

AMERICAN SAMOA

FAMILY

	Traditional	Contemporary
Who is in the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All blood members and those married into the family People living on the family communal land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as traditional
What are the housing provisions within the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Fale tofa</i> (sleeping house) for matai (head of family) <i>Fale tele</i> and <i>faleo'o</i> (individual traditional Samoan houses) for family members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European-style houses Individual families, especially couples and their children, have their own homes
What is the order of authority within the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sa'o (paramount chief) first, then <i>matai</i> (individual family head, usually male), non-<i>matai</i> and young people, and people living on the family communal land Among children, eldest child had authority similar to that of the father 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as traditional For families without a matai, especially young couples with children, the father is always the head of the family
What are the roles, rights, and responsibilities of each family member?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone lived on and used family land, provided for and served the family's affairs, and helped and supported each other, the sa'o (paramount chief), and the <i>matai</i> (head of family) <i>Matai</i> gave orders of what needed to be done Women did household chores; wife/mother cared for children Men worked on farms, hunted, and prepared food Children did chores, depending on their age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some roles still mirror traditional ways, but family members are living farther apart

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What are children's obligations to their family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children obeyed and served heads of family, parents, older siblings, and/or other relatives; performed duties as told; worked or provided for family plantation; and attended church, village, and school activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as traditional
What are the functions and obligations of the family in the larger social unit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each family participated in and contributed to whatever the social unit needed (money, fine mats, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as traditional (though many are concerned that it is becoming expensive)
What is the importance of individual family members versus the family as a whole?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families worked and supported each other and their <i>matai</i> (head of family) Stability of the family depended on member contribution and involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as traditional
What is the degree of solidarity or cohesiveness in the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very high degree of solidarity, especially for carrying on family names and titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost as high as traditional solidarity
What kinds of events affect the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriage, religion, funerals, establishment and progress of government, <i>matai</i> (head of family) title-holder, and <i>talimalo</i> (hosting of guests) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as traditional Election of governor, progress of government influence, money, and education
How do people come to meet and marry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village or family activities Parental or <i>matai</i> (head of family) arrangement – man and his parents or <i>matai</i> sought approval from bride-to-be's parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults meet and arrange their own marriages
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Adapted from PREL resources 'ReSPCT – Family'
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What do parents want for their children?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be respectful, well-mannered, and productive citizens • Believe in their ability to achieve anything • Pass on the traditional skills they learned at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get a good education and be productive citizens • Go to college • Earn good money • Live wherever they are happy
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