

Studio Legale  
**AVVOCATO GIULIA FACCHINI**  
Diritto della persona, della famiglia e dei minori - Successioni e Trusts in materia di famiglia

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**LA RELATION ENTRE EL ABOGATO DE  
FAMILIA, SUS CLIENTES Y EL  
PSICOLOGO EN LA GESTION DE LA  
CAUSA DE DIVORCIO (Y  
SEPARACION) Y EN LA PERICIA  
PSICOLOGICA**

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**FOREWORD: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
DIVORCE LAWYER AND CLIENT**

With the aim of examining the cooperation between the divorce lawyer and the forensic psychologist within the scope of "*Medicine and family law*", I would like to briefly consider the often complex relationship between those of us who specialise in family law and our clients which, after carrying out extensive research, I find seems to be characterised by similar problems at all latitudes.

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**FOREWORD: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
DIVORCE LAWYER AND CLIENT**

We all know, thanks to our everyday experience, that a good professional interaction with our client helps us do a good job from a legal point of view, while an awkward or difficult interpersonal relationship makes the legal situation much harder to handle.

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We also know that our skills and the experience we mature over the years enable us, almost instinctively, to know how to handle different types of clients, but I'm not aware of any scientific studies or considerations on what really happens in the interaction between ourselves and our clients. On the other hand, it has been observed (Dionisio 1996) that the client's relationship with us is very similar to that between patient and analyst, consisting of the transfer and relative counter-transfer.

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## **FOREWORD: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIVORCE LAWYER AND CLIENT**

If you Google the following sentence:  
*"The relationship between divorce lawyer  
and client"*, repeating the search in  
English, French and Spanish, you won't  
find much information, but enough to  
help with an initial reflection.

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## **THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, A FRENCH APPROACH**

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**THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, A FRENCH APPROACH**

ON "**BLOG DE LA FAMILLE ET DU DIVORCE**" MANAGED BY A FRENCH COLLEAGUE, IT SAYS:

*"Communication avocat/client La relation client/avocat n'est pas toujours facile car, outre le problème de communication inhérent à toute relation humaine, s'ajoutent plusieurs difficultés.*

*Tout d'abord le droit est précis et a son propre langage, parfois difficile à éviter. Tribunal, audience, délibéré, requête, assignation, jurisprudence ... et j'essaie, dans mes consultations de les éviter ou de les expliciter, mais ils sont obligatoires dans les écrits."*

**CLIENTS ARE THEREFORE GIVEN THE FOLLOWING ADVICE:**

*"N'hésitez pas à demander à votre avocat d'expliquer ce que veut dire tel ou tel terme".*

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THE COLLEAGUE CONTINUES:

*"La seconde difficulté tient à la télévision et ses multiples feuilletons judiciaires américains. Chacun ou presque a eut l'occasion de voir un procès américain et son déroulement télévisé ... C'est ainsi que lors d'un entretien, alors que j'expliquais au client le déroulement de l'audience de conciliation de divorce, il m'a demandé pourquoi je ne lui parlais pas du jury ..."*

HENCE THE SUGGESTION

*"Rappelez vous que le système judiciaire est différent dans chaque pays, et demandez à votre avocat de vous expliquer le déroulement de la procédure".*

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**THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, A FRENCH APPROACH****AND AGAIN**

*“Le troisième problème concerne ce que j'appelle “le conseil du meilleur ami”. Quand on est touché par un problème personnel, on en parle souvent à un ou une amie proche. Et là, gare aux conseils mal digérés ou obsolètes. Car cette personne a divorcé il y a dix ans, ou l'un de ses amis a divorcé et elle va donc prodiguer ses conseils, qui sont souvent inadaptés voire parfaitement incongrus car il est du juridique comme du médical, les conseils des professionnels sont irremplaçables.”*

SO THE COLLEAGUE SUGGESTS TO HER READERS

**En cas de souci, allez consulter un spécialiste, votre avocat, il saura vous donner des conseils adaptés à votre situation.**

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**AT THIS POINT HOWEVER, THE REAL PROBLEM EMERGES; INDEED THE COLLEAGUE WRITES:**

*“Mais le plus grand écueil n'est pas technique, il est humain et particulièrement fort en droit de la famille.*

*Lorsqu'un client arrive à mon cabinet avec un problème de droit de la famille, il est nécessairement stressé, perturbé par ce problème qui touche à ses sentiments, à sa famille, à toute sa vie parfois.*

*Il n'est pas possible de parler sereinement de ces choses, elles sont trop proches, trop sensibles”*

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**THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, A FRENCH APPROACH****AND CONTINUES, OBSERVING:**

*“Il vient avec un problème humain auquel je dois trouver une solution juridique. Il arrive fréquemment avec une idée précise, souvent fausse: "mon mari m'a dit", "c'est moi qui ai tout payé donc tout est à moi", "le bail est à mon nom il n'a qu'à partir”*

*... ou un désir absolu pour lequel il souhaite que nous trouvions une solution "je ne veux pas qu'elle quitte la région", "je refuse de divorcer, je n'ai rien à me reprocher", "je refuse toute prestation compensatoire", "je refuse le test ADN", "je veux la moitié de son salaire"..."*

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**THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, A FRENCH APPROACH****IN THE FACE OF THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WORRIES, THE COLLEAGUE WRITES:**

*“Je l'écoute, je fais le point avec lui de la réalité objective de la situation de la famille et je commence alors à lui expliquer ce que la loi prévoit, les alternatives possibles en attirant son attention sur les risques s'il veut maintenir une position difficile.”*

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**AND THIS OFTEN OBTAINS A REACTION WHICH ALL OF US CAN CONFIRM IN THEIR WORKING EXPERIENCE:**

*“Ce que je dis le choque nécessairement, parfois beaucoup, et il a du mal à admettre que ce soit vrai. Qu'il ait le sentiment d'une grande injustice ou au contraire qu'il soit heureusement surpris de ses droits, il va même parfois ne pas "entendre" ce qui lui est dit, même si c'est dit à plusieurs reprises, voire écrit”.*

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**AND AT THIS POINT, THE FRENCH COLLEAGUE, WHO WE ARE USING AS A PARADIGM OF WHAT HAPPENS TO US, IN OUR CAPACITY AS LEGAL PROFESSIONALS AND NOT PSYCHOLOGISTS, TAKES A DEFENSIVE STANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE FACT THAT THE CLIENT DOES NOT WANT (OR IS UNABLE AT THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT IN TIME) TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE IS SAYING AND REDIRECTS THE PROBLEM TO THE ACTUAL FACTS AND THE LEGAL TRACK, WRITING:**

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*“Les relations avocats/clients étant basées sur la confiance, on ne peut systématiquement tout écrire, tout retranscrire de nos conversations téléphoniques, au cabinet, ou même du déroulé de l'audience.*

*Bien sur lorsque je sens qu'un client n'entend pas un point important, j'attire son attention et le lui écris à plusieurs reprises mais cela ne suffit pas toujours. La difficulté tient ici à l'humain et à sa capacité infinie à ne pas entendre ce qui le fait trop souffrir ou va contre ses croyances.*

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**THE LAWYER THEREFORE FINDS HIMSELF IN DIFFICULTY**

When a client refuses to listen to us, pretends not to understand, does his own thing or fails to follow the defensive tactics that we've drawn up together, he places us in serious difficulty, because if we don't decide to resign from the mandate we find ourselves professionally responsible for consequences which we haven't generated ... and the client will tend to offload the responsibility for his bad decisions and the inevitable negative consequences onto us.

We'll look at the help available to us from the psychologist in these cases further ahead.

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## THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, AN AMERICAN APPROACH

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### THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, AN AMERICAN APPROACH

SIMILAR BUT SURPRISINGLY MORE  
PRAGMATIC IS THE APPROACH OF A  
COLLEAGUE FROM NORTH CAROLINA, WHO  
HAS PUBLISHED A PARAGRAPH ON HER  
STUDIO'S WEBSITE ENTITLED:

***"How To Work With Your Divorce Lawyer-  
The Divorce Lawyer - Client Communication:  
Realistic and Unrealistic Expectations"***

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**THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, AN AMERICAN APPROACH**

THE COLLEAGUE, WHO WE TAKE AS PARADIGM OF A PROFESSIONAL APPROACH BEGINS BY SAYING:

*“Now that you have retained a **divorce lawyer** and likely paid her or him a large amount of money – you may have questions: What is your role in your own case? How will you and your lawyer communicate? How will you and your lawyer work together effectively?*

***Too often, the relationship between a divorce client and his or her divorce lawyer becomes a struggle”***

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**THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, AN AMERICAN APPROACH**

***HENCE THE INSTRUCTIONS :***

*“Here are three rules that will help make you and your divorce lawyer avoid unrealistic expectations and develop effective lawyer - client communications as you go through the divorce process together.*

SO LET’S LOOK AT THE RULES FOR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIVORCE LAWYER AND CLIENT:

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**THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, AN AMERICAN APPROACH**

***“Don’t Have Unrealistic Expectations. What are unrealistic expectations?”***

***a) An unrealistic expectation is expecting your lawyer to talk to you every day or several times a day.***

*Unless there is a significant event in progress which requires decisions to be made you do not need to speak to your divorce lawyer every day.*

***Lawyer - client communications should be frequent enough to deal with significant issues and events and upcoming deadlines;”***

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***b) An unrealistic expectation is expecting your lawyer or the lawyer’s staff to talk to you for free. Remember that every phone call you make and every email you send to your lawyer or your lawyer’s paralegal that the lawyer/paralegal reads and answers takes time. You will pay for that time;”***

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- c) *Expecting your lawyer to be nasty or unpleasant toward your spouse or your spouse's lawyer because you are angry with your spouse is an unrealistic expectation. A nasty attitude toward opposing lawyers is not a sign your lawyer is being loyal to you, or is tougher. **A bad attitude by a lawyer is unprofessional and a sign of fear or weakness. It makes your case more difficult to resolve. The more difficult it is to resolve your case the more costly;***"

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- d) *Expecting your divorce lawyer to be available to you day, night, weekends, vacations and holidays is an unrealistic expectation. Your divorce lawyer should be available during regular business hours and at times specifically designated by your lawyer to work with you. Everything that happens is not an emergency. Your divorce lawyer has a life and a family too. If you are afraid of an emergency developing while your divorce lawyer is unavailable, make arrangements with the lawyer beforehand how the emergency will be handled and by whom. Establishing meaningful guidelines with respect to lawyer - client communications will avoid unrealistic expectations and result in an effective partnership between you and your divorce lawyer."*

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**THE DIVORCE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP, AN  
AMERICAN APPROACH****AT THIS POINT THE COLLEAGUE CONCLUDES WITH A  
CARDINAL CONCEPT, THAT OF THE TEAM:**

*"You and your divorce lawyer **should operate as a team**. Your divorce lawyer is an experienced professional and understands the divorce process and what is necessary to obtain the best results possible".*

**SO** "... If your divorce lawyer asks you for information – provide it in a timely manner; if your divorce lawyer tells you to stop self-destructive behavior (such as calling your estranged spouse's new girlfriend or boyfriend, withholding the children or not paying support) – then stop the behavior and don't try to justify it."

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**IN CONCLUSION ON THE FIRST POINT  
RELATING TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
OURSELVES AND OUR CLIENT**

**FROM THE TWO EXAMPLES SHOWN, IT APPEARS  
OBVIOUS THAT THE GREATEST DIFFICULTY LIES  
NOT SO MUCH IN THE LAW, AS IN THE  
PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR  
CLIENT, COMPLICATED BY PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASPECTS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO TRAINING IN  
LAW SCHOOL.**

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**SO ...**

LET'S LOOK AT THE FINDINGS OF SOME ITALIAN RESEARCHERS WHO HAVE EXAMINED THE MATTER (SOCIOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS). WHAT REALLY HAPPENS BETWEEN LAWYER AND CLIENT AND HOW THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND THE AID OF A PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST CAN HELP US SUPPLY THE BEST ASSISTANCE FOR OUR CLIENT.

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## **THE LAWYER AS SEEN BY THE CLIENT**

***“I’m going to see my lawyer!!”*** are the words that mark the awareness that a marriage is in trouble and the decision to make it official, taking the conflict outside the home and making it public.

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**THE LAWYER AS SEEN BY THE CLIENT**

The frequent request for legal advice to tackle the problem of marital conflict cannot however be read as a lack of demand for psychological support and help by the couple: it is necessary to consider the confusion of the couple, due to their delicate emotional situation, their lack of information on the procedures and on alternative solutions to the traditional legal system (Gulotta, Santi, 1988; Cigoli, 1983).

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**THE LAWYER AS SEEN BY THE CLIENT**

When they first contact their lawyer, the couple seem to want to drag him into a situation of the innocent party and the guilty party, of victory and defeat. They would like to hear their lawyer say "leave it to me", appointing him as defender of their reasons and rights, taking a regressive position which also allows them to project onto the lawyer the burden of elaborating their experience (A. Schiatti Tesi Relatore G. Gulotta 2003).

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**THE PROBLEM OF DECODING WHAT THE CLIENT WANTS**

This is a quite common situation, in which the client, in formulating the request for aid and in requesting a “professional” relationship, **actually tries, more or less consciously, to include the lawyer in the conflict-riddled dynamics of the couple.** For example, when the client explains the reasons which have led to the decision to separate, he often tries to get the lawyer to exonerate him from his responsibilities for the failure of the marriage or, on the contrary, to criticize the other party (cf. Ronfani, 1988).

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**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVIEW IS ALSO USEFUL TO LAWYERS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE TRUTH**

Francesca Carpinteri Psychologist, Psychotherapist and Court Technical Expert in Rome in issue no. 10 2010 of «Famiglia e Minori» writes:

When client's tell the lawyer their story, they are often *“emotionally stressed, confused or perplexed”* ... *“What's more, often due their emotional state, in reporting the facts they lack the necessary objectivity and tend to supply their own version of the truth in order to gain the greatest advantage or convey importance to their illations or presuppositions”*

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**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVIEW IS ALSO USEFUL  
TO LAWYERS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE TRUTH**

*“The reason why the client often emphasizes things is because he sees the lawyer as being a figure of authority, possessor of knowledge of which he himself has only a vague idea, capable of translating into legal terms what he senses as discomfort, whether it be an offence endured or a right denied, capable of achieving clarity and objectivity where all there is, is confusion, fear and suffering.”* Francesca Carpinteri Psychologist, Psychotherapist and Court Technical Expert in Rome in issue no. 10 2010 of «Famiglia e Minori» writes:

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**INDEED: THE PROBLEM OF DECODING THE  
DEMAND**

Due to the fact that the situation between the couple has still not been “addressed”, it’s easy for the lawyer, **being credited with skills that go beyond his actual professional tasks**, to become involved in a complex relational game in which the “demand” tends to exceed the “offer” (Cannetta, 1977): indeed, the client almost never asks an isolated legal question, **but focuses on a complex “private” theme which often contain implicit or explicit requests for psychological help.**

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From: Cristina Curtolo psychotherapist and teacher of clinical psychology at Verona university:

***“Sguardi sulla scena della separazione”.***

Lawyers may receive from their clients requests: *“which seem senseless to the observer, because they don’t take into consideration the real needs of the children; in these cases, there could be a desire for self-affirmation and defense of the individual identity which finds no route other than the claim to greater parental power”...*

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From: Cristina Curtolo psychotherapist and teacher of clinical psychology at Verona university:

***“Sguardi sulla scena della separazione”.***

Often people who are separating *“live like a boat on the open sea, their destiny depending on the presence or absence of the skipper/lawyer, whose ability to listen to the wind determines the substantial difference in steering the route or going off course”.*

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From: Cristina Curtolo psychotherapist and teacher of clinical psychology at Verona university:

***“Sguardi sulla scena della separazione”.***

In short, lawyers have to employ current correctors capable of holding back the destructive component, giving space to reconstructive movements aimed particularly at defending the relationships of children, creating and transmitting awareness of the fact that every member of the family has to come to terms with the failure of their life project sooner or later”.

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**LAWYER AWARENESS AND PROFESSIONALISM**

**Cristina Curtolo cited work:** in the task of guiding the client out of the storm “... *the lawyer too comes into contact with a myriad emotions, because when the discussion focuses on relationships and emotional needs, everyone’s innermost feelings are touched, forming a sort of background that our thoughts cannot escape. Potentially, a shady area forms in the crossover between personal and professional ...*” **a crossover of which the lawyer has to be fully aware in order to avoid loading his own emotions on top of those of the client.**

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## THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ROLES AND HANDLING EMOTIONS

CARNAP 1928: the subjectivity of other people can be understood through our own, meaning that we open up to real communication only with our rationality, but also with our emotions.

**However, our emotions have to be a key to reading the emotions of others, while remaining outside the relationship (there must be no emotional exchange).**

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## PROFESSIONALISM AND DISTINCTION OF ROLES

Despite being asked to enter into the intimate lives of people and of couples and their vicissitudes, the lawyer is – and must continue to be – the person with the professional skill, while the client is the person requiring help.

**THIS IS VERY UNEQUAL OR ASYMMETRICAL RELATIONSHIP AND MUST REMAIN SUCH** (it is inappropriate to see a client outside of the work setting, is best to maintain a formal manner of address and wrong to talk about your personal experiences, such as *“it's happened to me too”*). It is appropriate to maintain what psychologists call **the setting** with the lawyer seated physically and metaphorically on one side of the desk or table and the client on the other.

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## **THE DISTINCTION OF THE ROLES FOR THE PURPOSES OF A PROFITABLE INTERACTION**

IN SHORT IT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A DISTANCE THAT ALLOWS THE PROFESSIONAL TO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS, DISCOMFORTS AND PROBLEMS OF THE CLIENT, WITHOUT MIXING THEM UP WITH HIS OWN AND, ABOVE ALL, MAINTAINING A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT TRANSFORMING IT INTO A FRIENDLY OR CONFIDENTIAL ONE.

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## **LAWYER AWARENESS AND PROFESSIONALISM**

IT IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT, EVEN WHEN A CLIENT IS OBVIOUSLY SUFFERING, FOR THE LAWYER NOT TO PLAY AT BEING A PSYCHOLOGIST BUT TO IDENTIFY THE FRAGILITY OF THE CLIENT AND REFER HER FOR PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING IF NECESSARY

(see badly treated or beaten women)

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## INDEED: TO BETTER DRAW UP A DEFENSIVE LINE, IT IS NECESSARY TO

- A) UNDERSTAND THE REAL EMOTIONAL STATE OF THE CLIENT REGARDLESS OF THE FRONT PRESENTED.
- B) DECODE THE REAL NEED, WHICH MIGHT DIFFER FROM THE VERBAL REQUEST.
- C) KNOW THAT, IN ORDER TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE END OF THE MARRIAGE, THERE ARE STEPS TO BE TAKEN AN MINIMUM TIMES IN WHICH TO "ELABORATE" AND UNDERSTAND THE STAGE THAT THE CLIENT IS AT.

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## WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE EMOTIONAL DIVORCE ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF Kressel (1971) HAS 4 STAGES

- **Denial**, failure to accept that the marriage is over;
- **Depression** and lack of self-confidence;
- **Reaction**, bitter feelings towards the ex;
- **Re-adaptation**, a gradual return to a psychological balance.

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**WHICH ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO THE FOLLOWING PHASES**

- **Disappointment:** the partners sense a big difference between their expectations and the reality of married life;
- **Erosion:** unexpressed feelings of disappointment increase dissatisfaction until they are brought out into the open or expressed through non-verbal behavior;
- **Detachment:** all emotional investment in the marital sphere is withdrawn and the relationship becomes increasingly stifling;
- **Physical separation:** this is the most traumatic phase, usually corresponding to the legal separation; from this moment onwards, it is necessary to help people reach a “psychic” and “constructive divorce”;

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**Continued ...**

- **Mourning:** feelings of loss and regret emerge;
- **Second adolescence:** this is the rebalance phase, in which different styles are tried out, but in which inadequate behaviors may emerge due to the delay in self-reintegration;
- **Hard work:** a “new identity” is experimented, with the responsible taking of decisions relating to the future.

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## **EMOTIONAL DIVORCE**

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT, WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS, AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN, MARITAL HOME OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STANDING OF BOTH MEMBERS OF THE COUPLE, THE LEGAL STRATEGY TO BE PURSUED WILL BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE CLIENT'S PSYCHIC PHASE.

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**HOW COOPERATION WITH A  
PSYCHOLOGIST CAN HELP  
THE CLIENT AND WE AS  
LAWYERS TO BETTER  
HANDLE THE SEPARATION  
AND DIVORCE PROCEDURE**

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## **HOW TO PROPOSE THE SUPPORT AND HELP OF A PSYCHOLOGIST TO THE CLIENT**

- IF THE CLIENT ADMITS TO SUFFERING, IT WILL BE EASIER TO PROPOSE PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP FROM AN EXPERT IN MARITAL DISPUTES AND LEGAL DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS
- IF THE CLIENT HAS NO PERSONAL PROBLEMS BUT ONLY RELATIONAL ONES, OR IS UNABLE TO ADMIT TO HAVING DIFFICULTIES, PROFESSIONAL HELP CAN BE UNDERTAKEN INITIALLY DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN.

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## **ADVANTAGES OF WORKING WITH A PSYCHOLOGIST**

**FIRSTLY**, HERE IN ITALY, THEY SAY “FOUR EYES SEE BETTER THAN TWO”.

**SECONDLY**, THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FACTS AS TOLD BY THE CLIENT WILL BE CONSIDERED TWICE, WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF A BETTER RECONSTRUCTION OF THE OBJECTIVE SITUATION, REGARDLESS OF THE BIASED – ALBEIT UNWITTINGLY SO – NARRATIONS OF THE CLIENT.

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**ADVANTAGES OF WORKING WITH A  
PSYCHOLOGIST**

**THIRDLY** IN TWO IT ISN'T SO EASY TO COLLUDE WITH THE CLIENT/PATIENT, REDUCING THE RISK OF ACQUIRING IN AN UNCRITICAL MANNER (ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF A VERY MANIPULATIVE PERSON) EVERYTHING THE CLIENT DECLARES, AND BECOMING EMPATHICALLY AND EMOTIONAL INVOLVED, PREVENTING THAT SUSPENSION OF JUDGMENT AND THAT DISTANCE THAT ALLOW IDENTIFICATION IN THE DISCUSSION OF HIDDEN DEPTHS AND ASPECTS, FORMS AND NUANCES MAKING AN INCORRECT CHOICE OF OPERATING STRATEGIES POSSIBLE".

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**ADVANTAGES OF WORKING WITH A  
PSYCHOLOGIST**

**FOURTHLY**, THE PSYCHOLOGIST CAN TELL US HOW FAR OUR CLIENT IS REALLY PREPARED TO SUSTAIN A CERTAIN STRATEGY, TO STAND UP TO THE SPOUSE AND THE JUDGE IN COURT, OFFERING SUPPORT IF NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE MOST STRESSFUL AND DIFFICULT MOMENTS OF THE LEGAL PROCEDURE.

**LASTLY** THE PSYCHOLOGIST CAN HELP OUR CLIENT TO DEVELOP ATTITUDES WHICH FAVOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NEW RELATIONAL SITUATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

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## **THE LAWYER/PSYCHOLOGIST COLLABORATION IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION PHASE**

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### **COLLABORATION WITH THE PSYCHOLOGIST IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION PHASE**

IF THE JUDGE APPOINTS AN EXPERT – PSYCHOLOGIST OR PSYCHIATRIST FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PARENTAL CAPACITIES OF TWO PARENTS ARGUING OVER THE CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILDREN, THE LAWYERS WILL APPOINT THEIR OWN EXPERTS.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IF THE WORK BETWEEN THE CLIENT/PATIENT, PSYCHOLOGIST AND LAWYER HAS ALREADY BEGUN BEFORE THE SURVEY IS ORDERED, THIS PHASE WILL BE EASIER TO HANDLE, BECAUSE THE THREE PEOPLE INVOLVED WILL ALREADY HAVE LEARNED HOW TO RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

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**COLLABORATION WITH THE PSYCHOLOGIST  
IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION PHASE**

THE PSYCHOLOGIST WHO HAS KNOWN THE CLIENT WELL – AND FOR SOME TIME – CAN HIGHLIGHT THEIR QUALITIES AND MITIGATE THEIR FRAGILITIES AND CAN ALSO, KNOWING THE SPOUSE AND SEEING THE REPORT ON THE MEETINGS WITH THE CHILDREN, (WHICH IN ITALY ARE ONLY HEARD BY THE OFFICIAL EXPERT), SUGGEST TO THE CLIENT AND THE CLIENT'S LAWYER THE BEST QUESTIONS TO ASK THE EXPERT AND THEN THE JUDGE UPON CONCLUSION OF THE SURVEY.

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**COLLABORATION WITH THE PSYCHOLOGIST IN  
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION PHASE**

IN ADDITION TO THIS, BEING ABLE TO MEET THE SPOUSE, THE PSYCHOLOGIST CAN SUGGEST TO THE CLIENT/PATIENT THE BEST WAY TO MANAGE THE PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT EVERY MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PARENTS BECOMING A BATTLE, ALSO SUGGESTING TO THE CLIENT/PATIENT WHICH CHARACTER FAULTS OR SHORTCOMINGS IN COMMUNICATION TO CORRECT SO THAT THE PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP BECOMES MORE CIVIL AND CALM, AND POSSIBLY COLLABORATIVE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN.

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**THE CHINESE IDEOGRAM OF THE WORD "CIRSIS"  
CAN HELP US IN OUR WORK TO HELP AND SUSTAIN  
OUR CLIENTS**

**It is no mere coincidence  
that it is made up of two  
ideograms which represent:**

- DANGER
- OPPORTUNITY



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**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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