

1. The sole purpose of the workshop being run is to assist participants in their recovery from the emotional trauma of separation or divorce.
2. The workshop should not be run for personal gain. Any profit is to be re-invested in sponsoring future workshops either locally or via the national programme.
3. It is to be offered unconditionally to any one regardless of faith, sex, colour, race or any other basis. It is available to any person of any age at any stage of separation or divorce or any time afterwards.
4. The only qualification for attending is that participants have in their own opinion experienced an irretrievable breakdown of a marriage or significant relationship. Bereavement, although having many similarities is not included.
5. No account should be taken as to whether the participant is the initiator or victim of the breakdown.
6. The workshop is not about conversion to any faith. Statements of faith should only be expressed by attendees and facilitators during the natural course of group sharing sessions as was relevant to their own divorce experience. These should not be offered with the intention of converting others. No forum of religious discussion should be allowed to develop that detracts from the purpose of the workshop for others. Except where it is known that all participants so wish, deeper issues are best handled on an individual basis outside the workshop or after the course is over and healing has had a chance to begin. People will then be more receptive and feel less vulnerable. Restraint or silent witness during the workshop can be far more powerful.
7. The workshop is not a place for sexism, selling any products, new age etc, or for recruitment or as a platform for political or campaigning groups or bodies eg, against the Child Support Agency. Be aware of those facilitators or attendees with an axe to grind whether political or otherwise and discourage it.
8. The workshop only deals with the emotional issues of the person attending in helping them understand what and why they feel as they do. Apart from the material in the video and handouts, DRW does not offer advice of any form to others. Particularly to be avoided are the areas of legal, financial, medical, housing, counseling, schooling etc. There are others better qualified to give advice on these matters. Care must be taken to ensure that no advice is seen to be coming from the workshop as we could be liable in such cases. Facilitators should not offer advice to others and should discourage participants of small groups from doing so. "The only person anyone can change in the workshop is themselves and only if they want to".
9. Group sharing sessions are the most important part of the workshop. It is where the healing begins. They should form the majority of the evening session with a minimum of one hour and a maximum of 1.5 hours. The Coordinators introduction, combined with video and any other materials, should not be so long as to disrupt this balance.
10. All participants should have an opportunity to talk during group sharing. No participant should be pressurised to talk if they don't want to. The facilitators role is to balance participation. They should be chosen with listening skills in mind and monitored during the workshop. Their input aim should be less than 10%.
11. It gives credibility to the workshop for those attending to be able to say that "every one in this room has personally experienced separation or divorce." Participants don't have to waste effort justifying to others how they feel but can more usefully spend their time understanding why they feel as they do. Therefore all group facilitators must have personally experienced separation or divorce although they may have since remarried. It is preferable that, except in start up situations, they have also attended a previous workshop.
12. Suitable new group facilitators should be selected from participants of previous workshops. Going through the workshop a second time in this role adds an extra dimension to their own recovery and maintains the strength of the workshop.
13. Preferably the workshop coordinator should have the same criteria as a group facilitator. In start up situations an exception may be made. However once a local workshop programme is commenced, a suitable replacement should be sought from the previous facilitators. A workshop coordinator who does fulfill the requirements may also facilitate.
14. The series of weekly workshops is more preferable to the recovery process than a condensed weekend seminar format. Having seven nights to sleep between sessions is an important factor in coming to terms with issues raised. Maximising the recovery chance for those attending should always be the primary consideration in selecting the format.
15. Where possible participants should pay to attend. Payment helps the recipient value themselves. This is an important first step in their recovery. "Surely I am worth this." It also helps them value the workshop. Where possible payment should be made in full prior to commencement. This encourages participants to continue with the course once started which both benefits themselves and lessens the impact of "drop outs" on the morale of other course members. "I've paid so I might as well finish."
16. Exceptions in the amount paid are not to be encouraged but concessions may be offered at the discretion of a committee comprising those who have been through the course themselves previously. Any exceptions in payment should be put across as "sponsorship" by the organiser rather than as a discount. ie the money has been paid for them. Being discrete about any sponsorship is an important consideration both on the recipient and on the others who have paid in full.
17. DRW is not in competition with other agencies, organisations or professions. Care should be taken not to knock them in any way especially in the publicity material. No person from the workshop should get into any public correspondence or argument with such bodies.
18. The video is mainly an aid to promoting discussion during group sharing sessions. It is not recommended for casual viewing or assessment by participants or any other individuals outside the workshop environment.
19. No personal information is to be recorded about individual participants prior to attending other than that allowed for by the official Response Form. No records should be kept of anything said during group discussions and all information imparted by individuals is to be treated as confidential