## Divorce is Better for Children Than Unhappy Parents

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It is probably the top reason couples prolong an unhappy, high-conflict marriage: "For the sake of the kids." Based on the surprising results of a Live Sciences study, however, it looks as though that reasoning is not only illogical, but it is damaging to the future of kids and their adult relationships. Basically, the study suggests that parents getting a <u>divorce</u> is less traumatic to children than growing up in a high-conflict household with unhappy parents.

Live Science's study began decades ago, in 1987, and started by surveying couples on their relationships and the conflict within them. Then, researchers surveyed the couples' children several years later in order to get their perspective on the conflict within the home. The final survey took place when those children grew up and had experience with romantic relationships, marriage, etc. Researchers asked them questions about their successes and failures in relationships and compared those answers to the relationships of their parents.

The research concluded that if children grew up in a home wherein parents stayed married but engaged in high-conflict behavior, then their adult relationships resulted in failure more often than those whose parents ended their marriages early on. Yes, <u>divorce</u> is a difficult transition for children to handle, but the study shows that if the divorce is handled responsibly, then the separation affects children's lives more so in the one to two years immediately following.

If parents would only weigh the long-term effects against the short-term, they would likely see that giving kids a better shot at succeeding in their romantic relationships and/or marriages as adults is a more valuable benefit than saving them from a couple of years of emotional distress as children. Kids are strong, and with the support and love of their parents throughout and following the divorce process, they will get through the change and grow into happier, healthier adults.

Resource Fox News: <u>Divorce Not Always Bad for Kids</u>, <u>Study Says</u>

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- <u>Paternity / Establishment</u> and establishing parental rights
- Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements
- Juvenile Rights in juvenile court and health matters involving young people
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