

The Protection of the Family

The husband in Greece is no longer the head of the family who decides on everything connected with marital life. The care and management of the home is no longer assigned exclusively to the woman.

According to the new Family Law, husband and wife must now decide jointly on every matter connected with their marital life. The husband does not bear all the marriage responsibilities. Both husband and wife are obliged to contribute, to the extent that each is able, to meeting the needs of the family and the maintenance of their children.

A new law has been passed in Greece for the protection of the family. Working parents now have the right to take 6 months off work (3 months for the mother and 3 for the father) after childbirth or until the child reaches 2 1/2 years of age. The parents run no risk of losing their jobs during this period. If the father does not take advantage of the three month period, he loses it. It cannot be transferred to his wife. The father is now responsible for staying home and watching their child. The mother is no longer the sole person responsible for the upbringing of their child.

It must be stressed that for the first time in Greece an institution of parental leave has been introduced.

Article 8 of this law provides help to parents of mentally retarded or handicapped children. These

parents have a right to ask for a one hour reduction in their work day. Article 9 provides for time-off during the working day for parents who have children up to the age of 16. The employer must give the parent time-off to visit their children's schools and follow their

development.

Article 15 provides for the protection of motherhood. An employer cannot fire a woman during her pregnancy nor one year after childbirth.

The Council for Equality between the Sexes is responsible for the promotion of this law. It is now trying to extend this law into the public sector. This law presently applies to those who work in a company or business that employs 100 people or over.



Parental Care - A Mutual Responsibility