

Convoy Model

The convoy model can be described as an interconnected sphere of relationships an individual develops and perpetuates over his or her lifetime. This model is dynamic in nature, allowing changes or shifts in its makeup. This sphere is made up of concurrent circles. The innermost circle is about an intimate relationship, such as with a spouse; the next circle represents the immediate family. The circles continue outward, to friends and relatives, passing acquaintances, and strangers—in that order. The innermost circle, outside of yourself, would be considered the intimate circle, as in marriage or a life partner. The intimacy of a new and growing relationship doesn't necessarily mean lack of turmoil and setbacks, but even in that context, the intensity and emotional commitment of the relationship process are much greater at this level.

Graduation, moving, job change, dating or breakup, and marriage are just some of the life events that can all have an impact on the dynamics of our relationships. Relationships in the innermost circles tend to be less pliable or are subject to more change than those in the outer circles.

On the basis of what you just learned about the convoy model, do you think that the special relationship between a husband and a wife is permanently supplanted by the focus on the child?

Yes:

The addition of a child to a family is often a temporary disruption as the husband and wife adapt their relationship to fit the new addition to the family. The convoy model describes the network of social relationships of an individual. The relationship between a mother and her child is different from the relationship between a father and his child. The relationship between a father and a mother is different from both these relationships.

No:

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