

# Divorce: Group Meets on Wednesdays

From Page 1

vious generations. Conflicting statistics, however, show that divorce is either much more common or much less common in Christian homes, according to the Web site, [http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr\\_dira.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_dira.htm).

It is estimated that 40 or 50 percent of marriages will end in divorce if current trends continue, according to this Web site. Twenty-five percent of mainline Protestants are currently divorced as well.

"The group is for young people who have experienced a divorce either in their childhood or even recently," said Coil.

Coil plans on providing students with information about parental divorce. For example, after a divorce, young people often feel abandoned from either one or both of their parents, become a caretaker for a parent, are simply caught in the middle of the situation, or have fears for their future

relationships, according to Coil.

"They have a great deal of responsibility that other kids from two-parent homes don't have," said Coil.

In addition, the group is a venue where students can learn and understand how divorce has impacted their life and have the opportunity to talk about it with other students. Scripture will be integrated into the group's meetings as well.

Confidentiality is an issue in counseling groups.

"Confidentiality, simply put, is what is said here stays here," said Coil. "Who you see here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here."

The Wellness Center is interested in the issues that students need support about and would be willing to participate in a group for.

"We really have struggled to find ways to help students," said Jean Benthien, Wellness Center director. "In groups is a very good

way of allowing people come together and discuss things that they're particularly having problems with."

Feedback from students, peer educators, covenant group leaders, Team Barnabus, RDs and Wellness Center clients is used to determine what kind of groups might be beneficial to the campus. Yet certain groups have a sensitivity to them that makes them impractical for PLNU, according to Benthien.

"We can't have an AA [Alcoholics Anonymous] group because nobody's going to come," she said.

Other times people will request groups like an eating disorder support group that require specialists or a special environment.

"It doesn't go well in this environment," Benthien said. "It really needs to be outside in a controlled environment."

The Wellness Center's divorce group meets from 9:45-10:45 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Wellness Center's conference room.