

## Case Study 1: The Jones Family

### Client

Mum: Mary  
Dad: Richard  
Miriam: 17 yrs  
Adelle: 15 yrs  
Jenny: 10 yrs

Recently separated, mum in FARS counselling. Internal referral to SCASP from FARS.

## Scenario

Mary and Richard had tried for several years to redeem their marriage. Richard had continued to have affairs with men during this time. Mary decided to end it to enable her to get on with her life.

Both loving parents, all devastated by the separation. The older girls were told by mum about the cause. The youngest having no idea.

Richard was in denial about the fact he was gay/bisexual.

## Process

Intake with both parents with the SCASP counsellor. In the intake with Richard, he disclosed the fact he was gay. First time he had said anything to anyone. His emotions were almost overwhelming for him. However, he was able to express some of his fears of being ostracised. He was referred on to a male FARS counsellor

The girls could work on their emotions and get clarity as to what the change in the family meant for them.

Mum admitted the girls needed some sessions on to how to talk with their father (who still had not mentioned his sexuality to them). It was decided that the SCASP worker would have all the girls in to have a conversation and to enable them to talk freely.

Up till this point, mum was firm on only dealing through solicitors. However, after some discussion, she agreed to go through FMC mediation.

## Outcome

Richard is coming to terms with accepting his whole self. His anger has subsided.

Both Richard and Mary have begun mediation with the knowledge the SCASP counsellor could act as the children's voice in the mediation process if needed.

All the girls are doing well and have been able to focus on school and friends again. They could share their confusion and distress in the session and when the time is right they will have the tools to have the conversation with dad.

\*Names have been changed for privacy