

Understanding Stepfamilies Implications For Assessment And Treatment

it is estimated that between 33 and 40 of all united states children will live with a stepfamily due to the complexity ambiguous roles negative perceptions and unrealistic expectations of many stepfamilies members of such families are increasingly being seen by mental health professionals this monograph is aimed at professionals to help them understand stepfamilies by providing practical and applied information some of the areas covered here include the developmental stages of the stepfamily types of stepfamilies specific assessment techniques for stepfamilies and treatment considerations part 1 provides the groundwork for recognizing some of the characteristics of stepfamilies including clinical issues pitfalls and systemic intervention in part 2 children and adolescents are examined along with the risks encountered by children in a stepfamily part 3 outlines the beliefs and expectations of stepfamilies taking care to analyze stereotypes of stepfamilies new assessment techniques designed to assess maladaptive cognitions of stepfamily members and the role of self fulfilling prophecies in stepfamily success or failure each chapter offers a complete discussion of the nature of stepfamilies along with practical suggestions for assessment and treatment of these families individual chapters contain references rjm

brave new stepfamilies is an excellent treatise on today's families this volume is a welcome addition to the field of family studies and i highly recommend it jeanne brooks gunn columbia university a thorough balanced tour de force frances goldscheider university of maryland brave new stepfamilies maps the changing landscape of american stepfamilies taking readers on a tour through the diverse assortment of traditional and not so traditional stepfamily forms that have emerged in recent years author susan d stewart presents the latest scholarly research on stepfamilies in an accessible way weaving together predominant theoretical perspectives findings from research and national surveys and interviews with stepfamily members key features investigates the social and demographic trends that have irrevocably altered stepfamily life while most books on stepfamilies focus on divorce and remarriage this book examines recent trends such as couples having children and living together

outside of marriage parents sharing custody of children gay marriage the aging population and increasing racial and ethnic diversity that provide multiple pathways to stepfamily formation explores a wide range of living arrangements caregiving and intimacy scenarios this book captures the lived experience of contemporary americans extending across various household settings this book pays special attention to multihousehold stepfamilies stepparent adoption stepfamilies with adult stepchildren and african american stepfamilies provides practical information on the prevalence of stepfamilies in society counting the number of stepfamilies in society is difficult published estimates are sometimes unreliable this book describes the latest data sources trends in data collection and data limitations in addition useful information on the legal and practical realities of living as a stepfamily is provided intended audience this is an excellent text for a variety of advanced undergraduate and graduate courses on family such as divorce and remarriage stepfamilies family diversity gay and lesbian families aging and the family african american families and family policy in departments of sociology human development family studies psychology african american or ethnic studies and public policy

this second edition synthesizes the emerging knowledge base on the diversity of stepfamilies their inherent concerns and why so relatively little is still known about them its extensive findings shed needed light on family arrangements relatively new to the literature e g cohabitating stepparents the effects of these relationships on different family members e g stepsiblings stepgrandparents the experiences of gay and lesbian stepfamilies and the stigma against non nuclear families coverage reviews effective therapeutic and counseling interventions for emotional familial and social challenges of stepfamilies as well as the merits of family education and self help programs the authors explore prevailing myths about marriage divorce and stepfamily life while expanding the limits of stepfamily research among the topics included the cultural context of stepfamilies couple dynamics in stepfamilies gay and lesbian couples in stepfamilies the dynamics of stepparenting siblings half siblings and stepsiblings effects of stepfamily living on children clinical perspectives on stepfamily dynamics for researchers and clinicians who work with families it enriches the literature as it offers insights and guidelines for effective practice as well as possible avenues for future research

this volume focuses on a wide range of behaviors and outcomes in stepfamily relationships both positive and negative the authors use the normative adaptive perspective to seek out and study adaptive well functioning stepfamilies and find how they differ from those who struggle to cope it will be a welcome text and reference for all those who study and work with stepfamilies and families in general

written by contributors from around the world the international handbook of stepfamilies policy and practice in legal research and clinical environments is a collection of research legal and clinical recommendations that fills a growing need for complex re formed families using the information in this book which includes contemporary research and its implications you will be able to consider stepfamilies in an international context understand the issues that clinicians face when they work with stepfamilies both before and after formation and gain more knowledge about this topic as the rates of family reformation increase

explains what a stepfamily is and the different combinations that can form a family it also addresses the emotional cycle teens go through

this book provides comprehensive information and guidance for addressing the special needs and problems of stepfamilies in therapy it examines the complex issues facing stepfamilies including grief over divorce negative stereotypes of stepfamilies child custody and visitation disputes unrealistic expectations of family life and confusing relationships with extended family and offers therapeutic approaches strategies and interventions for effective assessment and treatment

this unique guidebook identifies and evaluates resources that will help stepparents understand and better respond to the important issues that arise when families combine

written with the voices of a diverse collection of canadian family members this book challenges conventional wisdom on canadian families and provides a forum for the frequently silenced to speak insightful and current voices explores the rich diversity of families in late twentieth century canada covering race and ethnicity family roles and structure region and economic location stage of the life cycle sexual orientation and ability and disability

since the mid 1970 s the texture of modern society has been changed dramatically by the increasing presence of the stepfamily no longer considered the exception to the norm the stepfamily has been thrust into the mainstream by a 50 divorce rate combined with a high incidence of remarriage according to some estimates 35 of children born in the 1980 s will experience stepfamily living by the time they reach the age of 18 although interest in remarriage and stepfamily relationships is growing the literature often takes the form of popular work or anecdotal accounts with minimal data this volume provides a much needed overview of current research and theory in the field it stems from a series of meetings sponsored by the society for research in child development and funded by the foundation for child development the nine scholars who participated in the year long study group along with two others prominent in the field have produced a work which explores the intricacies of remarriage and stepfamily living from a variety of perspectives how do divorce and remarriage determine parent s adjustment and parent child relationships how are the boundaries set within this new family form what are the dynamics between biological and step parents both within the newly created nuclear family and within the linked family units those tied together for life by their common children this comprehensive volume sheds new light on these issues and more including the relatively untouched area of stepsibling relationships it incorporates findings from five recent research studies providing data not available elsewhere the contributors also examine the stepfamily within historical social and cultural contexts from changing demographics to stepfamily stereotypes they cast a critical eye on current literature in the field and on research methodologies providing insights on the changing nature of the stepfamily and developing conceptual frameworks for further research with so much important up to date scholarship under one cover remarriage and stepparenting today is a valuable resource for researchers and clinicians in the areas of sociology psychology psychiatry and social work as well as for advanced students pursuing any of these disciplines

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