



Customary and Statutory Law Interface in Family Matters: Ghanaian Perspectives

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Published: 04 March 2008 | **Received:** 10 December 2007 | **Accepted:** 13 February 2008

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18881539](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18881539)

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Abstract

Customary law in Ghana plays a significant role in family matters, often alongside statutory law. However, the interface between these two legal systems is complex and not always clearly defined. Qualitative interviews were conducted with legal practitioners, community leaders, and litigants to understand their perspectives and experiences regarding the application of both laws in family-related issues. In a sample of 50 interviews, it was observed that customary law often serves as the primary guide for resolving disputes, while statutory law is invoked when there are clear legal provisions or when customary practices conflict with existing legislation. Customary and statutory laws in Ghana coexist but operate under different contexts. Understanding this interface is crucial for effective dispute resolution and policy development. Law enforcement agencies should develop guidelines that facilitate harmonization between customary and statutory law, particularly in areas where both systems apply simultaneously.

Keywords: *Geographic, Sub-Saharan, Anthropology, Jurisprudence, Ethnography, Legal Pluralism, Comparative Law*

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