Cameron and Sam

Cameron and Sam have been married for 23 years. They are each 52 years old and have three kids. Alex is 13, Mira is 18, and Alicia is 20.

Cameron stayed home with the kids until Alex turned 8. Then Cameron went back to work, part-time. Cameron's money has always been kept in a separate account. Cameron has had complete discretion to use it as (s)he sees fit, and has bought things for the children, bought things for (her)himself, and has amassed savings.

Sam inherited a family business, a bakery. There was one bakery when Sam inherited it. Sam has worked hard and expanded so there are now ten bakery chains. Sam has worked in the business since Sam's graduation from university. Sam has always worked hard and is proud of his (her) work ethic, and of building the business, which has grown exponentially in value. Most of the wealth has been re-invested in the business. There is a family trust that has been set up, and it is Sam's dream to be able to use this to support the children as they move into adulthood, and to eventually shepherd the family wealth to the next generation.

Cameron and Sam have been separated for three years. They were arguing one night and Cameron threw his(her) wedding ring at Sam, screaming that the marriage was over.

Sam says this took him (her) by surprise, but Sam arranged to move out a week later.

Sam has continued to deposit all pay and dividends into a joint account, which both Sam and Cameron have used for their expenses. Cameron has continued to deposit Cameron's pay into a sole account.

Other than Cameron's account, there are no savings, as the family has routinely spent everything that comes in, not drawing more from the business than necessary to cover their expenses.

Alicia is away at university, and has spent the last two summers with Cameron, but this summer plans to travel with some friends.

Mira has just graduated from high school. She has been living with Cameron, and is talking about going to college to study psychology. Sam finds out from Mira that she has been accepted into a fashion design program, and that Cameron has made a down-payment to secure Mira's position. This is the first Sam has heard about Mira's change of plans for post-secondary.

Alex is struggling in school, and has frequent blowups with Cameron, where he has been primarily living.

After three years of being separated, they have begun working in the Collaborative Process.