

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816067103321
Titolo	The law and economics of marriage and divorce // edited by Anthony Dnes and Robert Rowthorn
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, U.K. ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2002
ISBN	1-107-12493-X 1-280-41938-5 0-511-17604-X 0-511-04206-X 0-511-15677-4 0-511-30422-6 0-511-49532-3 0-511-04483-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (ix, 232 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Altri autori (Persone)	DnesAntony W RowthornBob
Disciplina	346.01/5
Soggetti	Domestic relations Domestic relations - Economic aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction / Antony W. Dnes and Robert Rowthorn -- Marriage: the long-term contract / Lloyd R. Cohen -- Marital commitment and the legal regulation of divorce / Elizabeth S. Scott -- Mutual consent divorce? / Allen M. Parkman -- An economic approach to adultery law / Eric Rasmusen -- Louisiana's covenant marriage law: recapturing the meaning of marriage for the sake of the children / Katherine Shaw Spaht -- Cohabitation and marriage / Antony W. Dnes -- Marriage as a signal / Robert Rowthorn -- For better or for worse? Is bargaining in marriage and divorce efficient? / Martin Zelder -- Weak men and disorderly women: divorce and the division of labor / Steven L. Nock and Margaret F. Brinig -- The impact of legal reforms on marriage and divorce / Douglas W. Allen -- European divorce laws, divorce rates, and their consequences / Ian Smith.

What sort of contract is marriage? What does it offer the parties? What are the difficulties of enforcement, and the result of failed effective enforcement? This book takes an economic approach to marriage and divorce, considering the key role of 'incentives' in family law: it highlights the possible adverse consequences emanating from faulty legal design, while demonstrating that good family law should provide incentives for consistent and honest behavior. Economists, specialists in the economic analysis of law, and academic lawyers discuss recent advances in specialist work on marriage, cohabitation, and divorce. Chapters are grouped around four topics: the contractual perspectives on marriage commitment; the regulatory framework surrounding divorce; bargaining and commitment issues relating to marriage and near-marriage arrangements; and finally empirical work, which focuses on the impact of more liberal divorce laws. This important new study will be of considerable interest to lawyers, policy-makers and economists concerned with family law.

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