMS

Abstract approved: 

Helen Simmons

The purpose of the study was to investigate the nature of marital interaction that occurs at the point at which couples with problems seek assistance from an agency specifically designed to deal with marital problems. Efforts were made to learn more about the nature of the marital relationship in general, and conditions under which individuals who seek counseling arrive at a decision to reconcile or not to reconcile. Specifically, the marital interaction, as measured by an affection-companionship index (ACI), and a hostility index (HOS), of couples who were referred for, or who voluntarily requested the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office of the Domestic Relations Division of The Superior Court, County of Sacramento, was investigated. The sample consisted of 83 couples, drawn on the basis of their willingness to cooperate..

The Marriage Questionnaire, developed by James L. Hawkins, PhD was used to assess marital interaction, and yielded a single score

for a married couple on both affection-companionship and hostility, as reflected in the reported overt behaviors of the couple. The study focused on the ACI and HOS variables in relationship to the decision of the couple concerning their immediate future marital relationship, or their reconciliation decision. Couples were classified on the basis of these decisions and were categorized as follows: 1) decision to reconcile (R), 2) decision to refuse reconciliation (RR), and 3) reconciliation decision unknown to the Marriage Counselor's Office, which consisted of the subgroups off-calendar (OC) and petition-dismissed (PD). The possibility that other factors relating to marital status might be associated with reconciliation decisions of these couples was also investigated. The specific hypotheses tested were:

1. There is no difference among the three reconciliation decision groups, R, RR, and RU, with regard to ACI scores or to HOS scores.
2. There is a significant negative correlation between HOS and ACI within the entire sample and within each of the reconciliation decision groups.
3. There is no difference in HOS scores of court-referred couples and non-court-referred couples regardless of reconciliation decision.
4. Among couples receiving counseling there is no difference in the number who do reconcile and the number who do not

reconcile within this particular sample.

5. Reconciliation decision is independent of: present ages of marriage partners, duration of marriage, incidence of children younger than ten years, incidence of separation, and duration of separation.

Results indicated differences, significant at the five per cent level, in both HOS and ACI between the R group and PD group, in HOS only between the RR and PD group, and in ACI only between the R and RR groups. No differences resulted in either ACI or HOS between OC and PD, R and OC, and RR and OC. No significant relationship was found between the number of couples who reconcile and the number of couples who refuse reconciliation following counseling. A significant negative correlation ($-.575$) between ACI and HOS was found within the R group, and no relationship was found within any one of the RR, OC, or PD groups. The reconciliation decision of couples was found to be independent of age of the marriage partners, the duration of marriage, the incidence of children younger than ten years of age, or the duration of separation. However, reconciliation decision was found to be significantly related to incidence of separation at the .001 level of confidence.

It was concluded from the results of the study that differences do exist in affection-companionship and hostility between certain reconciliation decision groups, and that for reconciled couples, at

least, a significant negative relationship exists between ACI and HOS. The affection-companionship index, as measured by the Marriage Questionnaire, discriminates between reconciled couples and couples who refuse to reconcile. Marital separation is associated with the reconciliation decision of these couples. The study points up the need for further research.

Some Factors Associated with Reconciliation Decisions
Among Couples with Marital Problems

by

Roselene Jensen Kelley

A THESIS

submitted to

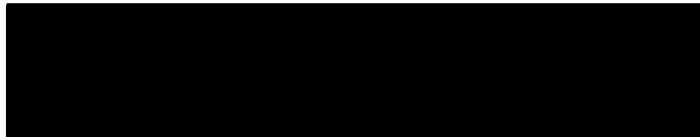
Oregon State University

in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the
degree of

Master of Science

June 1968

APPROVED:



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Date thesis is presented SEPTEMBER 29, 1967

Typed by Jean Nyberg for Roselene Jensen Kelley

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Helen Simmons, my major professor, for her unlimited patience, and her personal sacrifice of time and energy in a dedicated effort to make research a stimulating and rewarding experience.

To J. Ronald Posey, Chief Marriage Counselor, Mrs. Frances Sheibley and Mrs. Jane Thielbahr of the Marriage Counselor's Office for accepting the additional responsibility of assisting and cooperating in the data collection for this study.

Sincere gratitude to James L. Hawkins, PhD., for his permission to use the Marriage Questionnaire in this study, and for his prompt and enlightening replies to my inquiries regarding this instrument.

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SOME FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH RECONCILIATION DECISIONS AMONG COUPLES WITH MARITAL PROBLEMS

INTRODUCTION

In the sociological literature, a frequently stated belief is that the strength of a society is built upon the stability of its individual marriages. In accord with this belief, there has been an effort throughout civilized countries to regulate marriage in order to maintain the conditions which would bring about this stability and promote the best interests of private and public welfare. Those practices which were believed to be detrimental to the public good, such as bigamy, incest, illegitimacy, desertion, the marriage of children, and the marriage of the physically and mentally unfit were to be prevented. In spite of the provisions to stabilize marriage, an alarming quantity of marital disintegration exists in many countries; and happiness and satisfaction in marriage is reported with such a low frequency in America that family life specialists have cause for concern. There is a need to learn more about the factors involved in marital relationships, particularly the factors in a troubled marital relationship which are associated with a couple's decision to continue their marriage, and the factors which are associated with a couple's decision to dissolve the marriage. This study has as the central focus, some of the factors associated with reconciliation decisions

of couples who seek counseling help for marital problems.

In order to gain perspective on the pervading attitudes of society concerning marriage and divorce it is worthwhile to consider the historical development of the institution of marriage and the most common legal provision for failing marriage, that of divorce. Within the ancient civilizations of the Hebrews, Greeks and Romans, marriage was considered a social institution, much as it is today, and the right of divorce was restricted only by social custom and law. During this pre-Christian era divorce was available only to the husband, generally speaking, and it was only public opinion and group pressures which prevented him from abusing this privilege. Blake (1962), in tracing the history of divorce, particularly in the United States, points out the strong influence of the past on the attitudes, practices and policies relating to divorce today. With the advent of Christianity, marriage became a sacrament, and, therefore, dissoluble only through death. When married life became intolerable "limited divorce", which was, in effect, equivalent to legal separation, was granted by the ecclesiastical courts, and neither party was free to remarry. This type of divorce was based on grounds of cruelty, literally speaking, in which a wife and children were freed from the ravages of a brutal husband. Under conditions of cruelty, in this interpretation, one party was deemed to be good, the other bad, and the separation was an attempt to make life

tolerable for the good spouse. Rigid church control was released during the Reformation period, and as the state assumed regulation over marriage, absolute divorce, a legal process which dissolved the marriage and left both parties free to remarry, became a possibility. However, divorce was not treated lightly and was granted on serious grounds only, grounds which had to be clearly demonstrable legally. The guilt of one party had to be determined in a court of law. In England, the practice of legislative divorce was attempted, which provides that Parliament could grant divorce through introducing a private bill, a practice which proved to be difficult and expensive and interfered with the performance of other duties of the legislature. Although the American colonies initially adopted this same procedure they abandoned it by the 19th century and the responsibility for divorce was shifted to the civil courts where it now lies.

In America, the state legislatures followed traditional principles in establishing their divorce laws: 1) that divorce could only be granted for grave and serious reasons, and 2) that one party, and one party only, should be found "guilty" (Kephart, 1966). The letter of the law still reflects these traditions, even though grounds for divorce have grown more numerous and varied over the years.

Because of its vital concern with the preservation of marriage, our society has provided that legislative practices will safeguard its

interest by ascertaining that the alleged grounds for divorce are valid, that there has been no collusion between the partners seeking the divorce, and that no frivolity is involved. A divorce proceeding, then, becomes a legal action involving the two parties of the marital relationship and the state, as the interested third party.

Although divorce statistics did not become available until the middle of the eighteenth century, there is evidence in the literature that alarm and concern over the high frequency of marital disruptions prevailed during our early history (Blake, 1962). Grounds for divorce were few, and restricted to the offenses considered most serious at that time, adultery and desertion. As time passed, the individual states continued to refine their divorce laws, and, as a general rule, more liberal grounds for divorce were established. Influential members of the clergy, as well as others, were aroused to publicly protest these liberalized divorce policies. After the Civil War, during the years between 1850 and 1870, the issue of divorce was frequently debated from both conservative and radical points of view. Traditionally, divorce had been considered an extreme measure, but a break with this concept was inevitable with the rise of the philosophy of enlightenment and individualism which arose in the eighteenth century, as set forth in the writing of Locke and Kant. Marriage came to be considered by some as a civil contract which could freely be dissolved at any time, especially when

it resulted in failure to bring happiness to the parties involved.

The United States, traditionally emphasizing liberty and individualism suffered opposing pressures to liberalize divorce laws on the one hand, and to maintain strict regulation of divorce on the other. The result became a curious compromise; the divorce laws remained restrictive and conservative while the actual divorce procedure became liberal and permissive. Some state legislature, capitalizing on divorce-seeking couples in order to increase their state treasuries, established liberal and fast divorce procedures to attract the divorce trade. A few of these so called "divorce colonies" are still flourishing today, and offer couples residing in states with strict divorce laws an opportunity for a fast, uncontested, and less scandalous divorce, once they have met the meager residence requirement. One effect of the compromise of restrictive divorce laws and permissive divorce procedures has been a trend toward disrespect for the law and divorce courts of our country, since couples who do not take advantage of migratory divorce are often encouraged by legal advisors to use fraudulent means to obtain divorce on the grounds offered by their own state (Kephart, 1966).

If divorce statistics are to be considered as valid evidence of family breakdown, the high frequency of divorce in American can certainly be regarded as a threat to the stability of our society. In 1867 the population of the United States was 37,000,000. In 1960,

the last census year, the population increased five-fold, to a total of 180,000,000. During this same period of time the annual number of divorces rose from 9,937 to 393,000, an increase of forty-fold. The number of divorces had increased eight times as rapidly as had the population increase (NVSD, 1960).

Family breakdown, as reflected in these figures, has led behavioral scientists to seek explanations for this situation. Societal and individual factors have been cited as instrumental in bringing it about (Udry, 1966; Kephart, 1966). Viewing the trends in divorce during the one hundred year period from 1860 to 1960, one of the striking features is the relationship of economic and psychological factors to changes in the divorce rate. The rate of divorce, an index based on the number of existing marriages, had gone up from .3 per thousand in 1860 to 2.2 per thousand in 1959. "Up to 1913, the rate rose in slow steady steps. Since then the frequency of divorce has followed the economic cycle, rising in periods of prosperity and falling in years of depression" (Blake, 1962, p. 46). The impact of war has been dramatic; the divorce rate rose to a high of 1.6 per thousand in 1920 and 4.3 in 1946, the peak year. It is assumed (Jacobson, 1959) that the increase in divorce was due largely to hasty marriage, forced separations, and increased tensions of war-time. The period of the 1950's brought the return of more normal conditions and the divorce rate dropped to 2.1 in 1958, the lowest it

had been since 1940.

Specific societal changes which are believed to be influential in the breakdown of families are: 1) changing family functions, 2) jobs for women, 3) casual marriages, 4) decline in moral and religious sanctions, 5) philosophy of the individual's right to happiness, and 6) technological changes (Kephart, 1966). However, individual factors which contribute to the breakdown of a family or marriage relationship are more difficult to specify. Most authorities do agree that the statutory grounds for divorce have little relationship to the stated "reasons" offered for divorce in actual cases. Kephart (1954), in his study of the Philadelphia divorce records, found that the most common non-statutory complaints were excessive drinking and sexual maladjustment. Goode (1956) asked 425 divorced mothers to state, in their own words, what was the main cause of their own divorce. In order of frequency the responses were: nonsupport, husband too domineering, too much "helling around" by the husband, drinking and personality problems. Questions can be raised, of course, as to the use of the term "cause" of divorce. Conscientious social scientists have spoken out in protest of the practice of researchers of attributing cause to what is or may be, in reality, a factor which appears to have some relationship to the social phenomenon being investigated. The subjects in divorce research, when questioned about their unsuccessful marriage relationships, may

not be responding in terms of the "causes" of their divorces, rather, their statements may reflect their most recent attitudes, feelings and complaints about their marriages. In an endeavor to study factors which appear to be related to unsuccessful marriage, it is a questionable procedure to consider the response of only one partner involved in the marriage rather than investigating both "sides" of the situation. In agreement with this belief, the present study investigated the nature of the relationship between husband and wife, so called marital interaction, by means of a questionnaire requiring a married couple to respond with a single conjoint response to each item, hopefully, to obtain in one score, the points of view of both partners.

One of the greatest social concerns in relation to the dissolution of a marriage has been the effect of the divorce on the children of the divorcing couple. There has been little data available concerning the number of children affected by divorce prior to 1932, but since that time such information has become available. For example, in the 377,000 final divorce decrees during 1955, 343,000 minor children were involved, which indicates that approximately nine children are involved for every ten marriages dissolved (Jacobson, 1959). These statistics are misleading unless a separate account is taken of the divorced couples with children and those without children. It has been observed that approximately 53 per cent of the couples

who were granted a divorce in 1955 had no children. Even though this represents almost a fifty-fifty split, it is entirely possible that the rate of divorce would be higher if no children were involved, in view of the possibility that many distressed couples may attempt reconciliation for the "good of the children". The fact that 20 to 45 per cent of the divorce cases filed are dismissed may also be reflecting the effort on the part of couples with children to make an attempt at reconciliation (Johnstone, Kansas Law Review, 1953).

A noteworthy trend is that the number of children affected by divorce is increasing at a more rapid rate than the number of divorces (Jacobson, 1959). This could be a reflection of the increasing number of divorces among couples married for a longer period of time, in conjunction with the increase in family size following the depression years.

As pointed out earlier, the handling of domestic difficulties has in the past, been a legal responsibility aimed at maintaining the stability of society. This situation still exists. Although numerous other social institutions now share in this task, law is still the institution assuming primary responsibility. Within the law, several "special courts" have evolved in relation to the family. The first significant step in this direction was made in 1899 with the formation of a juvenile court in both Chicago and Denver. In the fifty years which followed, such courts came to be established in every state

of the union, and in other countries. Juvenile courts operate on the philosophy that children need protection and rehabilitation rather than punishment, in the event that they act contrary to the law. Throughout the proceedings, and subsequent treatment provided by court social workers, the focus emphasized by the court is that of helping the child become a valuable member of society.

The second step in the evolution of the legal system in relation to stabilizing the family was the development of a family court. This concept was based upon the philosophy that the state recognizes its responsibility to "treat" troubled marriages just as it does emotionally disturbed juveniles. The commonly accepted definition of a true family court encompasses three major characteristics. According to the Assembly of the State of California (1965), a true family court

1. is headed by a specialist judge and has jurisdiction over all legal problems that confront the family in conflict;
2. is assisted in its duties by a staff of specialists trained in social work, psychology, psychiatry, and sociology;
3. is a therapeutic institution, existing for the purpose of providing help for families in trouble, employing the resources of the community to that end.

Several courts have been established throughout the United States which approximate these criteria, namely, the nine courts

of conciliation in California. The first of these, the Children's Court of Conciliation, was opened in 1939 in Los Angeles. A similar court which is now operating in Sacramento provided the data source for this study. Although this court could not be considered a true family court in its initial years of operation, for it dealt mainly with conciliation services for married couples in conflict, in recent years it has come to encompass more extensive responsibilities which involve all family members.

The Conciliation Court, established for Sacramento County in 1961, is based upon the organization and procedure of the Los Angeles Children's Court of Conciliation, and it has steadily grown over the period of years it has been in operation. In 1965, the Conciliation Court, now known as the Marriage Counselor's Office, became an integral part of the domestic relations services centralized by the Superior Court. This branch of the Superior Court, which encompasses the Marriage Counselor's Office, is presently referred to as The Domestic Relations Division. The original function of the Marriage Counselor's Office was to serve persons experiencing marital difficulties, and under this re-organization, new functions have been added. The Marriage Counselor's Office provides pre-marital counseling for teenagers who wish to marry, and are under legal age to do so, marital counseling for welfare recipients, and cooperates in research projects with local colleges and universities.

Of the numerous personnel involved in the operation of the Domestic Relations Court, those directly involved with the Marriage Counselor's Office are the Presiding Judge and the Associate Judge, the Chief Marriage Counselor, two Assistant Marriage Counselors, and two secretaries. The philosophy of the Domestic Relations Court is described in the current annual report as follows:

The Domestic Relations Court is a trial court hearing all matters relating to marital and family conflict. Its actions are motivated by the pervading philosophy that every effort should be expended to effect a reconciliation between the spouses (underlining mine). When this is not possible, it attempts to reduce conflict and hostility germinated by such proceedings and to realistically deal with property settlements and support, not on the basis of punitive considerations but rather on the basis of need (Report of The Domestic Relations Court of The Superior Court of The County of Sacramento, 1965-1966, p. 10).

The State Law of California prescribes that the function of the Marriage Counselor's Office is to

. . . promote the public welfare by preserving, promoting and protecting family life, the rights of children and the institution of matrimony and to provide means for the reconciliation of spouses and the amicable settlement of domestic and family controversy (cited in Report of The Domestic Relations Court of The Superior Court of The County of Sacramento, 1965-1966, p. 18)

The major goal of the Marriage Counselor's Office is to counsel individuals and couples who seek to resolve the conflicts and problems in their personal family situation. "Such counseling may take the form of helping to resolve a problem, helping to understand the nature and basis of the conflict and the individual needs involved,

helping the couple to deal with the responsibilities and problems created by children and in the case of permissions for marriage to do some basic premarital counseling with the teenagers and the parents" (Report of The Domestic Relations Court of The Superior Court of The County of Sacramento, 1965-1966, p. 18). The growth and diversification of the Marriage Counselor's Office indicates society's increasing belief that therapeutic treatment of marital partners can be effective, in terms of promoting marital stability, either in present or future marital relationships. The basis on which the nature of the therapeutic treatment is selected, however, can be questioned; empirical evidence of factors which are related to marital satisfaction, happiness, and stability is wanting, and the investigation of marital interaction is in its infant stages. Research is needed to provide evidence assessing current marriage counseling practices. In order to learn more about marital interaction as evidenced by couples with marital difficulties, this study involves couples who are seeking marital counseling, and investigates some of the factors which are associated with the reconciliation decision of the couples, most of whom received marital counseling.

In recent years it has become apparent to the personnel of the Marriage Counselor's Office that, in addition to the regular efforts to resolve problems within the marriage and reconcile the spouses, divorce counseling is of profound importance. The need

for divorce counseling was brought to their attention in the fact that 55 per cent of the divorce hearings in a given period of time were found to involve persons who had had previous divorce actions. Counseling in divorce cases would be distinct from other forms of marriage counseling in that termination of marriage is apparent and accepted, a feature which would direct counseling toward understanding the factors involved in marital failure and in dealing with the future in light of the divorce.

The Marriage Counselor's Office provides professional counseling, without fee, to any person who lives within the boundaries of Sacramento County. This service is available to persons regardless of whether or not they have filed for legal action for divorce. A distinguishing aspect of this form of counseling is the need for an intensive short-term program for the clients using these services. It is essential that the counseling personnel be highly skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of marital difficulties if effectiveness is to be achieved in one or two conferences.

Couples who were having marital difficulties, and requested counseling from the Marriage Counselor's Office either on their own initiative or as a result of being referred to this office, served as the source of subjects for the present study. All couples who came to the office for counseling during the time the study was in progress followed a standard procedure, a description of which follows.

Persons requesting the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office are scheduled for a preliminary interview which is designed to familiarize them with the services of the office, and to allow the counselor to investigate the nature of the couple's problems, and to help guide the couple in meeting the immediate stressful situation. At the conclusion of this interview the counselor and clients can evaluate the process offered by the office to determine if it can be of assistance to them, or if it is advisable for them to seek private counseling from some other appropriate agency. Of course, the couple may decide to do nothing further toward obtaining professional help.

Couples who decide to use the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office file a petition for conciliation, following which a conference is scheduled. During this conference the couple, as a couple, is interviewed only briefly, then each individual is interviewed separately. While one is being interviewed, the other is asked to read a document called the Husband and Wife agreement, which lists various factors believed to be involved in a successful marriage. Marriage counselors have found this agreement most beneficial to a couple experiencing difficulty in clarifying their roles in the marriage relationship, and who need help in realistically assessing their marital expectations. In such a case, the marriage counselor assists the couple in selecting certain parts of the

agreement and adding other parts in order to form a list of responsibilities and expected behaviors of each spouse which suits the couple's unique marital situation. Using this instrument as an integral part of counseling has been found to be helpful in some cases, since it provides a guide by which a couple can attempt to change marital behavior in order to bring about an improved situation. In each counseling case whether or not the agreement will be used is determined jointly by the marriage counselor and his clients.

During the individual conferences the counselor attempt to develop rapport and understand his clients. Emphasis is on non-directive counseling, although a directive approach may be used in order to encourage a client to more clearly describe his problems. The conjoint sessions serve to permit the counselor to help the couple deal with the feelings of one another and encourage the development of some communication. The conclusion of the session is designed to help the couple reach some definite decisions concerning their goals and the directions open to them. At this point a decision is also reached as to whether there will be a need for a second counseling session, or whether the couple should seek private counseling from an agency better suited to deal with their specific problems.

When this stage of the counseling process is reached, or following the maximum of three counseling sessions with the

Marriage Counselor's Office provides, the couple usually makes one of the following decisions, which is then stated in terms of the disposition of the case, and is noted on the permanent file of the particular couple:

1. Reconciliation attempted or effected- This may be with or without a written Husband and Wife Agreement.
2. Reconciliation refused- Divorce action is no longer delayed, but proceeds through the necessary legal steps.
3. Continuance- A decision is postponed for a period of thirty, sixty, or ninety days, and all legal action is stopped for this time period.
4. Referred to another agency- Other agencies to which couples may be referred include the Out-Patient Clinic for psychiatric services at the County Hospital, the Family Service Agency, and the Alcoholism Center.
5. Petition Dismissed- One or both parties fail to keep a single appointment with the Marriage Counselor's Office after filing a petition. In the event that one party does keep the appointment, the counselor makes no attempt to force the other party to come in for counseling, in the usual case.
6. Off-Calendar- The decision of the couple is unknown regarding reconciliation.

According to the statistical report of the Sacramento County

Court of Conciliation, there was a total of 770 cases filed with the Marriage Counselor's Office for the year 1966. Of these, there were 286 cases in which a divorce was pending, and 484 cases in which no divorce was pending. During that year, 344 cases were completed. Reconciliations were effected in 220 cases, and reconciliations were refused in 124 cases. In addition to the cases completed there were 237 cases dismissed, in which there was either no decision with regard to reconciliation on the part of the couple, or the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office were judged inappropriate to meet the needs of the couple at the time, or it was decided that the couple should seek help from some other professional agency.

Couples who file for divorce are often referred to the Marriage Counselor's Office by the Superior Court Judge, who refers couples largely on the basis that there is some chance that their marriage might be reconciled. As is expected, in cases where divorce is pending a lower rate of reconciliation obtains. During the first four months of 1966, following the reorganization of the Domestic Relations Division, statistics showed a noticeable increase in the rate of reconciliation from 23 per cent to 39 per cent for these divorce-pending, court-referred couples (The Sacramento Bee, April 1, 1966). This fact suggests the possibility that the concerted, cooperative effort on the part of the Domestic Relations Division could

be having a stabilizing effect on marriage.

The statistics which have been maintained by the Marriage Counselor's Office concern the number of cases filed, number of reconciliation or refusals to reconcile, number of conferences scheduled, number of cases dismissed, number of children involved in cases where reconciliations were effected, and the number of cases completed and reconciliations effected which were referred directly from Court. These appear to be mainly surface statistics. Thus far there has been little study of the conciliation court process as it relates to the marital interaction of the husbands and wives who become involved. Background characteristics of these couples and their reported marriage problems have been enumerated but, to date, no systematic attempt has been made to determine the nature of the husband-wife relationship which characterizes these marriages at the time of application for marriage counseling, or what changes, if any, occur in these relationships as a result of this experience. It is the major focus of this study to investigate the former, that is, to attempt to investigate the behavioral manifestations of the husband-wife interaction at the point at which they approach the Marriage Counselor's Office for assistance.

Behavioral scientists have studied marriage and divorce in an effort to identify the variables in the husband-wife relationship and individual characteristics which appear to be related to

"marital adjustment" or "marital happiness". Traditionally the criteria of marital adjustment used in these research efforts have been: 1) permanence of the marriage, or non-divorce, 2) bearing and rearing of children, 3) respect of the community, and 4) economic well-being. Research results have demonstrated a relationship of individual background factors to marital adjustment; pre- and post marital factors which have been empirically shown to be consistently favorable to marital adjustment are enumerated by Kirkpatrick (1963). Since post marital factors are of central interest in the present study, those which have been shown empirically to be related to marital adjustment are listed below:

1. early and adequate orgasm capacity
2. confidence in the marital affection and satisfaction with the affection shown
3. an equalitarian rather than patriarchal marital relationship with special reference to the husband's role
4. mental and physical health
5. harmonious companionship based on common interests and accompanied by a favorable attitude toward marriage and spouse (Kirkpatrick, 1963)

The present study will place special emphasis on investigating further the significance of two of the above factors, affection-companionship, and hostility.

One major criticism of marital adjustment tests is the fact that they are subject to error due to social desirability and halo effect; a self-rating, or a rating by someone who knows the couple, is frequently used to assess the marital adjustment of the couple. This type of rating tends to be biased due to the tendency of a person's response to a stimulus in a pattern to carry over to other stimuli, without critical differentiation. These ratings are particularly subject to bias due to the social desirability of having a stable, happy marriage. Needless to say, these biases have an effect on the validity and the reliability. Reliability quoted for tests may be misleading in that the consistency of answers may be a result of a halo effect and an individual's constant concern for "appearances". With regard to their validity, there is danger in using the external evidence of divorce as a criterion of poor marital adjustment. One needs to be wary of the possibility that a divorced individual may underestimate his previous marital adjustment due to his bitterness following the divorce.

In elaborating the criticisms which seem to have been most influential in bringing about a change in the focus of research in marriage, others are in agreement with Kirkpatrick (1963) who states, "Evaluation of a marriage from the report of one party of the marriage is a questionable procedure. . . a marriage relationship is something more than the parties to the relationship, and hence

it may be that measurement of marital adjustment should be based on the interrelated evidence from husband and wife" (p. 81). The current belief of sociologists, that marriage is a dynamic, developing relationship, has made it questionable that marital adjustment can be meaningfully assessed or predicted on the basis of static background factors.

In view of the changing attitudes in the field of marriage research there have arisen new criteria of marital adjustment. Bowerman (cited in Christensen, 1964) suggests the following dimensions as significant to the marital adjustment of a couple:

1. the extent to which spouses can arrive at mutually agreeable solutions to marital problem-areas- financial matters, child rearing methods, recreational matters,
2. orientation of spouses toward one another in terms of affection, companionship, and values, and
3. attitude toward the marriage itself.

Jessie Bernard (cited in Christensen, 1964, p. 732) sets forth a relativistic point of view in suggesting that a marriage should be judged on the basis of how it compares with alternative arrangements. Specifically, she states, ". . . (a) a marital relationship is successful if the satisfaction is positive, that is, if the rewards to both partners are greater than the costs, and, (b) a marital relationship is successful if it is preferable to any other alternative."

The more recent trend in research, then has been to study the developmental aspects of marriage, and evidence seems to be mounting that, even though 90 per cent of the marriages begin with every intention to succeed (Hilsdale, 1962), a large share of marriages deteriorate with time. The Udry-Nelson study (1961) found no evidence to support the common belief that the longer a couple is married the more agreement and understanding there will be on the part of the members. Another study by Pineo (1961) reports that with time there is a decrease in the marital satisfaction of couples and a loss of intimacy, with less frequent confiding, kissing, and reciprocal settlement of disagreements. Problems of marital adjustment seem to occur at almost any period of married life according to the results of the Mathews-Mihanovich study (1963). This led the authors to conclude that problems in marriage do not disappear, or may not be solved, but continue to be irritants in the relationship requiring the couple to learn to live with them. However disheartening the evidence, it does not necessarily mean disaster for the future of American marriage, but instead, implies that there is a need to learn more of the nature of this developmental process in marriage, and a need to encourage and educate husbands and wives to accept that the relationship is a changing one, which will require that they put forth ongoing effort to make marriage successful.

It has been emphasized in the preceding discussion that the

concern with marital stability in American society has resulted in the efforts of social institutions, mainly the law, to regulate marriage. Provisions have been made for dealing with failing marriage by granting divorce or separation and, more recently, for providing special therapeutic treatment for the partners of unsteady marriages in an effort to effect a reconciliation. Behavioral scientists concerned with the function of the marriage relationship have studied married couples and divorced couples from individual, as well as interactional points of view to learn more of this dynamic relationship which appears to be basic to the continuation of our culture.

It is the major objective of this study to contribute to the accumulating body of scientific knowledge of the marital relationship, focusing special attention on couples who have already attempted to dissolve their marriage or have admitted to marital problems by requesting counseling help. An effort will be made to learn of any significant differences between the marital interaction of such couples who attempt a reconciliation in their marriages and couples who do not, either seeking divorce or separation.

Since two main themes have evolved as a result of marriage research; namely, that certain background factors are related to marital adjustment, and that the marriage relationship, resulting from the interaction of the partners, is a developmental phenomenon, an effort was made to consider both points of view in the selection of

the measuring instrument. There are available satisfactory measures of marital "success", "happiness", and "marital adjustment", most of which call for an overall judgement on the part of the individual in the marriage relationship, or on the part of an outsider to arrive at an index of marital adjustment. In view of the previously discussed drawbacks of this type of measuring instrument, a test which reflects the response of both husband and wife in one conjoint score for each test item was deemed most appropriate, since it would be in accord with the current sociological belief that a marriage relationship is a result of the interaction of the husband and wife, and not merely a feeling of individual satisfaction or happiness on the part of each. Further, an instrument which would reflect at least some of the factors which have been found to be significantly related to marital adjustment was regarded as desirable.

The measuring instrument selected for the present study is the Marriage Questionnaire, developed by Dr. James L. Hawkins of the Indiana Medical Center. It is a test of marital interaction which yields one score for a married couple based upon a single mutually agreeable conjoint response to each test item. This instrument is designed to test two dimensions of a couple's expressive behavior in the marriage relationship, the affection-companionship, and the hostility dimensions. Expressive behavior in marriage, as conceived by Hawkins, falls along a continuum which runs from

a predominance of positive affectionate interaction to a relative absence of such interaction. This continuum is defined as ". . . the degree of mutual expression by the spouses of affectionate behavior self-revelatory communication, and mutual involvement in other informal non-task recreational activities" (Hawkins, 1966, p. 5). Hawkins seems to imply by this definition that he is seeking to measure the overt behavioral aspects of the marital interaction in which the couple shows outward affection for one another, openly discusses their personal problems, attitudes and feeling with one another, and together participates in recreational activities which are rewarding to both. The second dimension of the questionnaire, hostility, is defined by Hawkins (1966, p. 7-8) as ". . . the degree of mutual expression by the spouses of overtly hostile activity, angry outbursts aimed at deflation of alter's status and self-regard, and dramatic acts aimed at symbolizing the breakdown of solidarity." Here Hawkins seeks to identify the obvious and extreme acts which can be termed negative behavior, inasmuch as they pose a threat to the stability of the relationship through an attempt to weaken or destroy the self-image of the partner. The scores obtained on this questionnaire are in the form of an affection-companionship index (ACI) and a hostility (HOS) index; marriages may be described as being high or low in either dimension. It is important to note that Hawkins does not see affection-companionship and

hostility as opposing variables.

The questionnaire, which is made up of items which describe behavior in specific situations, is included in the Appendix. According to the author, the type of item was selected to delineate the purely expressive behavior of the couple, in keeping with the definition of "Affection-Companionship". No mention is made of the feelings or attitudes toward marriage. In formulating the specific questions several guidelines were used. All of the items call for responses concerning behavior in the immediate past, specifically the past four weeks. The behaviors are described in a specific and succinct fashion to maximize recall and to minimize projection, distortion, and the amount of interpretation required to identify the behavior in order to facilitate a reliable response to the item. The test is administered to husband and wife together. The couple must decide on one response between them for each of the situations described.

An example of an item which indicates positive expressive behavior is: "In the last 4 weeks, how often have you laughed and really had fun with each other?" An example of an item tapping overt hostility is this: "In the last 4 weeks, did the wife get angry enough to threaten, or try, or actually hit the husband or throw something at him?" Supplied responses are: "none in last 4 weeks; once; twice, three or four times; five or more times."

In developing the Marriage Questionnaire, ideas for items were obtained from numerous sources. Marital problem checklists, personality inventories, and marriage and family texts were used. The author called upon his own experience and that of others in marriage counseling to suggest additional items. Forty-five items were derived in this manner, and in every case, five alternative responses are provided. The current edition (1966) of the test includes forty-three items, the test having been revised following pilot study.

The original form of the Marriage Questionnaire was administered to a sample of 48 married couples, 29 of whom constituted a non-clinic group, and 19 of whom were obtained through an adult psychiatric clinic, and were selected on the basis of the Mooney Problem Checklist which includes 22 items indicative of marital problems. Clinic applicants who checked one or more of these items participated, on a voluntary basis, prior to receiving treatment at the clinic. Couples in the non-clinic group were carefully screened, on the basis of interviews, so as not to include any couples who had been receiving marital counseling from any professional source. An effort was made to select the non-clinic group to closely match the clinic group on the basis of occupational prestige, education level and age. The comparison of mean scores for the non-clinic and clinic groups on eight selected background factors are reported by

Hawkins (1965, p. 18) as follows:

	Non-Clinic	Clinic
1. Occupational prestige (SEI) ¹	45.7	47.2
2. Age of husband	32.2	32.1
3. Age of wife	30.0	29.5
4. Husband's education ²	4.2	4.3
5. Wife's education ²	3.8	4.0
6. Total family income ²	5.7	5.3
7. Total number of children at home	2.5	2.8
8. Total number of children under 10 at home	2.1	2.2

¹ Occupational prestige was estimated with the Duncan Socio-Economic Index (SEI) using the revised codes supplied by McTavish (1960), a scale running from zero to 99.

² Scale used to estimate education: less than 8th grade, 1, 8th grade, 2, some high school, 3, high school graduate, 4, some college, 5, college graduate or better, 6. Total family income scored as 1, under \$3000, 9, \$10,000 and over with respective \$1000 steps between scored from 2-8.

The clinic and non-clinic groups, selected for the pilot study served as criterion groups to estimate the validity of the instrument. It was found that the Marriage Questionnaire discriminated between the non-clinic group, which reported no marital problems, and the clinic group, which was seeking help for one or more marital problems.

After discarding the eight items on the questionnaire which did not correlate significantly with the overall score, and one item containing a clerical error, 36 items remained, which made up the

ACI scale. For the pilot test no distinction was made between the affection-companionship items and the hostility items. The possible range of this scale runs from 36-180 points. In this matched sample containing the clinic and non-clinic groups, the actual range was 68-162. The mean score for the non-clinic group was found to be 135.56, compared to 111.28 for the clinic group. Using an F test to determine the significance of the difference between the scores for these two groups an F-ratio of 15.8 with 1 and 34 degrees of freedom was obtained. This was well beyond the .001 level of significance. Hawkins cites this information as an indication of the validity of the Marriage Questionnaire. The use of the F test suggests that Hawkins assumes the response categories yield equal interval data.

Reliability has been established on the basis of the two scales, ACI and HOS. The ACI has a split-half reliability of .94, calculated by the Spearman-Brown formula and is reported by Hawkins (1967) to appear to have high internal consistency and to be uncontaminated by social desirability. The HOS scale contains 13 items and has a random-half reliability of .91. It also appears to possess high internal consistency and to be relatively free from the effect of social desirability. In computing the reliability of the items on the ACI scale and the HOS scale only 33 of the total 43 items on the questionnaire are used even though the entire test is given to get the

measures. This is the practice which the author apparently followed and which was used in the present study.

It must be recognized that one of the sources of variable error on this measuring instrument would be in the instability of a couple's response. The argument offered by Hawkins of using situations which refer to a recent time period to overcome forgetting, and the conjoint response technique employed is well taken, but whether or not the test would yield discrepant scores within a relatively limited time period remains an empirical question. In view of the nature of the present study, obtaining an estimate of the stability of this measuring instrument is not feasible.

It is recognized that the Marriage Questionnaire is not as yet a well-established or standardized test of marital interaction. However, the instrument is regarded as appropriate in view of the fact that it does possess the merits of producing a "couple" score rather than an individual score, and the fact that the ACI score has been empirically demonstrated to be related to marital satisfaction (Hawkins, 1966). Furthermore, the instrument has been found to discriminate between couples with admitted marital problems and couples who reported no marital problems.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the nature of

marital interaction that obtains at the point at which couples seek assistance from an agency specifically designed to deal with marital problems. Efforts were made to learn more about the nature of the marital relationship in general, and conditions under which individuals seeking counseling arrive at a decision to continue or dissolve the marriage. Specifically, the marriage interaction of couples who were referred for, or who requested the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office of the Domestic Relations Division of the Superior Court, County of Sacramento, was investigated.

Services of this agency are available to couples who voluntarily request assistance or who are referred by the presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division.

Marital interaction, based on one score for each couple tested, was assessed, as reflected in the reported overt behaviors of the couple. Measures of affection-companionship (ACI) and hostility (HOS) were the foci in this investigation of marital interaction, in relationship to the decision of the couple concerning the future of their marital relationship. Measures of ACI and HOS were derived from the Marriage Questionnaire developed by Dr. James L. Hawkins. A comparison was made of the ACI scores and of the HOS scores for three major groupings of couples who applied for the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office. The groupings were based upon the disposition of each couple's case which is determined

on the basis of the reconciliation decision of that couple. For the purposes of this study these groups are referred to as reconciliation decision groups which are differentiated in terms of 1) couples who reconcile (R), 2) couples who refuse reconciliation (RR), and 3) couples whose reconciliation decision is unknown (RU).

A secondary aim of the study was to investigate the possibility that a relationship exists between the reconciliation decision of the couple, and each of the following: 1) ages of the married couple, 2) the length of time the couple has been married, 3) the number and ages of the children in the family, and 4) the incidence and duration of separation.

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. to determine the status of the affection-companionship factor and the hostility factor of the marital interaction at the time of application for counseling of couples who have filed for a divorce and are referred to the Marriage Counselors Office, or who request the help of this office without having filed for a divorce. Critics of the legal divorce procedure, which requires the proving of guilt on the part of the husband or wife, believe that the effect of this adversary procedure is to produce extreme hostility in the marriage relationship which may not have otherwise been present, making reconciliation a difficult, if impossible,

task. (It is of interest to learn whether or not couples who have filed for divorce will demonstrate significantly higher hostility in their marital interaction than the couples who have not filed for divorce.)

2. to determine if there is a relationship between the reported overt behavioral aspects of marital interaction of couples at the point of seeking help and the reconciliation decision of these couples following marital counseling. The Marriage Counselor's Office would receive great practical value from the ability to assess the likelihood of the reconciliation of couples on the basis of a test score, such as the ACI and HOS.
3. to investigate the possibility that the variables of age, length of marriage, number and ages of children in the family, and incidence of separation are related to the reconciliation decision of a couple.

The specific hypotheses to be tested, stated in null form are:

1. There is no difference among the three reconciliation decision groups, R, RR, and RU, with regard to either ACI scores or to HOS scores.
2. There is a significant negative correlation between HOS and ACI scores within the entire sample and within each of the reconciliation decision groups.

3. There is no difference in HOS scores of court-referred couples and non-court-referred couples regardless of reconciliation decision.
4. Among couples receiving counseling there is no difference in the number who do reconcile and the number who do not reconcile within this particular sample.
5. Reconciliation decision is independent of:
 - (a) present ages of marriage partners
 - (b) duration of marriage
 - (c) incidence of children younger than ten years
 - (d) incidence of separation
 - (e) duration of separation

DESIGN: SUBJECTS AND PROCEDURE

The Subjects

For the purpose of the study, all couples who sought the assistance of the Marriage Counselor's Office of the Domestic Relations Division of the Superior Court, County of Sacramento, for the period of time between July 8, 1966 and June 30, 1967, constituted the population from which the sample was drawn. Couples who had either voluntarily sought counseling for marital difficulties or who had been referred to the Marriage Counselor's Office by the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division, after having filed for a divorce, were represented in the sample. A total of 83 couples were tested, 50 of whom voluntarily sought marital counseling, and 33 of whom had been referred directly from the court. This sample represents approximately 24 per cent of the total number of cases completed by the Marriage Counselor's Office in a year's time (computed on the basis of 1966 figures).

Beginning on July 8, 1966, and continuing until June 30, 1967, couples were requested to participate in a research study upon their initial visit to the Marriage Counselor's Office. Couples were asked to participate regardless of age or number of children in the family. Limitations were imposed by the nature of the study. It was essential that the couple was willing to communicate verbally with one another

when they arrived at the Marriage Counselor's Office, and that they show a willingness to cooperate in participating in the study in a prescribed manner. Couples who appeared to express unwillingness to, or refused to, communicate verbally with one another were not required to participate. Persons who were illiterate were exempt from participation.

The sample must be regarded as one of convenience and, therefore, not representative of the population of couples handled by the Marriage Counselor's Office over the testing period of one year. The Marriage Counselor's Office provides short-term counseling services, without fee, to residents of Sacramento County and is considered a public service agency. Limits are imposed on the design of research utilizing a sample of the population associated with this agency. Due to its association with the Superior Court, the operational procedures of the Marriage Counselor's Office are standardized and somewhat restricted. Particularly difficult is the task of establishing controls on testing procedure and applying pretest and post test design, in view of the fact that a routine follow-up conference is not an established practice.

A further complication was encountered, in selecting the subjects for this study, resulting from the standardized procedures of the Marriage Counselor's Office; the technicalities issuing from rigorous time scheduling of conferences by the marriage counselors

which allowed time for couples to participate in a research project, presented considerable difficulty, consequently, if a couple arrived late for their appointment they were not included in the sample. On some heavily scheduled days, or in periods of increased work responsibilities, no couples coming to the office were drawn for the sample.

Information on selected factors related to the marital status of each couple in the sample is provided in Appendix II. These factors include the present ages of the marriage partners, duration of marriage, partners' ages at marriage, the number of children younger and older than ten, the incidence of separation, and the duration of reported separation. Summary measures, in terms of the range and central tendency of the sample, on these factors is provided in Table I, page 39. The modal age of husbands was 29 (mean, 33.16) with a range of 43 years from 18 to 61 years; the corresponding modal age for wives was 23 and 35 (mean, 30) with a 39-year range, from 17 to 56 years. It is of interest to note the fact that the wives represented two distinct age categories in terms of the mode. It is noteworthy that the mean age for all husbands in the sample is 33 years, and that the mean age for all wives is 30, since this compares closely with the mean age for husbands and wives in the sample used by Hawkins in his pilot study to investigate the validity of the Marriage Questionnaire, in which he reported the

mean age of husbands as 32, and wives, 30 years.

Table 1. Description of the Sample in Terms of Five Selected Factors (central tendency and distribution measures).

Selected Factor	Mode	Mean (N=83)	Range
Present age (years)			
Husband	29	33.16	18-61
Wife	23, 35	30.70	17-56
Duration of marriage (years)	4	9.8	1-31
Age at marriage (years)			
Husband	21	24.24	17-84
Wife	19	21.74	16-36
Number of children ^a			
Younger than 10 years	2	2.2	0-4
Older than 10 years	2	2.6	0-4
Duration of separation ^b (weeks)			
	3	7.49	0-68

^aSix couples had no children, 12 couples had no children younger than 10 years of age, 46 couples had no children older than 10.

^bForty-six couples in the sample were separated.

The duration of marriage is reflected by a modal value of four years (mean, 9.8) with a range of 31 years. The modal age at marriage for husbands was 21 years (mean 24.24) and for wives, 19 years (mean, 21.74) with corresponding ranges of 17-48 years for husbands and 16-36 for wives. Information was not obtained on the number of previous marriages of couples in the sample, and it must be recognized that the range of age at marriage refers to the

to the age at which the present marriage took place.

Of the 83 couples in the sample 77 couples had a total of 192 children, of whom 129 were under the age of ten, and of whom 63 were over the age of ten. Eighteen couples had children in both age categories. In all, 12 couples had no children younger than ten, and 46 had no children older than ten. Six couples reported that they had no children (includes one couple who reported one deceased child).

The couples were asked to report whether or not they were currently separated, and, if so, to report the separation duration. In the total sample 46 couples reported that they were presently separated, and 37, that they were not. The number of couples reporting separation of given duration are; 1) one to three weeks, 13 couples, 2) four to eight weeks, 22 couples, and 3) nine weeks or longer, 11 couples.

For purposes of comparing the present sample with a population of the Marriage Counselor's Office figures for the year 1964 were used in view of the fact that the current report of the Marriage Counselor's Office, 1965-1966, does not include this information. The proportions falling into specific ranges for present age and years married were calculated. These proportions are reported in Table II, page 41. This comparison brings to light a few differences which apparently exist between the sample and a population judged to be

similar to the one from which it was drawn.

Table II. Comparison of the Present Sample and the 1964 Population of the Marriage Counselor's Office According to Age and Duration of Marriage.

Range in Years	Present Sample		1964 Population Marriage Counselor's Office ¹	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Age				
teens	1	4	3.6	15
20-25	18	22	25	34
25-30	25	26	14	16
30-40	34	35	29	34
40-50	17	12	20.7	20
50-60	4	1	5.6	2
60 and over	1	0	1	.4
Duration of marriage				
	Couples %		Couples %	
1-5	36		45.5	
6-10	28		17.8	
11-15	14.4		16.7	
16-20	12		11.3	
21-25	7.2		5.8	
26 and over	2.4		2.8	

¹ Figures from Three Year Report of the Court of Conciliation of The Superior Court of the County of Sacramento, 1964, pp. 18-19.

The Marriage Counselor's Office reported that in 1964 45 per cent of the couples who applied for counseling had been married from one to five years; 17 per cent had been married from six to ten years; and 34 percent had been married from 11 to 30 years. Of the couples in the present sample, 36 per cent had been married from

one to five years; 28 per cent had been married from six to ten years; and 36 per cent had been married for more than 11 years. The major discrepancy between the 1964 population of the Marriage Counselor's Office and the present sample rests in the fact that the sample includes a higher percentage of couples who have been married from one to five years. Further, this sample deviates from the 1964 population (of the Marriage Counselor's Office) in that the sample proportions of husbands and wives in the age range of 25-40 years and from teenage to 25 years, presents a higher percentage of husbands and wives in the former category, and a lower percentage in the latter category. Regarding the overall sample and population differences on these factors, the sample is judged to be highly comparable with the year's population.

Procedure

In summary, the procedure which the subjects were required to follow integrated the necessary steps to accomplish the purposes of the study with the standard operation of the Marriage Counselor's Office. Upon their initial visit to the Marriage Counselor's Office, couples who were not eliminated on the basis of illiteracy, unwillingness to communicate with one another, and/or unwillingness to cooperate, were administered the Marriage Questionnaire. The test was administered to these couples by one of the secretaries

prior to the first conference that the couple was scheduled to have with a marriage counselor. Upon the completion of the questionnaire the couples resumed the usual steps involved in the marriage counseling process, including a preliminary interview and from one to three conferences with a marriage counselor. As each case was completed the stated reconciliation decision of the couple was noted on a permanent file. On this basis couples were categorized into three major reconciliation decision groups: 1) reconciled (R), 2) reconciliation refused (RR), and 3) reconciliation unknown (RU). All couples who had taken the Marriage Questionnaire and had made the decision to reconcile following the counseling process were requested, by mail, to respond to the Marriage Questionnaire on a second occasion. A post test, it was hoped, would provide a basis for identifying any reported changes in the marital interaction of couples as reflected in pre and post counseling behavior.

When couples first arrived at the Marriage Counselor's Office, they were directed to a private room where they were asked to read the directions for the Marriage Questionnaire, following which they were to respond to it jointly. Either the husband or wife was to read each item aloud, then they were to discuss the item and the response choices, and finally, mutually select a particular response to check for each item which both agreed was most indicative of their behavior in the situations described in the items. Any questions

concerning the test were directed to the secretary in the Marriage Counselor's Office, who served as administrator of the test. The directions on the questionnaire state: "The questions in this questionnaire ask about how your marriage has actually been in the last month or so, or prior to separation." The importance of responding in terms of the particular time period specified was emphasized by the administrator of the test. The couple was permitted to take as much time as necessary to complete the questionnaire. The time required ranged from 20 minutes to one hour.

The disposition of cases of couples who had responded to the Marriage Questionnaire was noted on a regular basis by the investigator, along with the date of the final conference with the marriage counselor at which the stated reconciliation decision was made, in the event that a decision was stated. The cases placed on a continuance, which consists of a delay of 30 to 90 days in any further procedures related to the case, were re-checked regularly for the final reconciliation decision. All subjects were assigned, post hoc, to one of the following reconciliation decision categories: 1) R group, all couples who stated the decision to reconcile, 2) RR group, all couples who stated the decision to refuse reconciliation, and 3) RU group, all couples whose reconciliation decision was unknown. This third category included couples whose case had been classified as "off-calendar", and by whom no reconciliation decision had been

reported to the Marriage Counselor's Office, and couples who were classified as "petition dismissed", because they had failed to keep the scheduled appointments for conferences with the marriage counselor.

It was originally intended in this study to investigate the nature of a couple's marital interaction prior to, and again, following the marriage counseling process provided by the Marriage Counselor's Office. As stated earlier, a comparison of the results of a pre and post test might give some indication of the changes in marital interaction that follow the counseling process. For this reason it was decided to attempt a post test for couples who had made a decision to reconcile, and only for these couples. It was assumed that those who did not reconcile would find it difficult, if not impossible, to take a test having the conjoint feature of the Marriage Questionnaire and which included items requiring a couple to report on recent marital behavior. The questionnaire directs the couple to respond to each of a set of situations in terms of their behavior during the past month or so. It was found that a large proportion of couples who do not reconcile have separated prior to their first visit to the Marriage Counselor's Office. These couples, who would have been asked to respond to the questionnaire, on the second occasion, in terms of how their marriage had been prior to separation, would probably still be living separately following their refusal to reconcile,

and consequently, no change would be expected in their responses. In view of the fact that an analysis of post test data for only one part of the total sample would not provide conclusive evidence of what was taking place within the entire sample, a thorough investigation of marital interaction following counseling was deemed impossible with the selected measuring instrument. It was decided however, from the standpoint of sustained interest, to attempt to investigate marital interaction following counseling among couples who had decided to reconcile.

In order to obtain information on marital interaction following the experience at the Marriage Counselor's Office, approximately one month following the date of their reconciliation decision, all couples who stated a decision to reconcile were mailed a Marriage Questionnaire accompanied by a letter of explanation. The couples were requested to respond to the questionnaire in the same conjoint manner in which they had taken it previously, and to return it to the Marriage Counselor's Office. A self-addressed, stamped envelope was included. One follow-up telephone call was made to each couple who had been sent a questionnaire and who could be reached, to encourage them to return the questionnaire as soon as possible. Only four post tests were returned. In view of this fact, any attempt to analyze the data in terms of a pre and post test counseling response was entirely abandoned and the decision was made to proceed

with a comparison of the three main reconciliation decision groups on the basis of the information obtained in the pre-counseling tests.

At the conclusion of the pre-counseling testing period, Marriage Questionnaires for all completed cases were placed in the final reconciliation decision categories and scored.

THE DATA AND THEIR TREATMENT

The main data for the present study were obtained from responses to the Marriage Questionnaire which was administered to couples who applied for the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office of the Domestic Relations Division of the Superior Court, County of Sacramento. Scores were obtained for two components of the test, namely, affection-companionship (ACI) and hostility (HOS), which reflect marital interaction in the immediate past. The questionnaire yields one score for a married couple on each of these components, as a result of a couple's mutual agreement on a single conjoint response to each test item. In addition to the scores on the Marriage Questionnaire, information on selected post marital factors was collected for analysis and tabulated in relationship to the following: 1) present age of marriage partners, 2) ages of the couple at marriage, 3) duration of marriage, 4) incidence of children, 5) number of children younger and older than ten years, 6) incidence of separation, and 7) duration of separation.

It will be recalled that the major purpose of the study was to investigate some factors associated with reconciliation decisions of couples, therefore, all couples tested were categorized into three main groups determined by the reconciliation decision of the couple: 1) reconciliation group (R), 2) refused reconciliation group (RR),

and 3) reconciliation unknown to the agency (RU). The third group, RU, included couples whose case was listed as "off-calendar" or "petition dismissed". All couples who were classified as "off-calendar" had had conferences with a marriage counselor whereas the couples whose petition was dismissed had failed to keep a single appointment for counseling. All couples in categories R and RR had received from one to three counseling sessions depending upon the number of sessions they participated in before arriving at a reconciliation decision. Of the 83 couples included in the sample, 32 were placed in the R group, 29 were placed in the RR group, and 22 were classified as RU. Included in the total number in the RU group were 15 "off-calendar" couples and seven "petition dismissed" couples.

The post-marital information collected was tabulated for couples in each reconciliation decision group and is given in Appendix II. The range and measure of central tendency, in the form of mean and mode scores, were determined for each of the factors according to reconciliation decision groups³, and are presented in Table III, page 50. A comparison among the RD groups of the range of present age of husbands and wives indicates a strong similarity between the R and RR groups, whereas the RU group evidences a broader age

³ For purposes of discussion reference to these groups as a unit will be designated by RD.

Table III. Mode, Mean and Range of Selected Factors Related to Marital Status in the Reconciliation Decision Groups.

	R			RR			RU					
							OC			PD		
	Mo	M	R	Mo	M	R	Mo	M	R	Mo	M	R
Present age (years)												
Husbands	29, 34	31.5	22-49	24, 29	33.3	21-49	23, 27	36	22-61	36	34.1	18-57
Wives	35	31.3	20-45	23	29.3	18-46	27	31.7	18-56	*	31.4	17-49
Duration of Marriage (years)												
	4	8.84	2-24	3	10.4	1-26	6	10.66	1-31	*	9.7	1-25
Age at Marriage (years)												
Husbands	21	23.06	19-35	23	24.4	18-42	22	26.2	17-48	*	25	17-33
Wives	18, 19	22.8	16-36	19	19.6	16-28	*	23.4	16-33	19	22.1	16-30
Number of Children												
under 10	1	1.74	1-3	1, 2	1.06	1-4	2	2.6	1-4	2	2.5	1-4
over 10	2	2.1	1-4	2	1.9	1-4	2	2.4	1-4	2	2	0-2
Duration of Separation (weeks)												
	3, 6	5.38	1-16	3	11.6	1-68	8	7	1-14	4	4.5	3-8

*Modal values too numerous to be useful, or no modal values could be ascertained.

range due to the fact that some couples in this group were found to be older and some younger than those in any of the other groups. The mean age for husbands is lowest for the R group (31.5 years) and highest for the RU group (35 years), with the RR group falling between these two at 33.3 years. There is little difference in the mean age of wives among RD groups, however, the modal values show a perceptible difference among the groups; the modal age of wives in the R group is 35 years, in the RR group it is 23 years, and in the RU group, 27 years.

Age at marriage for each marriage partner was computed on the basis of present age and duration of marriage. It must be recalled that for some of the couples, this marriage was not the first marriage; therefore, the figures for the range of age at marriage may reflect this fact. The age at marriage for husbands yielded a range of 16 years 24 years and 31 years for the R, RR and RU groups, respectively; the corresponding ranges for wives were 20, 12 and 17 years. In this case, the modal values, rather than the mean, provide a more appropriate measure of central tendency from which to compare the couples on the basis of age at which they married, since extremes in age due to marriages other than the first being included would be weighted less heavily.

The modal values for husbands' age at marriage for R, RR and RU are 21, 23 and 22 respectively; the corresponding values for

for wives are 18 and 19, 19, 19 and 24, indicating that the R and RU groups both have bi-modal distributions on this factor for wives.

The duration of marriage among the RD groups exhibited ranges of 22, 26 and 31 years, for the R, RR, and RU groups, respectively. Again, the modal values for central tendency are reported as more appropriate for pointing out differences among the RD groups. The modal duration of marriage for the R, RR and RU groups are four, three and six years, respectively.

The reported total number of children older than ten years according to RD groups, was 26, 21 and 16 for R, RR and RU, respectively. The number of children younger than ten years for each RD group was reported as 49, 43, and 37 for the R, RR and RU groups, respectively. In each RD group the modal value corresponding to the number of children older than ten years reported by couples was two; for children younger than ten years, the modal values were one, one and two, and two, for R, RR and RU respectively, with the RR group evidencing a bi-modal distribution.

It will be recalled that in the total sample of 83, 46 couples reported that they were presently separated. It is of interest to note that the incidence of separation by RD groups; the number of couples reporting separation among the R, RR and RU groups was 8 out of 32, 20 out of 29, and 18 out of 22, respectively. A further distinction can be made within the RU group according to off-

calendar (OC) and petition-dismissed (PD) couples. Twelve out of 15 OC couples reported separation; six out of the seven PD couples reported separation. The range of duration of separation in weeks for each RD group was; 16, 68, and 14; for R, RR, and RU, respectively. Although the range of duration of separation for the R group (1-16 weeks), is highly similar to the RU group (1-14 weeks), it can be seen that the frequency of separation among couples (as reported above) for the former is considerably less. The RR group contained one couple who reported a separation of 68 weeks (1 year, 4 months), which influenced the mean value for duration of separation within this group. The modal values for duration were similar for the three groups; three and six weeks, three weeks, and four weeks, for R, RR, and RU, respectively, indicating a bi-modal distribution for the R group.

The affection-companionship scores (ACI) and the hostility scores (HOS) from the Marriage Questionnaire were determined for each couple on the basis of an accumulated numerical score for each test item. There are 43 test items, 30 of which make up the ACI score and 13 of which make up the HOS score for a couple. Each item has a scale value of one to five points, depending upon the response selected. The highest number of points per item (5) is given for the response indicating the highest frequency or degree of affection-companionship behavior or hostile behavior. The range

of ACI scores is from 30-150; the range of HOS is from 13-65.

Numerical values are indicated beside each response on the Marriage Questionnaire, but it is necessary to reverse the stated numerical values for several of the test items. For example, item three, an HOS item, states: "During the last 4 weeks, did you have a big blowup or emotional storm?" The responses with their numerical values are listed as follows:

- _____ 1 four or more times
- _____ 2 three times
- _____ 3 twice
- _____ 4 once
- _____ 5 more than 4 weeks ago
- _____ 5 never had one since we've been married

Since the first response indicates the highest frequency of hostile behavior, the scale values must be reversed for this item, giving response one a value of five, and the last two responses a value of one. The intervening responses are to be scored accordingly.

It was found that, in responding to the Marriage Questionnaire, some couples omitted one or more responses, or were unable to agree on a single response for an item, and consequently, checked more than one response. Any questionnaire was eliminated on which responses in excess of five were omitted. On any questionnaire for which two responses for one item had been checked, the mean

score of the reconciliation decision group to which that particular couple belonged was substituted as a score for that item. Two questionnaires were eliminated on the basis of the former consideration, resulting in a total of 81 couples whose Marriage Questionnaires were tabulated; this total included 31 in the R group, 28 in the RR group, 15 in the OC group, and seven in the PD group. The information collected on post marital factors was tabulated for the two couples whose Marriage Questionnaires were eliminated on the basis of response omissions, since their reconciliation decisions were known, and the data used in the subsequent analyses. One of these couples was included in the RR group, and the other, in the R group. Analyses involving these two groups will reflect this fact in the number of subjects available for comparison.

In order to test hypothesis one, which states that there is no difference among the three reconciliation decision groups with regard to either ACI or to HOS scores, the comparisons were made using the two subgroups of the reconciliation unknown couples, "off-calendar" and "petition-dismissed" couples. Before the mean values of the separate groups could be compared, the variances of each pair of comparisons were tested to determine whether or not the pair could be regarded as having been drawn from the same population. It was essential to test these variances in order to determine whether or not the assumption of equal variance, under-

lying the t-test, was met. In instances where the assumption was not met, it was necessary to modify the error term in the statistical test. In all, six comparisons were made for the four reconciliation decision groups, with the result that every decision group was compared with every other decision group. The mean ACI and HOS scores which obtained within each group were: 84.68 and 28.35 for the R group, 73.25 and 25.36 for the RR group, 76.33 and 28.07 for the OC group, and 65.14 and 33.57 for the PD group. These means and the standard deviation for each reconciliation decision group can be found in Table IV, page 56.

Table IV. Means and Standard Deviations of ACI and HOS Scores for Each Reconciliation Decision Group.

Group	N	ACI		HOS	
		\bar{x}	S_x	\bar{y}	S_y
R	31	84.68	19.57	28.35	10.54
RR	28	73.25	17.01	25.36	7.969
OC	15	76.33	16.030	28.07	8.884
PD	7	65.14	13.570	33.57	3.734

The t-values obtained between the means for each of the six pairs on ACI and HOS, respectively, along with their critical t-values for $n_1 + n_2 - 2$ degrees of freedom are: 1) OC-PD, 1.636, 2.042 (critical t, 2.328, 2.227); 2) R-OC, 1.433, .0886 (critical t, 2.102, 2.103); 3) R-PD, 2.496, 2.210 (critical t, 2.318, 2.187);

4) RR-OC, $-.5802$, -1.028 , (critical t , 2.108 , 2.116); 5) RR-PD, 1.170 , -4.015 (critical t , 2.336 , 2.237); 6) R-RR, 2.407 , 1.233 (critical t , 2.053 , 2.043). Of these, the R-PD groups were found to be significantly different on both ACI and HOS; the RR-PD groups were significantly different in HOS; and the R and RR groups were significantly different in ACI. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected in relation to these groups for ACI and for HOS as indicated. With regard to OC-PD, R-OC, and RR-OC, there were no significant differences found for either the ACI or the HOS index. These results, including the equality of variance tests carried out as forerunners to the t -tests, are reported in Table V, page 58.

In order to establish whether or not a correlation exists between the two components of marital interaction tapped by the Marriage Questionnaire, namely, affection-companionship and hostility, the following hypothesis was tested: There is a significant negative correlation between ACI and HOS scores within the entire sample and within each of the reconciliation decision groups. The Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient r was computed and tested for significance at the 5 per cent level. The obtained values of r for R, RR, OC, and PD were respectively, $-.576$, $.089$, $.120$, and $-.022$. A t -test with $n-2$ degrees of freedom yielded the following t -values: -3.791 , $.464$, $.437$, and $-.048$. The corresponding critical t -values at the 5 per cent level of confidence are: 2.045 , 2.052 ,

Table V. Comparison of Reconciliation Decision Groups on ACI and HOS Mean Scores Including Tests for the Homogeneity of Variance.

Group	F (x)	F (y)	F .05*	F .025**	t _x	t _y	t _{.025 (x)*}	t _{.025 (y)*}
OC-PD	1.395	5.660**	3.94	5.27	1.636	2.042	2.328	2.227
R-OC	1.490	1.408	2.31	2.73	1.433	.0886	2.102	2.103
R-PD	2.080	7.975**	3.82	5.08	2.496*	2.213*	2.318	2.187
RR-OC	1.126	1.243	2.32	2.75	.5802	-1.028	2.108	2.116
RR-PD	1.571	4.555*	3.82	5.08	1.170	-4.015*	2.336	2.237
R-RR	1.323	1.751	1.87	2.11	2.407*	1.233	2.043	2.043

*Significant at the .05 level.

**Significant at the .025 level.

2.160, and 3.012. The observed t -value was significant at the one per cent level in the case of the R group, but insignificant in the case of the other three groups. These results are reported in Table VI, page 59. It is concluded that a significant and negative relationship exists between ACI and HOS for the R group, but that there is insufficient evidence to support the empirical hypothesis in any one of the RR, OC, and PD groups.

Table VI. Significance of Correlation Coefficients for ACI and HOS within each Reconciliation Decision Group.

Group	r	t	d.f. (N-2)	Critical Value
R	-.576	-3.79*	29	2.04
RR	.089	.464	27	2.05
OC	.120	.437	13	2.160
PD	-.022	-.048	5	2.571

*Significant at the .05 level of confidence.

It might reasonably be presumed that the hostility level of couples who had begun divorce proceedings, and had been referred to the Marriage Counselor's Office for counseling, would differ from that of couples who had not begun divorce proceedings, and who were voluntarily seeking marital counseling. An hypothesis stating that there is no difference in the HOS scores of court-referred couples and non-court-referred couples, regardless of reconciliation decision, was tested to investigate this possibility. Of the total sample of 81 couples, 32 were referred from the court and 49 were voluntary.

Since equality of variance for these two groups, namely court-referred couples and non-court-referred couples, could not be assumed, a test for homogeneity of variance was performed using the F test with $n_1 - 1$, $n_2 - 1$ degrees of freedom. The observed F-value for the court-referred and non-court-referred couples was 1.45. The critical value of $F_{30, 48}$ is 1.70 at the 5 per cent level of significance. The values obtained are reported in Table VII page 60.

Table VII. Comparison of Mean Hostility Scores between Court-Referred and Non-Court Referred Couples.

Court Referred	N	Mean HOS	t	Critical t
Yes	32	28.25	(d. f. = 79)	$\alpha = .05$
No	49	27.33	1.245	1.99

It was concluded on the basis of these results, that there was insufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis of no difference with regard to variance. In view of the fact that equality of variance obtained, it was possible to use a pooled estimate of sample variance to perform a more stringent t-test of the null hypothesis that the means of the two groups were equal. The mean values for court-referred and non-court-referred, respectively are 28.25 and 27.32 for HOS. The value of the t statistic was found to be 1.245. The critical region for the null hypothesis was $t_{80, .05} = \pm 1.99$. Since the observed value of t did not fall in the critical region, there

is sufficient evidence to reject the null. This information indicates that within the sample, HOS scores do not differ significantly for court-referred and non-court-referred couples when considered independent of reconciliation decision.

The Marriage Counselor's Office has as a major function to encourage the reconciliation of couples and, therefore, it would be useful to determine if more couples reconcile rather than not reconcile following counseling. Hypothesis four sought an answer to this question. It stated that among couples receiving counseling there is no difference in the number who do reconcile and those who do not reconcile. It was found that among those counseled, 31 were placed in the R (reconciled) group, and 28 were placed in the RR (refused reconciliation) group. A normal approximation of the binomial test was used to test the hypothesis. A correction for continuity was incorporated as described by Siegel (1956, p. 40-41). The obtained z value was .260, which is associated with a probability of occurrence equal to .7948. There is insufficient evidence to reject the hypothesis that persons receiving counseling are more apt to reconcile than not to reconcile.

To test the hypothesis that reconciliation decision is independent of certain selected factors related to the marriage: 1) present ages of marriage partners, 2) duration of marriage, 3) incidence of children younger than ten years, 4) incidence of separation, and

5) duration of separation, the chi-square test of independence was performed. The null hypothesis was tested for each factor separately. For the test of independence of reconciliation decision and present age of marriage partners three age categories were used: 17-28, 29-39, and 40 and over. The raw frequencies for the three groups are reported in Table VIII, below.

Table VIII. Chi-square Test for Independence of Reconciliation Decision and Present Age of Marriage Partners.

Present Age in Years	R (N=32)	RR (N=29)	RU (N=22)	Totals
Husbands				
17-28	10 (10.69)	10 (9.84)	8 (7.47)	28
29-39	17 (14.006)	11 (13.00)	9 (9.87)	37
40-over	5 (6.87)	8 (6.33)	5 (4.80)	18
Wives				
17-28	11 (13.75)	14 (12.65)	11 (9.60)	36
29-39	15 (13.36)	13 (12.30)	7 (9.34)	35
40-over	5 (4.20)	2 (3.87)	4 (2.93)	11
Totals	63	58	44	165
X^2	4.80			
Critical X^2 ($\alpha = .05$) 18.31				

The obtained value of X^2 with 10 degrees of freedom was 4.80. The critical value of X^2 at the 5 per cent level is 18.31. These results indicate there is insufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis that reconciliation decisions were not associated with the present

ages of couples in this sample.

In order to test the hypothesis of independence of reconciliation decision and years married, couples were classified into one of three categories on the latter variable: one to five years, six to ten years, and 11 years and over. The raw frequencies are reported in Table IX, below. . The obtained X^2 with four degrees of freedom was 2.263, which is insignificant at the five per cent level of confidence. The critical value of X^2_4 at this level of confidence is 7.82. These results, which also are reported in Table IX, indicate that there is insufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis for the present sample. Apparently, reconciliation decision is not dependent upon the number of years married at the time the decision is made.

Table IX. Chi-square Test for Independence of Reconciliation Decision and Duration of Marriage.

Duration of Marriage in Years	Reconciliation Decision			Totals
	R (N=32)	RR (N=29)	RU (N=22)	
1-5	12(11.57)	10(10.48)	8(7.95)	30
6-10	11(8.87)	6(8.04)	6(6.19)	23
11 and over	9(11.57)	13(10.48)	8(7.95)	30
Totals	32	29	22	83
X^2	2.26			
Critical $X^2_{(a=.05)}$	7.82			

The notion that the presence of young children in the family is important in influencing a couple to resist breaking up the marriage

was investigated using a chi-square test of independence on the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between reconciliation decision and incidence of children younger than ten years. Table X, below presents the raw frequencies for this test. The observed X^2 value of 1.872 does not reach the critical value of 5.99 (with 2 degrees of freedom), at the 5 per cent level of confidence. On this basis there is insufficient evidence to reject the null. These results, which are reported in Table X, then, indicate that there is no detectable relationship between reconciliation decision and the presence or absence of children younger than ten years.

Table X. Chi-square Test for Independence of Reconciliation Decision and Incidence of Children Younger than Ten Years of Age.

Incidence of Children Under 10 years	Reconciliation Decision			Totals
	R (N=32)	RR (N=29)	RU (N=22)	
Yes	27(27.37)	23(22.71)	15(17.23)	65
No	5(6.94)	6(6.29)	7(4.77)	18
Totals	32	29	22	83
X^2	1.872			
Critical $X^2_{(\alpha = .05)}$	5.99			

As pointed out earlier, over one half of the sample, 46 couples, reported that they were presently separated. A chi-square test for independence of reconciliation decision and incidence of separation was used. The raw frequencies are reported in Table XI, page 65. The X^2 value with two degrees of freedom obtained was 20.31.

This value is significant at a confidence level of .001, where the critical value of X^2_2 is 9.21 at the one per cent level. These results are reported in Table XI and indicate that it is possible to reject the null hypothesis that reconciliation decision is independent of incidence of separation.

Table XI. Chi-square Test for Independence of Reconciliation Decision and Incidence of Separation.

Separation Experience	Reconciliation Decision			Totals
	R (N=32)	RR (N=29)	RU (N=22)	
Yes	8(17.73)	20(16.07)	18(12.19)	46
No	24(14.27)	9(12.93)	4(9.8)	37
Totals	32	29	22	83
$X^2 =$	20.319*			
Critical $X^2_{(a=.05)}$	9.21			

* Significant at the .001 level

An additional chi-square test was used to test the independence of reconciliation decision and duration of separation. Three categories of duration of separation were established: one to three weeks, four to eight weeks, and nine weeks and over, for which the raw frequencies are reported in Table XII, page 66. The X^2 value obtained was 3.25. The critical value of X^2 with four degrees of freedom is 9.49 at the 5 per cent level of confidence. These results appear on Table XII also, and indicate that there is insufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis. Evidently, for this sample,

reconciliation decisions were not dependent upon length of separation.

Table XII. Chi-square Test for Independence of Reconciliation Decision and Duration of Separation.

Separation Duration (in weeks)	Reconciliation Decision			Totals
	R (N=8)	RR (N=20)	RU (N=18)	
1-3	3(2.26)	6(5.65)	4(5.08)	13
4-8	4(3.80)	7(9.56)	11(8.60)	22
9-68	1(1.91)	7(4.78)	3(4.30)	11
Totals	8	20	18	46
X^2	3.255			
Critical $X^2_{(\alpha=.05)}$	9.49			

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Discussion

For the purpose of investigating some of the factors associated with reconciliation decisions of couples with marital problems, two sets of data were analyzed: affection-companionship and hostility scores yielded by the Marriage Questionnaire and descriptive information pertaining to the marriage of the couple. It will be recalled that five specific hypotheses were tested:

1. There is no difference among the three reconciliation decision groups, R, RR, and RU, with regard to either ACI or HOS scores.
2. There is a significant negative correlation between HOS and ACI scores within the entire sample, and within each of the reconciliation decision groups.
3. There is no difference in HOS scores of court-referred couples and non-court-referred couples regardless of reconciliation decision.
4. Among couples receiving counseling there is no difference in the number who do reconcile and the number who do not reconcile within this particular sample.
5. Reconciliation decision is independent of:
 - (a) present age of marriage partners

- (b) duration of marriage
- (c) incidence of children younger than ten years of age
- (d) incidence of separation
- (e) duration of separation

The first hypothesis was tested by making comparisons of the ACI and HOS scores among the reconciliation decision groups. The dispersion of both ACI and HOS scores was found to be significantly different for the petition-dismissed group when compared to all other groups. When comparing the petition-dismissed group with all other groups a correction was made for this in the test of equality of mean scores. Under these conditions a significant difference was obtained in HOS in the comparisons of the petition-dismissed with both the R and RR groups. When comparing the petition-dismissed group on ACI with all other groups it was found to differ only from the reconciled group. It did not differ on either index in regard to the off-calendar group, with which it shared the reconciliation unknown classification. In general, the petition-dismissed group, though N is small (7), was found to have the highest mean HOS index (33.57) of all reconciliation decision groups, with the reconciled and off-calendar groups having the next highest, 28.35 and 28.07, respectively, and the refused reconciliation group having the lowest mean HOS index, 25.36. With regard to ACI, the R group manifested the highest mean affection-companionship index, 84.68, followed

by the off-calendar group with a mean of 76.33, the refused reconciliation group with a mean of 73.25, and finally, the petition-dismissed group with the lowest mean of 65.14. These results are, in terms of the highest and lowest groups at least, what might be expected; couples in the reconciled group are actively involved in attempting to solve their problems, through seeking counseling and through other means, while the petition-dismissed couples apparently do not remain in the counseling situation beyond the step of petitioning for conciliation. Various explanations could be offered for the moderate levels of ACI found in the RR and OC groups, some of which will be presented in the discussion of the specific group comparisons.

In comparing the two sub-groups of the reconciliation unknown group, off-calendar and petition-dismissed, insufficient evidence was found to conclude that these two groups differed in respect to either the affection-companionship or the hostility dimensions. Of the seven couples in the PD group, five were referred directly from the Domestic Relations Court, and responded to the Marriage Questionnaire at this time. The fact that the resulting HOS score of these couples was significantly higher, when compared to all other reconciliation decision groups, suggests that the divorce procedure may have engendered some hostility in these couples, which may have been reflected in their responses to the Marriage Questionnaire

to which they were asked to respond at a time immediately following referral from the court. It must be emphasized that the couples in the PD group were classified on the basis of their failure to keep a single appointment with the marriage counselors. This fact, in itself, suggests either high hostility on the part of at least one marriage partner, or a lack of desire for help with marital problems. While no effort was made in this study to do so, it would be of value to learn what the actual decision of these couples is in regard to maintaining or dissolving the marriage. This is a problem for future research. It is not surprising to find that the affection-companion-ship dimension in these two groups does not differ essentially. It is suggested that couples in the off-calendar group might be characterized as "apathetic", resisting emotional involvement, and expressing relatively little affection or hostility. Or, since more couples in this group have been married for longer periods of time, they represent a later stage of marital interaction, which may enjoin moderate amounts of habitual affectionate-companionate behavior with moderate to low expressions of hostile behavior. The PD couples, on the other hand, would be expected to show low affectionate-companionate behavior due to the interference from high hostility in their marital interaction.

In the comparison of reconciled couples with off-calendar no significant difference was found with regard to either ACI or HOS.

The apparent similarity of these groups seems to be reflected in the fact that both of them consist of couples who have, in very few cases, begun divorce proceedings. While there was no significant difference in ACI found between the two groups, the ACI scores are the two highest of all the reconciliation decision groups. It is possible that the lack of difference, as well as the high level of ACI, can be explained in terms of duration of marriage. The OC couples were characterized by longer durations of marriage and the R group, the shortest durations of marriage; both of which could be seen, on a common sense basis, to be associated with a higher level of affection-companionship; in the former group, as a function of habitual orientation, and in the latter, as a function of relative novelty.

In contrast, the reconciled group and the petition-dismissed group exhibit highly significant differences in both ACI and HOS. It has been pointed out that the majority of couples in the PD group had taken definite action to dissolve their marriages, whereas only one third of the reconciled couples had initiated divorce action. This fact suggests a difference in the two groups in regard to their desire to work toward resolving their marital problems. Furthermore, the fact that the R group couples participated in counseling sessions prior to the decision to reconcile, and the PD group did not keep any appointments for counseling, also can be taken as an indication of willingness to attempt to work at solving the marital

problems on the part of the R group and reluctance on the part of the PD group. Therefore, a higher ACI and a lower HOS for reconciled couples fulfills a logical expectation.

In comparing the refused reconciliation couples with the off-calendar couples in both ACI and HOS, the results were not found to be significant. It will be recalled that the mean scores for both groups fell in the moderate range on ACI. The fact that the ACI scores are similar and moderate may be tentatively explained on the basis that couples in both groups have reached a stage in the marital relationship in which desire for change seems to be the preferred state of affairs. In the case of the OC group, which consists of couples married for a longer time, it is more reasonable to assume that there might be loyalty to the marriage partner, despite dissatisfaction. This may be true also of the couples who refuse reconciliation, as evidenced in their efforts to receive assistance through counseling. It is of interest to observe that the RR and OC couples have the lowest mean scores on HOS among the four groups, however, it may be that these marriage partners no longer care enough about the marriage, nor are involved enough in it, to even exhibit much hostility, or for that matter any great degree of affection.

The results obtained in comparing the refused reconciliation group with the petition-dismissed group showed the two groups to be significantly different on HOS, but to be similar on ACI. The

difference exhibited in HOS in the two groups apparently is, for the RR couples, reflected in the fact that these couples did participate in scheduled marriage counseling suggesting their willingness to, at least, try to assess the source of conflict in the marriage; whereas, in the PD group, which showed greater HOS, it seems to be reflected in the fact that the couples did not keep a single appointment for marriage counseling. The high HOS score obtained by this group, as mentioned earlier, may be explained on the basis of their having been involved in court proceedings at the time of responding to the questionnaire, and a general conviction that divorce is the answer to their specified marital problem. As for the RR group, the only feasible explanation seems to be a general ambivalence; these couples may be experiencing a general dissatisfaction with the marriage in which no specific problems provoking hostility can be pinpointed. This general dissatisfaction, coupled with a moderate amount of affection-companionship, could presumably lead the couples to reject divorce as the solution, but at the same time, refuse reconciliation. The apparent similarity in ACI for these two groups, even though the PD couples have the lowest ACI score across the four groups, may be explained, at least in part, on the basis of a lack of marital satisfaction in the RR group, and the interference in communication due to high hostility, in the PD group, both of which would lead to non-affectionate-companionate behavior.

Perhaps the finding of greatest consequence relevant to the validity of the Marriage Questionnaire, is that the affection-companionship index did discriminate between the reconciled couples and the couples who refused reconciliation. This discrimination did not obtain for the hostility index. In view of the fact that couples in both these groups have sought assistance with their problems and apparently have not seen divorce as the most appropriate solution to their problems, the discrepancy in ACI would suggest that a decision to reconcile or not may indeed depend on the level of affection-companionship the couples enjoy. Since the level of hostility is the same in the two groups, it would seem that reconciliation decision may rest on the level of affection-companionship exercised in a marriage, at least for couples experiencing a low to moderate level of hostility.

The test of hypothesis two, concerning the correlation between ACI and HOS scores within the total sample, and within each reconciliation decision group, resulted in the following respective correlation coefficients for the individual groups, R, RR, OC and PD: -.576, .089, .120, and -.022. Obviously, the relationship does not hold for the entire sample. Only within the R group is the size of the coefficient significant, and within RR, OC and PD a relationship between ACI and HOS does not obtain. A directional hypothesis was tested on the basis of evidence reported by Hawkins (1966),

who found". . . a significant but modest negative correlation between ACI and HOS" (p. 8). The results of the present study lend support to Hawkins' findings, for reconciled couples only. A cursory inspection of the scattergrams for these groups indicated that not only did a linear relationship not exist, but also, that there is no indication of a curvilinear relationship for the RR, OC, and PD groups. From these results it can be concluded that HOS and ACI are not polar dimensions, and that for the present study at least, these factors were found to be negatively associated with each other only for couples who decide to reconcile.

The results of the test of hypothesis three, which states the court-referred couples and non-court-referred couples do not differ in hostility, provided insufficient evidence to conclude that a difference did exist. Using the mean score of court-referred couples as the base line for HOS this finding is contrary to the firmly held belief of attorneys, judges, and court social workers that the adverse nature of the divorce procedure results in an increase of hostility between the marriage partners involved. If this belief were substantiated in fact, the scores of court-referred couples should reflect higher hostility than those of the non-court-referred. The failure to find a significant difference in HOS scores for these two groups could certainly have resulted from the "biased" sampling procedure; it will be recalled that couples who were

uncooperative or uncommunicative with one another were not pressured to participate. It is highly likely that high hostility couples, therefore, are inadequately represented in this sample. However, high hostility scores obtained for the petition-dismissed group, raise some provoking questions with regard to the sampling of the hostility factor. Since five of the seven in this high hostility group are court-referred, what are the chances that the sampling for this group was atypical? Close examination of the sample reveals: 11 of the 31 couples in the R group were court-referrals, 11 of the 28 couples in the RR group were court-referrals, four of the 15 couples in the OC group, and five of the seven couples in the PD group were court-referrals. Therefore court-referred couples constitute only 38 per cent of the total sample. There may be indeed, an inadequate representation of court-referred couples in the OC group; otherwise, on the basis of these figures there is no reason to suspect that there was a disproportionate number of court-referred couples eliminated among the high hostility group lost due to sampling bias. If in fact, this is the case, what are the chances that the data provide an inadequate test of the hypothesis on some other count? What is the likelihood that the high hostility couples are inadequately represented among the non-court-referred couples? The figures on the petition-dismissed group could suggest that the non-court-referred couples are underestimated, at least for this group; that

is, among the high hostility couples exempted from testing, non-court-referred cases may have been disproportionately eliminated. Using the 1966 Marriage Counselor's Office population as a base, the proportions of court-referred couples and non-court-referred couples were found to be, 34 per cent and 66 per cent. In light of this finding, the present sample must be regarded as representative with regard to the court-referred and non-court-referred proportions. Assuming that, with regard to court-referred couples, there is no unique sampling factor operating to eliminate high hostility couples for this group alone, presumably, the results from the test of hypothesis three stand firm.

The fourth hypothesis tested the difference between the number of couples who reconcile following counseling and the number of couples who do not. Of the 59 couples stating a reconciliation decision, 31 stated an intention to reconcile and 28 refused reconciliation. The results obtained provided insufficient evidence to conclude that there was a significant difference in the number of couples who do and do not reconcile following counseling. The results of the present study fail to agree with the findings of the Marriage Counselor's Office that, of the year's case load, the proportion of couples who reconcile following counseling is greater than the proportion of those who do not. With regard to this discrepancy it may be argued that the sample may not be representative of the

population from which it was drawn. In considering the adequacy of the sample size for couples who stated a reconciliation decision, 59, approximately one sixth of the population based on 1966 figures, can be seen to be somewhat inadequate. Further, since the sample was drawn during the last half of 1966 and the first half of 1967, it could be entertained that the sample drawn in the early half of 1967 was, in fact, unlike that of the population for the same period of 1966, in that fewer couples reconciled, for whatever reasons. The discrepancy, then, may be, in part, attributable to these two factors.

The test of hypothesis five involved five separate chi-square analyses to determine whether reconciliation decisions of couples were independent of: 1) present age of marriage partners, 2) duration of marriage, 3) incidence of children younger than ten years of age, 4) incidence of separation, and 5) duration of separation. The sample provides no contradiction to the hypothesis of independence in the case of present age of marriage partners, duration of marriage, incidence of children younger than ten, and duration of separation, but it does provide evidence of independence of reconciliation decision on incidence of separation. It must be emphasized at this juncture, that only to the degree to which the reconciliation decision reflects the actual outcome for the marriage, can conclusions drawn here be justified, however; there is considerable room

to question what actually does happen to the marriage, over time, in relationship to the reconciliation decision.

In this sample, reconciliation decision does not tend to be related to the age factor, a fact which is also reflected in the finding that reconciliation decision is independent of duration of marriage. Apparently this is the case for an age range extending from 17 to 68 years, which would deny the common sense notion that older couples, with marriages of long duration may tend, on the average, to try to maintain a marriage which has endured the trials of the early years. In addition, it is interesting to note that, in the RU group, which contained a larger proportion of older couples with longer durations of marriage, the marriage partners had chosen to either refuse counseling by failing to keep the appointments, or if accepting counseling, to not express a specific decision with regard to reconciliation.

The frequently stated belief, discussed earlier, that married couples experiencing difficulties stay together for the "sake of the children", was not confirmed in the findings of this study. Children younger than ten years of age were the only ones considered in the analysis, since it is believed that children of this age in the family would be most influential in a reconciliation decision based on such grounds. Even though reconciliation decisions do not appear to be based on a consideration of the fact that there are young children

in the family, this may, indeed, be the case; hopefully, due to the influence of family life education in accord with the changing philosophy that the family is an expressive rather than an economic unit, parents may be choosing to break up the marriage rather than perpetuate an environment of parental discord for their children.

The highly significant results obtained from the analysis of reconciliation decision and incidence of separation, indicating that these two factors are not independent, suggests that separation of marriage partners prior to participation in counseling from the Marriage Counselor's Office, is frequently associated with the refusal to reconcile, or failure to arrive at any decision regarding reconciliation (as in the case of the RU group). It would be expected that most marriage partners would consider separation as a serious step, and would not go to this extent unless divorce were a feasible solution and/or the marriage, absolutely intolerable. However, it could be expected that the duration of the separation of marriage partners would not necessarily influence the reconciliation decision. It was found in this study that reconciliation decision was independent of duration of separation. Presumably, if couples do decide to separate in light of an intolerable marriage, the duration of the separation may reflect only the reluctance of one or both partners to dissolve the marriage, or religious convictions which deny divorce, rather than being associated with any ultimate reconciliation

decision.

Interpretation of the overall results of this study needs to be considered in light of certain features of the study. The selection of the sample and the forced modification of the research design prohibited the possibility of stringent control in the data collection. A larger sample, in conjunction with random selection of subjects, would have yielded more adequate tests of the hypotheses. Particular problems arose in the reconciliation unknown group in relation to the number of subjects, since the cell frequencies in the OC and PD groups were too small to allow these groups to be treated separately for all tests of the hypotheses pertinent to the reconciliation decision factor. A factor of particular importance to the interpretation of the results is the fact that the reconciliation decision of a couple must be regarded as a decision reflecting the choice of the couple at the time the decision was made; that is, it cannot be presumed that this decision is the actual outcome for the marriage. The Marriage Counselor's Office procedure includes the mailing of a follow-up letter to couples who have stated a decision to reconcile, approximately one year following the decision; there is no such follow-up for the other reconciliation decision groups. For the reconciled group, the figures obtained from the follow-up, regarding the current status of the marriage, indicate that approximately 80 per cent are still together. What the status is of marriages for

the RR and RU couples, one year later, is not known.

The measuring instrument, which required couples to respond by reporting behavior in situations occurring in the immediate past, specifically the past four weeks, is not expected to be representative of the behavior in the marriage relationship for all couples tested. In fact, for couples for whom divorce or separation is imminent, behavior in specific time periods may be extreme or highly unusual. For this reason, the use of the Marriage Questionnaire in continuous or periodic testing procedure of married couples, in order to arrive at an overall assessment of a couple's level of affection-companionship and hostility, is recommended. This procedure appears to be one now being pursued by the originator of the questionnaire.

This study brought to light some possibilities for further research involving reconciliation decisions of couples with marital problems. In view of an interest in the affection-companionship and hostility aspects of marital interaction prior to and following counseling, a suitable measuring instrument is needed which could be used for couples, or individual marriage partners, who have separated. Researching the impact on the marital relationship of having made a reconciliation decision should yield information useful in the marriage counseling process, as should the investigation of the actual outcome of the marriage for groups in addition to reconciled couples. Of couples who refuse reconciliation, how

many, if any decide finally to reconcile? In the event that some do, are there characteristics which distinguish the couples within the RR group who ultimately reconcile from those who do not? As originally planned for this study, it would be of value to investigate the predictability of reconciliation decisions on the basis of a pre test, such as the Marriage Questionnaire. In this case, measures should be taken to insure a high level of cooperation from subjects in every phase of the data collection.

Conclusions

In view of the results obtained from the testing of five specific hypotheses, relating some post marital factors to reconciliation decisions of couples with marital problems, the conclusions which follow were drawn. There are significant differences among the reconciliation decision groups in regard to affection-companionship and hostility. The off-calendar couples and the petition-dismissed couples cannot be said to differ in regard to either affection-companionship or hostility. The reconciled group does not differ significantly from the off-calendar group in regard to affection-companionship and hostility, but reconciled couples do contrast strongly with petition-dismissed couples in both ACI and HOS, having higher scores on the former, and lower scores on the latter. There are no apparent differences in ACI and HOS between couples

who refuse reconciliation and off-calendar couples. Couples who refuse reconciliation differ from petition-dismissed couples in regard to hostility, the latter group exhibiting the higher hostility. The reconciled group may be differentiated from the refused reconciliation group on the basis of an affection-companionship index, as measured by the Marriage Questionnaire. No difference was noted in the hostility of R couples and RR couples.

A significant negative correlation between ACI and HOS exists only for the reconciled couples in the sample. No relationship was found to exist between these two dimensions for any one of the RR, OC, or PD groups. These two aspects of marital interaction, affection-companionship and hostility, do not appear to be polar dimensions.

The sample was judged to be representative with regard to the proportion of court-referred and non-court-referred couples. There was no difference between these couples in regard to the hostility index obtained. It is suspected that high hostility couples may be inadequately represented in the sample. The small number of subjects in the petition-dismissed group places serious limitations on the results and interpretations involving the petition-dismissed group.

Reconciliation decision is independent of present age of marriage partners, duration of marriage, incidence of children

younger than ten years of age, and duration of separation; however, an association was found to exist between reconciliation decision and incidence of separation, indicating that incidence of separation is more often associated with refusal to reconcile or refusal to state a decision regarding reconciliation than with a decision to reconcile.

The reconciliation decision must be regarded as relevant to the couple's marriage only at the time of the stated decision, since it may not accurately reflect the ultimate outcome of the marriage. Further study is needed to learn of the permanence of these decisions for all reconciliation decision groups.

The limitations of the Marriage Questionnaire in collecting data involving couples who have separated, or, as a test of marital interaction following a decision to refuse reconciliation must be recognized in future studies. This study points up the need for continued research in this area, particularly regarding the use of this measuring instrument for predicting reconciliation decisions of couples who seek the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office.

The most outstanding limitation of the study arises as a consequence of the very small number of subjects in the petition dismissed group. Three of the five statistically significant results found in the study involve this group. It will be recalled that this group was found to be a high hostility group; hostility was the main

independent variable in two of the four tests based on the Marriage Questionnaire indices, which resulted in significance. The uncertainty introduced into the findings, since it was impossible within the study to determine whether or not these results could justly be attributed to group differences in hostility, is prohibitive with regard to extensive generalization. This fact must be taken into account in all of the interpretations for which the petition dismissed group is pertinent.

It would appear that, in the event these findings can be corroborated, by future studies, their discriminate use by qualified persons could be of profound worth to couples experiencing marital problems.

SUMMARY

This study was designed to investigate some of the factors associated with reconciliation decisions of couples with marital problems. Couples who had requested the services of the Marriage Counselor's Office of the Domestic Relations Division of the Superior Court, County of Sacramento, either on a voluntary basis, or after having been referred from the court, were asked to participate in the research study. The Marriage Questionnaire, developed by James L. Hawkins, PhD., of the Indiana Medical Center, was used as the instrument to obtain a measure of affection-companionship (ACI) and of hostility (HOS). This test requires a married couple to respond to items which describe behavior in specific situations, and which refer to behavior in the immediate past. The test yields scores for a married couple based upon a single conjoint response which the couple mutually agree reflect their behavior, to each test item.

The sample was drawn over a period of approximately one year, and consisted of a total of 83 couples. Following the usual procedure of the Marriage Counselor's Office, which includes one to three counseling sessions for most couples, the reconciliation decision of all couples tested was noted, and served as the basis for categorizing the sample. The following reconciliation decision

groups were established: 1) couples who decided to reconcile (R), 2) couples who refused reconciliation (RR), and 3) couples whose reconciliation decision was unknown to the Marriage Counselor's Office. (RU). This last group was composed of two sub-groups: off-calendar couples (OC), who participated in counseling sessions but did not state a reconciliation decision, and petition dismissed (PD) couples, who were characterized by their failure to keep a single appointment with the marriage counselors, and could be considered as the only group in which the couples did not participate in counseling. The number of couples in each group were as follows: R group, 32, RR group, 29, RU group, 22, consisting of 15 OC couples and seven PD couples. Couples were exempt from participation on the basis of illiteracy, unwillingness to cooperate and/or communicate with one another.

Five specific hypotheses were tested in an effort to learn more about the affection-companionship and hostility factors in marital interaction of the couples and about age of marriage partners, duration of marriage, age at marriage, incidence of children younger than ten years, incidence of separation, and duration of separation; all from the standpoint of their association with reconciliation decision. Specifically stated, the hypotheses tested were:

1. There is no difference among the three reconciliation decision groups, R, RR, and RU, with regard to either

ACI scores or to HOS scores.

2. There is a significant negative correlation between HOS and ACI scores within the entire sample and within each of the reconciliation decision groups.
3. There is no difference in HOS scores of court-referred couples and non-court-referred couples regardless of reconciliation decision.
4. Among couples receiving counseling there is no difference in the number who do reconcile and the number who do not reconcile within this particular sample.
5. Reconciliation decision is independent of:
 - (a) present ages of marriage partners
 - (b) duration of marriage
 - (c) incidence of children younger than ten years
 - (d) incidence of separation
 - (e) duration of separation

The following results were obtained from testing the hypotheses:

A significant difference was found to exist in both ACI and HOS between couples in the reconciled group and couples in the petition-dismissed group. A significant difference was found in HOS between the couples who refused reconciliation and the petition-dismissed couples. A significant difference was found to exist in ACI between the reconciled couples and the couples who refused reconciliation.

No significant difference was found in either ACI or HOS between couples in the off-calendar and petition-dismissed groups, the reconciled and off-calendar groups, and the refused reconciliation and off-calendar groups. No significant relationship was found between the number of couples who reconcile and the number of couples who refuse reconciliation, among those couples who participated in counseling. A significant negative correlation between ACI and HOS was found only for reconciled couples, and no relationship was obtained within any other reconciliation decision group. No significant relationship was found between court-referred and non-court-referred couples in regard to HOS.

The stated reconciliation decision of couples, a decision regarded as relevant to the couple's marriage at the time of the decision, was not found to be associated with the age of marriage partners, the duration of marriage, the incidence of children younger than ten years, nor with the duration of separation. However, reconciliation decision was found to be associated with incidence of separation, indicating that the decision to refuse reconciliation and to not state a reconciliation decision was more frequently associated with separation, than with a decision to reconcile.

The limitations of the study were primarily based upon the possibility of sampling bias which may have influenced the adequacy of the hypotheses testing, particularly in regard to investigating the

results and interpretations involving the petition dismissed group in which the number of subjects was extremely small. A larger sample, obtained by means of random selection would undoubtedly result in more effective tests of the hypotheses. Complications arose which resulted in the modification of the original design of the study. The Marriage Questionnaire was judged inappropriate for a post counseling measure of marital interaction for couples who did not reconcile, and/or who separated. The post test which was attempted for reconciled couples yielded a disappointingly small return of questionnaires and had to be abandoned as a source of data.

Some suggestions were made for future research studies involving the investigation of reconciliation decision in relationship to the ultimate outcome for the particular marriage, and of the impact of the reconciliation decision on the marital interaction of the couple. The affection-companionship index and the hostility index of a couple could be investigated on a continual or periodic basis to assess any existing fluctuations in these dimensions, for the purpose of studying the developmental aspects of marital interaction. An assessment of ACI and HOS for couples, prior to and following counseling, which was an original intent in this study, has considerable value, in regard to the field of marriage counseling, and may more easily be pursued with a measuring instrument which does

not require conjoint responses.

In spite of the limitations imposed upon this study, the objectives were approximated through the findings on the affection-companionship and hostility aspects of marital interaction among couples with marital problems. Assuming that the findings of this study can be corroborated, the information obtained should be useful in the marriage counseling process.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

MARRIAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

Date _____

Husband's name _____ age _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Wife's name _____ age _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

How long have you been married to one another? _____

How many children do you have? _____

What are the ages of your children? _____

Are you separated from one another?

If yes, how long have you been separated? _____

Directions for Questionnaire:

1. The questions in this questionnaire ask about how your marriage has actually been in the last month or so, or prior to separation.
2. Please choose one of you to read each question out loud.
3. Talk it over as much as you need to in order to arrive at an answer with which you both agree.
4. Check the answer on the answer sheet and go on to the next question.
5. If you have any questions, ask the examiner.
6. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU TRY TO BE AS ACCURATE

AS POSSIBLE.

G5/ 1. When was the last time the husband told the wife he loved her?

_____ 1 more than two weeks ago

_____ 2 more than one week ago

_____ 3 several days ago

_____ 4 yesterday

_____ 5 today

G6/ 2. When was the last time the wife told the husband she loved him?

_____ 1 more than two weeks ago

_____ 2 three times

_____ 3 several days ago

_____ 4 yesterday

_____ 5 today

H4/ 3. During the last 4 weeks, did you have a big "blow up" or "emotional storm"?

_____ 1 four or more times

_____ 2 three times

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 once

_____ 5 more than 4 weeks ago

_____ 5 never had once since we have been married

H5/ 4. During the last 4 weeks, did you have a period of time when one or both of you absolutely refused to talk to the other one about something that came up?

_____ 1 four or more times

_____ 2 three times

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 once

_____ 5 more than 4 weeks ago

_____ 5 never since we have been married.

G7/ 5. In the last 4 weeks, did you take a little time during the day or evening to affectionately caress and kiss each other?

_____ 1 at least once a day

_____ 2 several times a week

_____ 3 once or twice a week

_____ 4 a few times in the last 4 weeks

_____ 5 less often

G8/ 6. In the last 4 weeks, did you kiss goodbye in the morning?

_____ 1 every day

_____ 2 several days a week

_____ 3 once or twice a week

_____ 4 a few times in the last 4 weeks

_____ 5 less often

H6/ 7. During the last 4 weeks, did the husband get so angry that he used cuss words or foul language at the wife?

_____ 1 none

- ☐ 2 once
- ☐ 3 twice
- ☐ 4 three or four times
- ☐ 5 five times or more

H7/ 8. During the last 4 weeks, did the wife get so angry that she used cuss words or foul language at the husband?

- ☐ 1 none
- ☐ 2 once
- ☐ 3 twice
- ☐ 4 three or four times
- ☐ 5 times or more

G9/ 9. In the last 4 weeks, did you kiss hello in the evening?

- ☐ 1 every day
- ☐ 2 several days a week
- ☐ 3 once or twice a week
- ☐ 4 a few times in the last 4 weeks
- ☐ 5 less often

G10/ 10. In the last 4 weeks, how often per week did you have sex relations?

- ☐ 1 five or more times a week
- ☐ 2 three or four times a week
- ☐ 3 once or twice a week
- ☐ 4 a few times in the last 4 weeks
- ☐ 5 less often

G11/ 11. In the last 4 weeks, how often have you laughed and really had fun with each other?

- _____ 1 every day
- _____ 2 several days a week
- _____ 3 once or twice a week
- _____ 4 a few times in the last 4 weeks
- _____ 5 less often

EVERYONE HAS SOME DAYS WHEN THINGS GO SO BADLY
THAT THEY GET PRETTY UPSET AND TENSE

G12/ 12. During the last 4 weeks, when the wife had a bad day, did she tell the husband about her troubles?

- _____ 1 every time
- _____ 2 usually
- _____ 3 about half the time
- _____ 4 once in a while
- _____ 5 not at all in the last 4 weeks

G13/ 13. During the last 4 weeks, when the husband had a bad day, did he tell the wife about his troubles?

- _____ 1 every time
- _____ 2 usually
- _____ 3 about half the time
- _____ 4 once in a while
- _____ 5 not at all in the last 4 weeks

HOW ABOUT ON DAYS WHEN THINGS WENT ALONG O.K.?

G14/ 14. On O.K. days during the last 4 weeks, did the wife tell the husband something about her day?

- _____ 1 every OK day
- _____ 2 many OK days
- _____ 3 several OK days
- _____ 4 once or a few OK days
- _____ 5 not at all

G15/ 15. On O.K. days during the last 4 weeks, did the husband tell the wife something about his day?

- _____ 1 every OK day
- _____ 2 many OK days
- _____ 3 several OK days
- _____ 4 once or a few OK days
- _____ 5 not at all

G16/ 16. In the last 4 weeks, how often did the wife get so busy, (with housework, children, etc.) that she didn't have any time to spend with the husband?

- _____ 1 several times a week
- _____ 2 once or twice a week
- _____ 3 a few times in the month
- _____ 4 once or twice in the month
- _____ 5 less often

G17/ 17. In the last 4 weeks, how often did the husband get so busy on his day off (working around the house or on the car, watching T.V., etc.) that he didn't have any time to spend with the wife?

_____1 four or more days off like this in a month

_____2 three days off like this a month

_____3 two days off like this a month

_____4 one day off like this in a month

_____5 this never happens

G18/ 18. During the last 4 weeks, when you were at home together, did the wife freshen up a little (put on make-up, and/or put on a clean dress, and/or comb hair, etc.)?

_____1 not at all

_____2 once in a while

_____3 less than half of the time

_____4 about half the time

_____5 more than half the time

G19/ 19. During the last 4 weeks, when you were at home together on the husband's day off, did the husband freshen up a little (shave, and/or put on clean clothes, and/or wash up etc.)?

_____1 not at all

_____2 once in a while

_____3 less than half of the time

_____4 about half the time

_____5 more than half the time

G20/ 20. During the last 4 weeks, how often did you spend a little time talking to each other after the kids were in bed?

_____1 every day

_____2 several days a week

_____ 3 once or twice a week

_____ 4 a few times in the last 4 weeks

_____ 5 less often

G21/ 21. During the last 4 weeks, how often did you go out on a short "date" for an ice cream cone, or a drink, etc.?

_____ 1 not at all

_____ 2 once

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 three times

_____ 5 four or more times

G22/ 22. During the last 4 weeks, how often did you sit around together after eating for a while just talking?

_____ 1 not at all

_____ 2 a few times in the last 4 weeks

_____ 3 once or twice a week

_____ 4 several days a week

_____ 5 every day

G23/ 23. During the last 4 weeks, how often did you go to eat at a restaurant, cafeteria, drive-in, or carry-out (with or without the kids)?

_____ 1 none

_____ 2 once

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 three times

_____ 5 four times or more

24. During the last 4 weeks, did you go to religious services together (with or without the kids)?

- ☐ 1 none
- ☐ 2 once
- ☐ 3 twice
- ☐ 4 three times
- ☐ 5 four times or more

G25/ 25. During the last four weeks, how often did do the following things together: have popcorn or cocoa together; or have cider and donuts; coffee and pie, or a drink, etc.?

- ☐ 1 none
- ☐ 2 once or twice in the last four weeks
- ☐ 3 about once a week
- ☐ 4 two or three times a week
- ☐ 5 more often

G26/ 26. During the last 4 weeks, how often did the two of you together see relatives at their home or your home?

- ☐ 1 none
- ☐ 2 once
- ☐ 3 twice
- ☐ 4 three times
- ☐ 5 more often

G27/ 27. During the last 4 weeks, how often did the two of you together see friends or neighbors at their home or your home?

- ☐ 1 none

- _____ 2 once
- _____ 3 twice
- _____ 4 three times
- _____ 5 more often

G28/ 28. During the last 4 weeks, how often did you take a little ride in the car together "just to get out for a while"?

- _____ 1 none
- _____ 2 once
- _____ 3 two or three times
- _____ 4 four or five times
- _____ 5 more often

G29/ 29. During the last 4 weeks, how often have you been romantic and tender with each other?

- _____ 1 about once a day
- _____ 2 several times a week
- _____ 3 once or twice a week
- _____ 4 a few times a month
- _____ 5 less often

G30/ 30. During the last 4 weeks, how often did the husband fall asleep on his day off?

- _____ 1 four or more days off
- _____ 2 three days off
- _____ 3 two days off
- _____ 4 one day off

_____ 5 less often

H8/ 31. In the last 4 weeks, did the wife actually tell the husband she didn't love him?

_____ 1 five or more times

_____ 2 three or four times

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 once

_____ 5 none

H9/ 32. In the last 4 weeks, did the husband actually tell the wife he didn't love her?

_____ 1 five or more times

_____ 2 three or four times

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 once

_____ 5 none

H10/ 33. In the last 4 weeks, has either the husband or the wife been angry enough to refuse to sleep with the other one as you usually do?

_____ 1 four or more times

_____ 2 three times

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 once

_____ 5 not at all

G31/ 34. During the last 4 weeks, how often did the husband talk to the wife about what was on his mind, etc.?

- ☐ 1 none
- ☐ 2 talked once or twice about what was on his mind
- ☐ 3 talked several times about what was on his mind
- ☐ 4 talked many times about what was on his mind
- ☐ 5 talked at least every other day about what was on his mind

G32/ 35. During the last 4 weeks, how often did the wife talk to the husband about what was on her mind, etc. ?

- ☐ 1 none
- ☐ 2 talked once or twice about what was on her mind
- ☐ 3 talked several times about what was on her mind
- ☐ 4 talked many times about what was on her mind
- ☐ 5 talked at least every other day about what was on her mind

G33/ 36. During the last 4 weeks, how often did you have an evening out together (such as going to a party, dancing, bowling, sporting event, movie, etc.)?

- ☐ 1 none
- ☐ 2 once
- ☐ 3 twice
- ☐ 4 three times
- ☐ 5 four or more times

G34/ 37. Who actually "takes the lead" in sex relations?

- ☐ 1 wife always
- ☐ 2 wife often or usually

_____ 3 wife and husband about the same

_____ 4 husband often or usually

_____ 5 husband always

H11/ 38. In the last 4 weeks, did the husband openly accuse the wife of being unfaithful or having an affair?

_____ 1 none

_____ 2 once

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 three times

_____ 5 four or more times

H12/ 39. In the last 4 weeks, did the wife openly accuse the husband of being unfaithful or having an affair?

_____ 1 none

_____ 2 once

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 three times

_____ 5 four or more times

H13/ 40. In the last 4 weeks, did the husband threaten to "break up" the marriage?

_____ 1 none

_____ 2 once

_____ 3 twice

_____ 4 three times

_____ 5 four or more times

H14/ 41. In the last 4 weeks, did the wife threaten to "break up" the marriage?

- ☐ 1 none
- ☐ 2 once
- ☐ 3 twice
- ☐ 4 three times
- ☐ 5 four or more times

H15/ 42. In the last 4 weeks, did the husband get angry enough to threaten, or try, or actually hit the wife or throw something at her?

- ☐ 1 none in last 4 weeks
- ☐ 2 once
- ☐ 3 twice
- ☐ 4 three or four times
- ☐ 5 five or more times

H16/ 43. In the last 4 weeks, did the wife get angry enough to threaten, or try, or actually hit the husband or throw something at him?

- ☐ 1 none in last 4 weeks
- ☐ 2 once
- ☐ 3 twice
- ☐ 4 three or four times
- ☐ 5 five or more times

APPENDIX II

Group I: Reconciled

Raw Data by Couple for Affection-Companionship (ACI) and Hostility (HOS) Indices and Selected Factors Related to Marital Status.

Couple	Score		Age		Marriage			Children		No. of Children		Separated		Time
	ACI	HOS	Hus	Wife	Length	H	Age W	Yes	No	Under 10	Over 10	Yes	No	
1	83	32	38	36	17 yrs	21	19	x			2		x	
2	85	34	34	33	13 1/2 yrs	20 1/2	19 1/2	x		2	1		x	
3	83	20	34	35	7 1/2 yrs	26 1/2	27 1/2	x			2	x		3 wk
4	89	25	23	22	4 yrs	19	18	x		1			x	
5	82	25	25	21	1 yr 9 1/2 mo	23	19	x		3			x	
6	128	19	29	25	4 yrs	25	21	x		1			x	
7	41	50	29	30	10 yrs	19	20	x		2			x	
8	93	28	34	?	7 yr 9 mo	26 1/2	?	x		2			x	
9	74	41	44	35	16 yrs	28	19	x			2		x	
10	106	17	29	29	8 1/2 yrs	20 1/2	20 1/2		x				x	
11	128	13	26	22	3 yr 9 mo	22 1/2	18 1/2	x		2			x	
12	92	14	35	34	2 1/2 yrs	32 1/2	31 1/2	x		1	2		x	
13	72	32	28	29	2 yr 4 mo	26	27	x		1			x	
14	79	29	49	45	23 1/2 yrs	25 1/2	21 1/2	x			2	x		4 mo
15			32	35	9 yrs	23	26	x		1	4	x		2 mo
16	76	53	32	30	11 yrs	21	19	x		3			x	
17	85	23	29	39	7 yrs	22	32	x		1	1		x	
18	95	25	35	43	7 yrs 8 mo	27 1/2	35 1/2	x		2		x		6 wks

Appendix II (cont.)

Couple	Score		Age		Marriage			Children		No. of Children		Separated			
	ACI	HOS	Hus	Wife	Length	H	Age	W	Yes	No	Under 10	Over 10	Yes	No	Time
19	95	20	25	27	4 yrs	21		23	x		1			x	
20	119	19	34	40	5 1/2 yrs	28 1/2		34 1/2	x		3			x	
21	83	30	22	23	3 yrs	19		20	x		3			x	
22	66	22	43	43	8 yrs	35		35	x		2			x	
23	103	26	24	23	5 yr 5 mo	18 1/2		17 1/2	x		1			x	
24	84	35	24	20	2 1/2 yrs	21 1/2		17 1/2	x		1		x		1 mo
25	79	27	25	27	4 yr 10 mo	20 1/2		22 1/2	x		1		x		1 wk
26	57	44	26	23	5 1/2 yrs	20 1/2		17 1/2	x		3		x		3 wks
27	96	26	35	30	2 yrs	33		28	x		2	1		x	
28	63	41	44	38	22 yrs	22		16	x		2	3		x	
29	71	13	43	41	23 yrs	21		18	x		1	3		x	
30	94	36	37	33	16 yrs	21		17	x		3	3		x	
31	58	18	38	35	15 yrs	23		20	x		2			x	
32	66	42	28	25	4 yrs	24		21	x		2		x		6 wks

N = 31 scores, but 32 couples

Group II: Refused Reconciliation

1	46	14	48	46	25 yr 10 mo	22 1/2		20 1/2	x			1		x		4 mo
2	108	21	44	30	2 yrs 9 mo	41 1/2		27 1/2		x				x		
3	66	24	49	39	14 yrs	35		25	x		3	1		x		
4	72	25	27	23	7 yrs	20		16	x		2			x		3 wks
5	66	26	37	32	14 yrs 6 mo	22 1/2		17 1/2	x		1	2			x	

Appendix II (cont.)

Couple	Score		Age		Marriage			Children		No. of Children		Separated			
	ACI	HOS	Hus	Wife	Length	H	Age	W	Yes	No	Under 10	Over 10	Yes	No	Time
6	64	20	27	25	7 yrs	20		18	x		2			x	
7	48	22	29	26	5 yrs	24		21	x		4		x		3 wks
8	88	24	39	35	15 yrs	24		20	x		1	2	x		1 yr 4 mo 3 mo
9	75	38	29	28	11 yrs	18		17	x		3		x		
10	59	29	38	34	13 yrs	25		21	x		3	1		x	
11	60	30	24	23	5 yrs	19		18	x		2			x	
12			31	29	10 yrs	21		19	x		2		x		1 1/2 mo
13	49	16	24	21	17 mo	22 1/2		19 1/2	x		1		x		1 mo
14	79	32	31	35	9 yr 2 mo	22		26		x (1 deceased)			x		4 mo
15	64	25	40	38	19 yrs	21		19	x		2	2		x	
16	71	31	43	39	20 yrs	23		19	x		1	4	x		1 mo
17	81	17	35	31	15 yrs	20		16	x			2	x		6 mo
18	93	22	44	38	16 yrs	28		22	x		2	2	x		3 wks
19	52	18	37	26	6 yrs	31		20	x		3		x		1 mo
20	84	25	29	25	6 yr 8 mo	22 1/2		18 1/2	x		2		x		3 wks
21	61	15	45	37	20 yrs	25		17	x			2	x		1 wk
22	115	27	48	42	23 yrs	25		19	x		1	2		x	
23	71	21	30	23	4 yrs	26		19	x		1		x		1 mo
24	68	32	22	18	2 yrs 9 mo	19 1/2		15 1/2	x		2		x		8 mo
25	98	25	22	21	4 yrs	18		17	x		1		x		3 mo
26	63	50	24	22	10 mo	23		21	x		2		x		3 wks

Appendix II (cont.)

Couple	Score		Age		Marriage			Children		No. of Children		Separated			
	ACI	HOS	Hus	Wife	Length	H	Age	Wife	Yes	No	Under 10	Over 10	Yes	No	Time
27	84	39	21	22	3 yrs	18	19	x			1		x		2 mo
28	90	16	26	23	2 yrs	24	21	x			1			x	
29	76	26	23	20	3 yrs	20	17			x			x		6 wks

N = 28 29 scores

Group III: Off Calendar (OC) Petition Dismissed (PD)

1 OC	83	23	23	20	16 mo	22	19			x			x		2 mo
2 OC	66	22	54	45	21 yrs	33	24	x				4	x		3 mo
3 OC	73	19	46	49	18 yrs	28	31	x				2		x	
4 OC	64	27	61	56	31 yrs	30	25	x				2	x		3 wks
5 OC	70	17	32	27	10 yrs	22	17	x			3		x		2 mo
6 OC	73	20	51	36	3 yrs 6 mo	47 1/2	32 1/2	x				3	x		2 1/2 mo
7 OC	88	33	23	22	6 yrs	17	16	x			2		x		1 mo
8 OC	71	23	27	27	5 1/2 yrs	21 1/2	21 1/2	x			1		x		3 1/2 mo
9 OC	70	27	33	31	13 yrs	20	18	x			2			x	
10 OC	69	44	22	18	2 yrs	20	16	x			2		x		3 wks
11 OC	61	30	27	28	7 yrs	20	21	x			3		x		2 mo
12 OC	102	36	38	35	17 yrs	21	18	x			3	1	x		2 mo
13 OC	112	20	36	27	2 1/2 yrs	33 1/2	24 1/2	x			4			x	
14 OC	91	45	28	26	6 yrs	22	20	x			2		x		1 wk
15 OC	52	35	39	29	5 yrs	34	24	x			4		x		6 wks

Appendix II (cont.)

Couple	Score		Age		Marriage			Children		No. of Children		Separated			
	ACI	HOS	Hus	Wife	Length	H	Age	W	Yes	No	Under 10	Over 10	Yes	No	Time
1 PD	75	31	29	29	10 1/2 yrs	18	1/2	18 1/2	x		2		x		1 mo
2 PD	86	36	36	33	3 1/2 yrs	32	1/2	29 1/2	x			2	x		3 wk
3 PD	62	30	39	39	13 yrs	26		26	x		4	2		x	
4 PD	74	33	36	28	9 yrs	27		19	x		2		x		1 mo
5 PD	58	37	24	25	4 1/2 yrs	19	1/2	20 1/2	x		2		x		2 mo
6 PD	52	38	57	49	25 yrs	32		24		x			x		1 mo
7 PD	49	30	18	17	13 mo	17		16	x		1		x		4 wks