

***YOUR DUTY TO TOMORROW***

***WITH GOD'S GRACE***

Look back and help for humanity's sake.  
Measure your charity by the acts of others toward you while you were climbing.  
Forget not the past with all its good and ill reports.  
Contemplate your future by the experiences you have had. Marcus Garvey



# Fathers With Futures

**"The righting is on the wall"**



Children Act 1989



every **child** matters

Parenting  
Contracts

## Victoria Climbié

### Murder of Victoria Climbié

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

In 2000 in London, England, an eight-year-old Ivorian girl **Victoria Adjo Climbié** (2 November 1991 – 25 February 2000) was tortured and murdered by her guardians. Her death led to a public inquiry and produced major changes in child protection policies in England.

After Climbié's death, the parties involved in her case were widely criticised. A public inquiry, headed by Lord Laming, was ordered.



Climbié's death was largely responsible for the formation of the Every Child Matters initiative; the introduction of the Children Act 2004; the creation of the ContactPoint project, a government database designed to hold information on all children in England; and the creation of the Office of the Children's Commissioner chaired by the Children's Commissioner for England.

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## **Mission statement**

### Strategy

- ✓ We promote public awareness about Fathers rights to BME and community members

### Outcome

- ✓ Fathers/parents increase their knowledge about fatherhood
- ✓ Fathers/Parents choose parenting contracts/agreements that implement both parental roles in the child life
- ✓ Children have fathers in there life

### Goal

Children are healthy and safe

For more information: [www.lambethscb.org.uk/Parents\\_Section\\_Introduction](http://www.lambethscb.org.uk/Parents_Section_Introduction)  
[www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=catch22-online-safeguarding-test](http://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=catch22-online-safeguarding-test)



every **child** matters

**Every**

**child matters**

**SHEEP**

Every child shall be: SHEEP - Safe, Healthy, Enjoy/Achieve, Economic, and Positive contribution

**Every Child Matters (ECM) is a UK government initiative for England and Wales that was launched in 2003, at least partly, in response to the death of Victoria Climbié.**

It is one of the most important policy initiatives and development programmes in relation to children and children's services of the last decade, and has been described as a "sea change" to the children and families agenda.<sup>[1]</sup>

Being healthy	Physically healthy. Mentally and emotionally healthy. Healthy lifestyles.
Staying Safe	Safe from accidental injury and death. Safe from bullying and discrimination.
Enjoying and Achieving	Ready for school. Attend and enjoy school. Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school.
Making a positive contribution	Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate. Develop self confidence & successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges.

Its main aims are for every child, whatever there background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

For more information: [www.everychildmatters.co.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.co.uk)

## Overview

The Children Act 2004 made amendments to the Children Act 1989, largely in response to the Victoria Climbié inquiry. The Act sought to emphasize the importance of inter-agency work and cooperation in meeting the needs of children and to ensure that children's views are ascertained and represented, improve outcomes for all children, as well of those defined as "in need" under the Children Act 1989, by focusing services more effectively around the needs of children, young people and families.

## Summary of main provisions

The main provisions of the Act that remain in place are summarised below:

**The establishment of a Children's Commissioner**, The Commissioner's role is to promote awareness of the views and interests of children and to report annually to Parliament, through the Secretary of State, on his/her findings. Supporting better integrated planning, commissioning, and delivery of children's services and providing for clear accountability.

## Main implications of the Act for child protection work

The main implications for child protection work are the requirement for inter-agency cooperation and coordination in safeguarding children the importance of seeking the views of children and young people and ensuring these are recorded and reflected throughout the child protection process. Child protection work and the local procedures for this are now under the governance of the LCSB (see Section 3.2.2 Governance to deliver safeguarding).

## Notes

- ✓ Social policy in the noughties: 10 years of change and controversy, *The Guardian*
- ✓ Barker, Richard (ed) (2009) "Making Sense of Every Child Matters -- Multi-professional practice guidance" Policy Press
- ✓ Every Child Matter and the Coalition Government

## Further reading

- ✓ Barker, Richard (editor) - 2009 - "Making Sense of Every Child Matters - Multi - Professional Practice Guidance" Policy Press –
- ✓ [www.everychildmattersbook.co.uk](http://www.everychildmattersbook.co.uk)

Every Child Matters now under Department of Education the Department for Children, Schools and Families website is now decommissioned  
Every Child Matters Archived Website

For more information: [www.everychildmatters.co.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.co.uk)



## **Children Act 1989**

# **The Children Act 1989**

### **Principles and Concepts**

1.1 Under the Children Act 1989, Local Authorities, have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need. (Sec. 17 Children Act 1989)

1.2 Local Authorities must assess a child's needs and promote the upbringing of children by their own families if safe to do so.

1.3 Local Authorities should work in partnership with parents. While the Local Authority will seek a Court order when compulsory action is in the best interest of the child, the first option must be to work with the parents by voluntary arrangement unless to do so would clearly be placing the child at risk of significant harm.

1.4 The Court will only make an order if it is better for the child than making no order. Consideration of the welfare checklist assists the Court in making this decision.

1.5 In all cases when the Court determines any question with respect to the child's upbringing, the child's welfare shall be the paramount consideration.

1.6 The Children Act introduces the principle that delay in Court proceedings is harmful to the child. The Court has the power to draw up a timetable and give directions as to the conduct of the case and will invariably exercise this power. There is however a general principal that there will be some occasions where delay is beneficial.

### **Definitions**

#### **Child**

2.1 Child means any person under the age of 18 years (16 years if married).

For more info: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Children\\_Act\\_2004](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Children_Act_2004)

# Parental responsibility



## Parental Responsibility

2.1 Parental responsibility is defined as, 'All the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which a parent has in relation to the child and the child's property.'

2.2 Birth mothers (and fathers married to the birth mother) automatically have parental responsibility.

2.3 The natural father who is not married to the birth mother can acquire parental responsibility by means of a formal agreement with the mother or on application to Court for an order granting parental responsibility or on the grant of a Residence Order. Parental responsibility in these circumstances can be terminated by Court Order.

2.4 Parental responsibility may be acquired by other adults in the child's life through a Court Order but will cease when the Order ends or is terminated.

2.5 Parents with parental responsibility can appoint a Guardian to have parental responsibility upon death of the parent.

2.6 The Local Authority will acquire parental responsibility upon the granting of a Care Order. Limited responsibility is given with an Emergency Protection Order.

2.7 Under Adoption Orders, parental responsibility lies solely with the adopters.

**For more info:** [www.fnf.org.uk/law-and-information/parental-responsibility](http://www.fnf.org.uk/law-and-information/parental-responsibility)

*Sunday 02 June 2013*

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*The*

## The Queen's Speech: More rights for divorced fathers

### Extracts:

Fathers look set to be given additional rights to see their children after family break-up or divorce, as long as it is in the child's best interests, under reforms set out in the Queen's Speech.

Last year's family justice review warned against introducing a legal presumption of shared parenting, warning it could create an "unacceptable risk of damage to children".

But today's speech announced a consultation on legal options to strengthen the law in England and Wales to ensure that, "where it is safe and in the child's best interests", both parents are able to have a relationship with their sons and daughters after they split up.

Prime Minister David Cameron and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said the Bill would "put families front and centre of our national life, with unprecedented support for parents and the biggest reform for 30 years of support for children with special needs or disabilities".

Children's minister Tim Loughton said ministers want to "clarify and restore public confidence that the courts properly recognise the joint nature of parenting".

"Children's interests always must come first and we can't afford to lose any time in finding them permanent, stable homes, if adoption is the right course for them. Our plans will reduce the time children are living in uncertainty about their future and give them the loving home which most of us take for granted."

"It will also mean that we make it a statutory prerequisite for separating couples to consider family mediation before starting court proceedings over child arrangement disputes. Family mediation can be quicker, cheaper and Provide better outcomes for all concerned."

**Full story:** <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-queens-speech-more-rights-for-divorced-fathers-7728268.html>

## FATHERS RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

*You already know that it takes a lot to be a good parent, but there are many ways in which you can be a good father in particular.*

1. Have fun. Fatherhood is a very big responsibility but it is also a lot of fun. Show your kids that you enjoy being their father.
2. Spend time with and take responsibility for your children. Some fathers miss opportunities to spend time with their kids because they have competing responsibilities or interests. However, once the opportunity has passed, it's gone and you can't get it back. If you don't establish an intimacy with your children when they're young, it'll be difficult to catch up when they're older and still need your help and support.
3. Be a teacher by both word and example. Children need to be taught right from wrong and will need to see it demonstrated by their father. Make decisions in front of them and explain to them why you came to that resolution. Talk to them about choices you made in the past and why they did (or didn't) work out. Evaluate all of your own decisions by thinking: "What would I want my child to do in this situation?" Teach your children that it is okay to make mistakes. Everyone makes them. You do and they will too. The important thing is to learn from your mistakes and try to avoid making the same mistakes over and over again.
4. Show affection. Some men may be uncomfortable with offering their children affection and communicating their love. Being affectionate with your child shows them that you love them. It also teaches them to show affection to others.
5. Respect your children's mother. Mutual respect between a child's parents is important whether or not the parents are married to one another. Children will mimic their parents' behavior. How you treat your child's mother will influence the way in which the child will view his or her own role when they become parents. Do not be afraid to stand up for your own views as a parent. They are equally as important and valuable as those of the child's mother who may or may not spend more time with the child. Make parenting a partnership, be on the same page about how to discipline and reward your child and be consistent.

**The following is taken from the National Fatherhood Initiative website:**

24 million children (34%) live absent their biological father.

Nearly 20 million children (27%) live in single-parent homes.

1.35 million births (33% of all births) in 2000 occurred out of wedlock.

6. Don't place unreasonable expectations on your children. A child's life can be filled with pressures, from siblings to kids at school to teachers to coaches. Help your child understand their desires and assess their capabilities and limitations. Help them set achievable goals. Encourage them to meet their full potential but avoid living vicariously through them by expecting them to achieve what you had achieved or hoped to have achieved.
7. Don't place unreasonable expectations on yourself. You are an important person in your child's development but many other people and things will influence their development and growth. Just as you can't take credit for all of your child's strengths you also shouldn't shoulder the blame for their weaknesses.
8. Realize that a father's job is never done. Do not assume that once your children turn 21, or they have a college degree, that your work raising them is done. Although it is important to encourage your children to become financially and emotionally independent, it is also important to let them know that you care and are always there for them and that they are valued.

The Fatherhood Institute, which is part funded by the Department of Education, wants changes to the law over court orders issued to parents of unruly children. Mr Williams, a former deputy children's commissioner, said 80 per cent of the orders go to mothers because the child lives with them and not the father. He added: 'If you change the law, the dad is going to have to respond.'

*Social ills:* About one million children have little or no contact with their father. Picture posed by models

Currently, a mother must register her name on a birth certificate, at a GP surgery and with a school. (Fathers are not required to register)

The proposals would exclude one in six violent fathers who should be kept away from their children and help fathers who are prevented from seeing the children by the mothers.

Ian Duncan Smith, the Work and pensions secretary is backing a proposal from labour MP graham Allen for a nationwide parenting programme which has been successful in America.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2036025/Absent-fathers-legally-responsible-children-age-18.html#ixzz2V9CQrHXw>



## What is the Welfare Checklist?

Sometimes the court has the unfortunate task of deciding the best interests for a child. Before they decide if they should make an order and what that order will be; the Family Court Reporter must prepare a report considering a variety of factors surrounding the child's interests.

This report called the "Welfare Report" prepared by the CAFCASS (Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) officer; must include information from seven key elements of a checklist. This list is known as the "Welfare Checklist".

The welfare of the child is of utmost importance to the court; any questions the court has surrounding a child and their upbringing must adhere to the Welfare Checklist which is found in section one (1) of The Children Act, 1989. Along with this checklist, the Family Court Reporter will request information from family associates, interview family members and watch interaction between the child and family members.

*The following is taken from the National Fatherhood Initiative website:*

1. 43% of first marriages dissolve within fifteen years; about 60% of divorcing couples have children; and approximately one million children each year experience the divorce of their parents.
2. Over 3.3 million children live with an unmarried parent and the parent's cohabiting partner. The number of cohabiting couples with children has nearly doubled since 1990, from 891,000 to 1.7 million today.

For more information: [www.cafgass.gov.uk](http://www.cafgass.gov.uk)



## **Welfare Checklist**

The wording of the Welfare Checklist is as follows:

1. The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child concerned (considered in light of his age and understanding);
2. His/her physical, emotional and/or educational needs;
3. The likely effect on him of any change in his/her circumstances;
4. His/her age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/her, which the court considers relevant;
5. Any harm which he/she has suffered or is at risk of suffering.
6. How capable each of his/her parents and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his needs;
7. The range of powers available to the court (under the Children Act of 1989) in the proceedings in question.

*The following is taken from the National Fatherhood Initiative website:*

1. Children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioural problems, to be victims of child abuse, and to engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married, biological (or adoptive) parent

For more information: [www.cafgass.gov.uk](http://www.cafgass.gov.uk)

**Let's look at an example of each point for a clearer understanding.**

1. A required question must be asked of the child; "what do you want to do?"  
Given the option it is only sensible that the court ask for the child's opinions where possible. The delicate situation for the court is whether or not the child is old enough to understand the very serious nature of the court's questions.
2. Perhaps a child has special physical needs such as wheelchair access or particular physiotherapy for example; the court must take these into consideration when rendering a decision. Questions like "Is the child presently in the better school environment?" need to be asked when the court is considering moving the child to a different location.
3. While change of any environment will have an effect on a child, the court must determine what the impact will be and if it is positive or detrimental to the current situation.
4. This rather broad point raises a key issue; the current state of a child's development. An extreme example is this; a child is removed from a negative situation involving gambling. Given the background of the family and child's history, any possible changes to the child's environment should be void of any gambling aspect. While the new environment may be positive overall, the child's background could in fact create a worse situation.
5. Basically if the child has suffered, will the court's decision help relive some of that trauma?
6. Can the person with the PR (Parental Responsibility) meet the challenge for the care of the child?
7. What does the court have the power to do at the time of the proceedings?

The welfare checklist is a vital component for the court when deciding on issuing an order affecting a child's welfare. The checklist criteria are somewhat vague; however this probably makes for a broader interpretation for the court when coming to a decision.

For more information: [www.cafgass.gov.uk](http://www.cafgass.gov.uk)



## CAFCASS

CAFCASS is the organisation responsible for advising family courts on what it considers to be in the best interests of individual children involved in family proceedings. Set up in April 2001, CAFCASS is a non-departmental public body and is independent of all other agencies, including the courts.

The role of CAFCASS is to safeguard and promote the well being of children and to give advice to the court in both private and public law cases and provide support and information for families. CAFCASS only get involved in family proceedings when a judge asks them to report on a particular issue - CAFCASS are the eyes and ears of the court.

The CAFCASS report must include each of the factors in the Welfare Checklist. On completion, the welfare report is made available to all parties involved. At the following hearing or if matters still remain disputed, at a contested/full hearing, the courts will make a decision based on the evidence and the recommendations made by the CAFCASS officer in the welfare report.

Courts will have more flexible powers to resolve conflicts between parents in contact cases as a result of the implementation of the remaining provisions of Part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006.

The government is committed to the principle, that the well being and interests of the child are of paramount importance. It is known that prolonged disputes over contact are damaging to children. The new powers will therefore allow the courts to deal with more flexibly with cases where parents cannot reach agreement or fail to comply with a contact order.

For more information: [www.cafcass.gov.uk](http://www.cafcass.gov.uk)



## NON VIOLENT COMMUNICATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

### The Basics of Nonviolent Communication (NVC)

Most of us have been educated from birth to compete, judge, demand and diagnose, to think and communicate in terms of what is “right” and “wrong” with people.

We express our feelings in terms of what another person have “done to us.” We struggle to understand what we want or need in the moment, and how to effectively ask for what we want without using unhealthy demands, threats or coercion. As founder of Nonviolent Communication (NVC), **Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D.** says,

*“What others do may be a stimulus of our feelings, but not the cause.”*

**- Marshall B. Rosenberg, Ph.D.,  
Non violent Communication: A Language of Life**

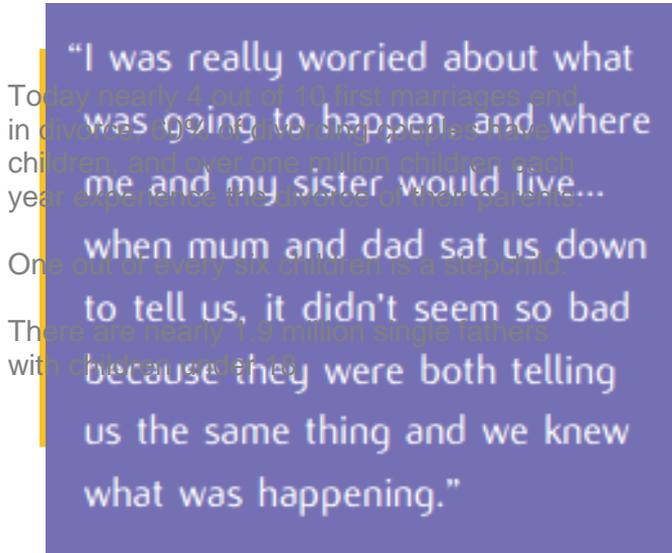
At best, thinking and communicating this way can create misunderstanding and frustration, or simply keep us from getting what we want. It can also keep us from the fulfilling relationships we deserve. And still worse, it can lead to anger, depression and even emotional or physical violence.

Since developing the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) process in the 1960’s, **Marshall Rosenberg’s** vision has been to teach people of any age, gender, ethnicity or background a much more effective alternative. At present, hundreds of certified NVC trainers and supporters are teaching NVC skills to people from all walks of life around the globe.

As you learn how to apply NVC, you’ll start to resolve conflicts with more ease, learn to ask for what you want without using demands, begin to hear the true needs of others with less effort, strengthen your personal and professional relationships, and **start living your full potential.**

For more information: [www.cnvo.org](http://www.cnvo.org)

## YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS



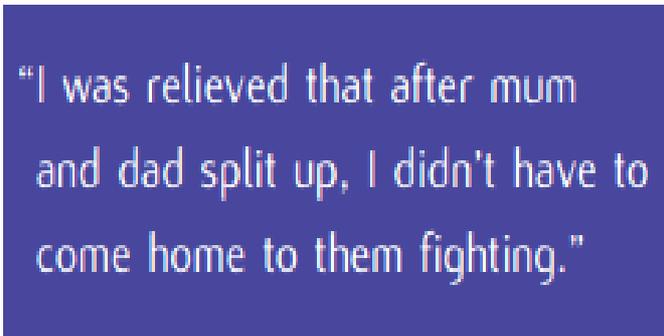
Today nearly 4 out of 10 first marriages end in divorce. 90% of divorcing couples have children, and over one million children each year experience the divorce of their parents.

One out of every six children is a stepchild.

There are nearly 1.9 million single fathers with children under 18.

An estimated 24.7 million children (36.3%) live absent from their biological father.

There are almost 17 million children (25%) living with their single mums



About 40% of the children who live in fatherless households haven't seen their fathers in at least a year while 50% of children who don't live with their fathers have never stepped foot in their father's home.

## PARENTING PLAN

The **parenting plan** is a formal working agreement document that has one simple aim - Find the best possible solutions for children involved in marriage and relationship breakdowns.

The **parenting plan** document covers every possible detail, and requests specific information to ensure every aspect of your children's future is discussed and taken good care of.

"It's amazing, one simple document - and the hassle and fighting suddenly stops - wish someone had pointed me in the direction of this website ages ago. My ex finally now is working with me, helping me to see my lad - thank you!"

**Pete, Hampshire**

The plan is there for both mothers and fathers equally - and works with both parents best interests at heart.

The plan has sections, each with sub sections to complete with your own specific details.

The 10 sections you will work through are:

- 1) **About the Child**
- 2) **Living Arrangements**
- 3) **Staying Contact (Overnight stays)**
- 4) **Religious & Cultural Upbringing**
- 5) **School Life**
- 6) **Holidays**
- 7) **Health**
- 8) **Other Arrangements**

The **parenting plan** is available in **Microsoft Word format** and is really easy to complete, we've even included tips and hints to assist you in completing the sections.

"Since we've had a parenting plan in place the tension is finally over and done with"

**Karen, Middlesex**

"Introducing a parenting plan has been the best thing we've done for our kids"

**Andy, Glasgow**

For more information: [www.parentingplan.co.uk](http://www.parentingplan.co.uk)  
[www.laceysmediation.co.uk/UserFiles/File/parenting\\_plan.pdf](http://www.laceysmediation.co.uk/UserFiles/File/parenting_plan.pdf)



## TO THE FUTURE FATHERS

### Fathers with Futures Theory of Change

- ✓ Regulatory agencies establish criteria for Parenting Contracts and encourage compliance
- ✓ Parenting providers offer age appropriate developmental activities offered by Parenting
- ✓ Parents value quality Parenting and know how to access it
- ✓ Parenting providers offer healthy and safe Parenting environments
- ✓ Parents have better skills to implement infants and toddlers' social, emotional, cognitive and physical health
- ✓ Parenting providers (centres/homes) see themselves as resource for child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical health
- ✓ Infants and Toddlers Grow Up Healthy and Safe
- ✓ Health and Parenting system collaborate with each other
- ✓ Parenting providers staff that promote the child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical health
- ✓ Community understands Parenting as an important public good
- ✓ Policymakers understand Parenting as an important public good
- ✓ School readiness efforts understand the importance of social, emotional and physical health and safety in Parenting settings
- ✓ Institutionalized systems and resources are available to train, provide technical assistance and information and referrals to providers of Parenting services
- ✓ Parenting centres and homes dedicate resources that are needed to support child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical health

Children who live absent from their biological fathers, on average, are more likely to be poor, experience educational, health, emotional and psychological problems, be victims of child abuse, and engage in criminal behaviour than their peers who live with their married, biological mother and father.

[www.familyminute.com](http://www.familyminute.com)

The following facts highlight the ways in which some of these challenges lead to various experiences of inequality - from educational disadvantage to unemployment - and the impact this can have on boys and young men in particular.

1. Children in the UK are more likely to go to their mothers for help with a problem with only 1 in 10 approaching their fathers

Fathers are important to society and that is why the Passage to Transitional Exploration has put together this information pack highlighting areas that would help not to just being a better father, but a better parent.

Everyone has different experiences of being a parent, whether positive or negative we occasionally take in our own adult lives these experiences which can affect our relationships and also the way we model our own parenting behaviour.

Some of you may have had absent or non-responsive fathers or flitted in and out of their lives with no positive impact. As sad as that may be, these experiences do not have to be repeated. You can change your child's future but knowing your rights, ensuring positive communication between you and their mother, and by keeping your children happy and safe.

This is not rocket science! The main ingredient to this manual is an ability to forget about what society says fathers are and become what father's should be.



components are important in any child's life.

We are realistic at the Passage to Transitional Exploration and know that information tends to be more readily available to mothers through

midwives, health visitors and then in latter years from schools.

We wanted to change that; fathers need to be more actively involved in meeting with these professionals and being an essential figure in your child's experiences.

There is no excuse for not being a part of your child's life. This should be father's biggest priority and although it will be a challenge, it will be rewarded in the long-term results.

The rest of this pack holds information to ensure that you are able and knowledgeable. A child relies on you as a parent and the choices you make in life has a major impact on how your child will live their lives –

For information - Advice - Guidance:

[info@fatherswithfutures.com](mailto:info@fatherswithfutures.com)

