

GUAM

FAMILY

	Traditional	Contemporary
Who is in the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren • Unmarried aunts, uncles, and other relatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and children (most families) • Grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren (some families) • Unmarried relatives
What are the housing provisions within the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families usually lived on family owned land; property was divided evenly among all children • Elderly parents stayed with eldest daughter, or one who could care best for them • Newly married couples lived with husband's families • Families built homes of coconut thatched leaves with separate areas for cooking and eating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whoever takes care of parents usually inherits the family home and land; other property is divided evenly among children • Married couples live by themselves • Elderly and invalid family members may be sent to nursing homes when no family member can take care of them • Homes are built by development companies and financed by mortgage loans
What is the order of authority within the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandparents, parents, and elder members of the family • Mother then father followed by children according to seniority • Eldest child or the one considered most able was the spokesperson of the family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as traditional

Adapted from 'ReSPCT – Family': Pacific Resources for Education & Learning (PREL)
www.prel.org

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What are the roles, rights, and responsibilities of each family member?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear roles and responsibilities existed among family members • Everyone shared in the family's responsibilities and contributed to the finances • All family members were entitled to stay in the home, be cared for and supported by the family, and depend on interdependence, reciprocity, and strong social ties/relationships • Mother managed the family and controlled the finances • Mother, grandmother, and aunts taught and enforced social roles and duties of the children • Father provided for the family's needs • Children sought the advice of parents, grandparents, and elders • Older siblings served as role models/teachers for younger siblings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obedience and loyalty to the family is not emphasized • Parents work and take care of family needs • Mother controls the finances and manages the home • Working children and other relatives who live in the home are expected to contribute • Parents take care of their children regardless of age • Children are more independent and often make their own decisions; they may not regard the advice of parents and elders
What are children's obligations to their family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children helped with family chores and were obedient and respectful to parents and elders • Older siblings fulfilled parental roles when parents were absent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as traditional • Working children and adults living at home are expected to help with family needs • Children are expected to respect older siblings in the absence of their parents • Older children may still take care of their elderly parents
What are the functions and obligations of the family in the larger social unit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families provided care to all members, and participated and contributed to all family activities and functions • Children were sometimes reared by grandparents, aunts, or uncles • Reciprocal cooperation and support existed among family relations and neighbors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as traditional

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What is the importance of individual family members versus the family as a whole?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members supported each other, especially in times of need • Older family members were sought for advice • Individual identity was associated with family identity (individuals were recognized by who their families were) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualism is emerging (one does not necessarily need the family to live and succeed) • Same as traditional
What is the degree of solidarity or cohesiveness in the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family ties were very strong, included extended family relationships • Parents and grandparents were highly respected; elders were well respected • Regular social gatherings for all family matters; sharing and assistance provided for all family events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater independence among family members; less interdependence and reciprocity among family members • Emphasis on external social relationships (friends, co-workers) • Some siblings disassociate themselves from family activities for various reasons • Respect for elders is eroding in all aspects
What kinds of events affect the family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage (social contract between couples' families), birth, and death (celebrated in the family homes with family members gathering and providing support) • Agrarian lifestyle – families relied on themselves and their families for their livelihood; subsistence economy, families grew or raised their food • Results of World War II drastically altered the cultural, social, and economic lifestyles of the people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little or no dependence on family farming to supplement family needs; people work for wages & purchase all their needs • Influence of Western culture: loss of Chamorro language use, increase of fast food outlets, changing religious practices, increase in money for living expenses, & loss of land • Mortuaries replaced family homes for funeral events • Catering businesses replacing family gatherings & collective activities e.g. preparing food • Military enlistment & intermarriage

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How do people come to meet and marry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Couples met in church and social activities and functions • Courtship was strict – couple communicated through an intermediary • Relatives of any blood distance were not acceptable • Bride’s family dictated dowry and type of wedding for the couple <p>Church and common law marriages were common</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Couples do not have to be of the same ethnicity, village, or religion • Church weddings are less highly valued • Couples determine their own weddings • Common-law relationships are openly practiced • Couples live together before marriage
What do parents want for their children?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be good responsible parents, spouses, and providers for their family • Be respected by their villages • Live in the same area as/stay with parents • Demonstrate loyalty and respect for the family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as traditional • Get a good education, successful career, independence, and material wealth • Have a nice home and good financial status • Maintain Chamorro language and culture; carry on cultural skills and practices • Maintain family relationships (not required to live in the same area as parents)