

skills and little education. Nevertheless, with the babysitting assistance of some married friends, the plaintiff secured two low paying jobs to provide enough money to support herself and her family. Her husband had never provided her with any support and she did not want to be on the public assistance rolls. She consulted an attorney (private) about getting a divorce from her husband on grounds of abandonment and non-support. The lawyer started an action for her, but would not complete it unless she came forward with \$200.00 in cash. He would not even turn it over to another lawyer unless she came forward with \$100.00 in cash. She did not have either sum. Meanwhile, during the two years since her husband left her, she had met another man and they wanted to get married. Since the plaintiff's bad health had forced her to give up one of her jobs, she became economically eligible for legal assistance at the Legal Services Center.

4. The plaintiff, a woman about 55 years old had been married to the defendant for 25 years. During this time the defendant had worked off and on. The parties had accumulated no property except a small piece of real estate with a small house on it in rural King County, worth about \$2,000 to \$3,000. The parties had never had any children. One day, about a year and a half ago, the defendant left and has never come back. There had been no arguments, no fights and no discussion of separation. He just left. Having no other means of support, the plaintiff had applied for Public Assistance and was living on an allowance of about \$80.00 per month. The Department of Public Assistance did, however, provide for surgical and other medical care of the plaintiff, which she needed during the year after her husband left. Eventually the plaintiff decided that her husband was not coming back and came to the Legal Services Center to secure a divorce. At the hearing on her divorce, the Judge remarked in the plaintiff's presence and in open court that it seemed like she could pay for an attorney by selling her property. The property would be well within the Homestead exemption allowed by the laws of the State of Washington.

5. The plaintiff and defendant had been married for about 20 years. It then became necessary for the plaintiff to have a hysterectomy, which was performed. Very soon thereafter, the defendant abandoned the plaintiff and she has never seen him since then, a period of about two years. The plaintiff lives on small amount of support provided by a grown son, and upon a small amount of money that she makes through occasional work. She has no education and no job skills. She came to the Legal Services Center for a divorce, which service was provided for her.

6. The plaintiff was a young woman who married the defendant after knowing him for a few months. The defendant had told her that he had been married before and divorced. After their marriage, the plaintiff learned that the defendant had not, in fact, been divorced and was still married to his first wife. The plaintiff also found that she was pregnant. The defendant also began mistreating the plaintiff and inflicting physical pain on her. As a result of these things, the plaintiff left the defendant and, being pregnant, having no employment and no income, came to the Legal Services Center to straighten out her marital affairs. A Legal Services attorney was able to document that the defendant had, in fact, been married before and was still married at the time of his presumed marriage to the plaintiff, and an action for annulment (Decree of Nullity) was instituted.

7. The plaintiff and defendant had been married for about six years and had three minor children. The defendant, for some period of time, had been given to violent bursts of temper and physical abuse of the plaintiff. In the past, he had frequently lost his temper, beaten up the plaintiff, broken up the household things and left for a day or two. The last time this happened the plaintiff tried to get a private lawyer to begin a divorce action and obtain a restraining order for her, but was turned down because she did not have \$100.00 in cash. She came to the Legal Services office and a divorce action was immediately instituted and restraining order obtained against her husband, barring him from entering the family premises, and requiring him to pay support, and separating him from the children temporarily. The defendant was able to appreciate the significance of the court order and obeyed it. In this somewhat more orderly and disciplined atmosphere the plaintiff and the defendant were able to discuss their marital problems and even though the defendant had in the past refused to seek professional help and marriage counseling, he did in this case agree to do so. After several months the plaintiff advised her Legal Services attorney that