COUPLE FOR DEMONSTRATION/ROLE PLAY

Danny and Rachel have been married for 20 years. They live in Alaska. Danny is a pilot with Major Airlines, flying long-haul routes. Rachel worked as a journalist until shortly before their first child was born. Since then, she has been a stay-at-home mom. Rachel still occasionally writes articles on a freelance basis, mostly for evangelical publications.

Ten years ago, Danny was arrested as a “john.” Rachel found out when he called her from jail. After extensive counseling and treatment, they decided to stay together.

Three weeks ago, Rachel discovered that Danny was having an affair with a flight attendant. She feels betrayed and angry, and decided that she cannot remain married to Danny. Her parents are encouraging her to move back to her hometown in rural Iowa to keep the children safe from Danny’s influence. Danny does not want to divorce Rachel and is begging her for forgiveness.

They have 2 children. Matthew, age 19, is a sophomore in college. Phoebe, age 10, is a special needs child who attends an elementary school that offers an excellent IEP that is geared towards her needs. While Phoebe has made progress, her prognosis is uncertain and she may need extra help into adulthood.

Danny’s income has allowed them to live in a nice neighborhood, but they have been unable to save much. Most of their wealth is in the equity of their house and Danny’s retirement. While Danny enjoys a good income, it is insufficient for Danny and Rachel to maintain a similar standard of living across two households.