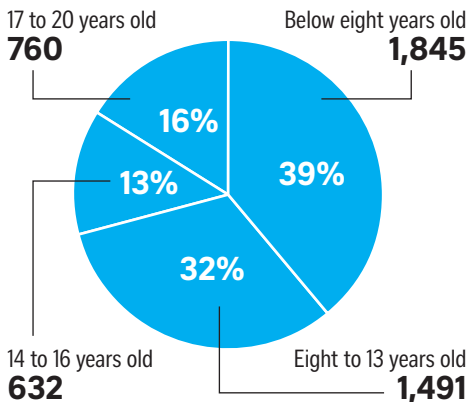


# Divorce and children affected

Over 50,600 children under 21 involved in divorce cases from 2005 to 2014

## In 2014...

- Half of the 6,017 divorce writs filed involved at least one child aged below 21
- 4,728 children below 21 were involved in these divorce cases



NOTE: These changes in the Women's Charter apply to non-Muslim marriages

## Key changes to Women's Charter

### Before divorce

#### New

**MUST:** Two-hour parenting programme with a counsellor

**Who:** Couples with at least one child younger than 14 and they disagree on divorce matters. Later, to include couples with at least one child younger than 21.

**When:** To start by end-2016



### After divorce

#### Now

Parents who have children under 21 and agree on all divorce matters must attend a two-hour programme on issues such as co-parenting and self-care skills.



#### In addition

**Supervised exchange/visitation:** In an ugly divorce, a judge can order a counsellor to be present and supervise when the child meets the access parent. This is to protect the child and prevent rows over access to him or her.

**When:** To start next month

Sources: FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS AND  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS