

# Contents

<b>1 The Meaning of Autonomy</b> . . . . .	1
References . . . . .	3
<b>2 Family Law and Autonomy</b> . . . . .	5
2.1 No Fault Divorce. . . . .	5
2.2 Increased Use of Mediation . . . . .	6
References . . . . .	9
<b>3 Relational Autonomy</b> . . . . .	11
3.1 Relational Life Inevitable . . . . .	11
3.2 Relational Life is Socially Good . . . . .	14
3.3 Obligations and Relational Autonomy . . . . .	16
3.4 Gender and Autonomy . . . . .	17
3.5 Distinguishing Relational and Traditional Autonomy . . . . .	20
References . . . . .	24
<b>4 Applying Relational Autonomy to Family Law</b> . . . . .	27
4.1 A Family Law Which Fosters Relationships . . . . .	27
4.2 A Family Law Which Acknowledges the Significance of Relationships. . . . .	28
4.3 A Family Law that Protects Those in Relationships from Abuse. . . . .	29
4.4 A Family Law Which Remedies Financial Disadvantages that Result from Relationship . . . . .	30
4.5 The Role of Law in Intact Families . . . . .	32
References . . . . .	32
<b>5 Examples of Application.</b> . . . . .	35
5.1 Pre-marriage Contracts. . . . .	35
5.2 Adolescent Medical Decision Making . . . . .	41
5.3 Relationship-Based Welfare . . . . .	43
5.3.1 Indeterminacy Concerns. . . . .	45
5.3.2 Making Welfare/Best Interests Relational. . . . .	46

5.4	Domestic Abuse . . . . .	50
5.4.1	The Wrong of Domestic Violence. . . . .	50
5.4.2	Autonomy and Domestic Abuse . . . . .	53
	References . . . . .	56
<b>6</b>	<b>Conclusion.</b> . . . . .	<b>59</b>
	Reference . . . . .	60