

**Social Studies**  
**It's the Law**  
**Unit 4: Family Law**

<b>Essential Understandings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Laws and government have an effect on individuals and families throughout their lives. Although much of family life is private, it is also influenced by laws and government.</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is family law?</li> <li>▪ What are laws that deal with marriage?</li> <li>▪ What are the responsibilities between parents and children?</li> <li>▪ How do foster care and adoption work?</li> <li>▪ What laws are involved when parents go through separation, divorce or custody disputes?</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The law is involved every time a birth, death, marriage or divorce take place.</li> <li>▪ There are certain steps that people must follow to get legally married.</li> <li>▪ Parents have a legal obligation to care for, support, and control their children—when parents are unable or unwilling to fulfill their responsibilities, the law becomes involved.</li> <li>▪ Foster care and adoption are used to ensure that children have safe and healthy homes.</li> <li>▪ Changes to a marriage, including separation and divorce, involve the law.</li> </ul>
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Terms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ divorce, paternity, separation, bigamy, alimony, palimony, annulment, inheritance, cohabitation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Essential Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Define important vocabulary.</li> <li>▪ Describe the importance of family law.</li> <li>▪ Describe the steps to take to get legally married.</li> <li>▪ Identify parental responsibilities.</li> <li>▪ Explain the use of foster care and adoption procedures.</li> <li>▪ Identify how divorce and separation involved the law.</li> </ul>
<b>Related Maine Learning Results</b>	<p><u>Social Studies</u></p> <p>A. Applications of Social Studies Processes, Knowledge, and Skills</p> <p>A1. Researching and Developing Positions on Current Social Studies Issues</p> <p>Students research, develop, present, and defend positions on current social studies issues by developing and modifying research questions, and locating, selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing information from multiple and varied sources.</p> <p>c. Make judgments about conflicting findings from different sources, incorporating those from sources that are valid and refuting others.</p> <p>g. Develop a clear well-supported position.</p>

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<b>Related Maine Learning Results</b>	<p>B. Civics and Government</p> <p>B1. Knowledge, Concepts, Themes, and Patterns of Civics/Government</p> <p>Students understand the ideals, purposes, principles, structures, and processes of constitutional government in the United States and in the American political system, as well as examples of other forms of government and political systems in the world.</p> <p>a. Explain that the study of government includes structures, functions, institutions, and forms of government to citizens in the United States and in other regions of the world.</p> <p>b. Evaluate current issues by applying democratic ideals and constitutional principles of government in the United States, including checks and balances, federalism, and consent of the governed as put forth in founding documents.</p> <p>d. Describe the purpose, structures, and processes of the American political system.</p> <p>B2. Rights, Duties, Responsibilities, and Citizen Participation in Government</p> <p>Students understand the constitutional and legal rights, the civic duties and responsibilities, and roles of citizens in a constitutional democracy and the role of citizens living under other forms of government in the world.</p> <p>a. Explain the relationship between constitutional and legal rights, and civic duties and responsibilities in a constitutional democracy.</p> <p>c. Analyze the constitutional principles and the roles of the citizen and the government in major laws or cases.</p> <p>e. Evaluate how people influence government and work for the common good including voting, writing to legislators, performing community service, and engaging in civil disobedience.</p>
<b>Sample Lessons And Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual case studies</li> <li>▪ Marriage and divorce law research</li> <li>▪ Child abuse statistics chart</li> <li>▪ State program investigation</li> </ul>
<b>Sample Classroom Assessment Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quizzes over each section: Marriage Quiz</li> <li>▪ Cumulative Unit Exam: Family Law</li> <li>▪ Discussion, Lecture, Video, Reading, Group Projects</li> </ul>
<b>Sample Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Publications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Street Law: A Course in Practical Law</u> - Glencoe</li> <li>○ <u>Family Court</u> – Mark Harris</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <u>Videos:</u></li> </ul>

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	○ YouTube: "Family Law"
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