

23 June 2003

Dear Law Society Member:

I represent a team of researchers from Nursing at The University of Hong Kong, Social Work at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and The Hong Kong Family Welfare Society. I would like to introduce you to our research project entitled ***New Beginnings*** and invite your participation in it.

***Nature of the Project:*** ***New Beginnings*** is a multidisciplinary, multi-stage project designed to promote the health and well being of parents and children who are experiencing separation and divorce. A major finding of our research to date is that many divorcing families and their service providers lack knowledge of local resources available for them. As a result, we have initiated a survey to identify and document both existing resources and those that still need to be developed. Our intention is to use the findings to create a resource manual for families and service providers, to support seamless service delivery, and to develop additional resources that are needed but not currently provided.

***Participation:*** In order to make this project a success, we need the cooperation of all organizations and individuals whose work brings them into contact with separating and divorcing parents and/or their children. You are being invited to participate in this project because you work brings you into direct contact with families that are experiencing separation and/or divorce. We realize that you, as a Family Law Practitioner, work closely with parents, children and adolescents as they go through this difficult family transition and you may have valuable insights into the problems they face, and resources that could be developed for them. Your participation in the project would involve completing one copy of the attached questionnaire, entitled "***Material and Services for Separating and Divorcing Parents and their Children***" and returning it to me.

Please find attached a copy of our questionnaire. I would appreciate your completing it and returning it to me, by ***Monday, July 7, 2003***. The questionnaire can be returned by post to the address at the bottom of the survey or by return email to [mdignam@hkucc.hku.hk](mailto:mdignam@hkucc.hku.hk) Should you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to contact our research assistant, Ms. Madeleine Dignam by telephone at 2819-2664

Thank you for your valuable assistance.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Sullivan, PhD, RN  
Professor and Principal Investigator