

2315- LAW AND POLITICS OF THE FAMILY- ESSAY OPTION-2014

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Prepare a 5-10 page, typewritten, double-spaced essay, using 12 point font, on one of the following topics:

(1) Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in family law cases may be made mandatory as part of the court process. Write about the history of ADR in Canada, or Ontario. Review the advantages and disadvantages of ADR in family law. Offer your opinion on whether it should be made mandatory.

(2) The Government of Canada and the provincial governments have introduced child support guidelines as part of the law. Should spousal support guidelines be made mandatory as well? In your essay, review the history of child and spousal support law to provide the necessary historical context.

(3) “There are far too many children in the care of child protection agencies. More damage is done to children in the care of those agencies than if they are left in the care of their parents, with all of their shortcomings.” Discuss this idea and whether you agree or disagree. How culturally sensitive should we be in relation to the care of children or does the protection of children override all other concerns?

(4) “The reason why we have such a high divorce rate is that divorce is too easy to obtain.” Review the history of divorce law in Canada. Discuss why the divorce rate continues to rise and if you agree or disagree with the general proposition about the link between divorce law and the divorce rate.

Your essay should include citations and a complete bibliography. It is worth 30% of your final mark and is due no later than February 25, 2014. The essay is optional but will count toward your final grade once it is handed in. To obtain a good mark, you must not use merely internet sources- journal articles or texts are the legitimate research sources that must be utilized.