

# TODAY'S MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

*Gullotta • Adams • Alexander*







# TODAY'S MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

*A Wellness Approach*

Thomas P. Gullotta

*Eastern Connecticut State University*

Gerald R. Adams

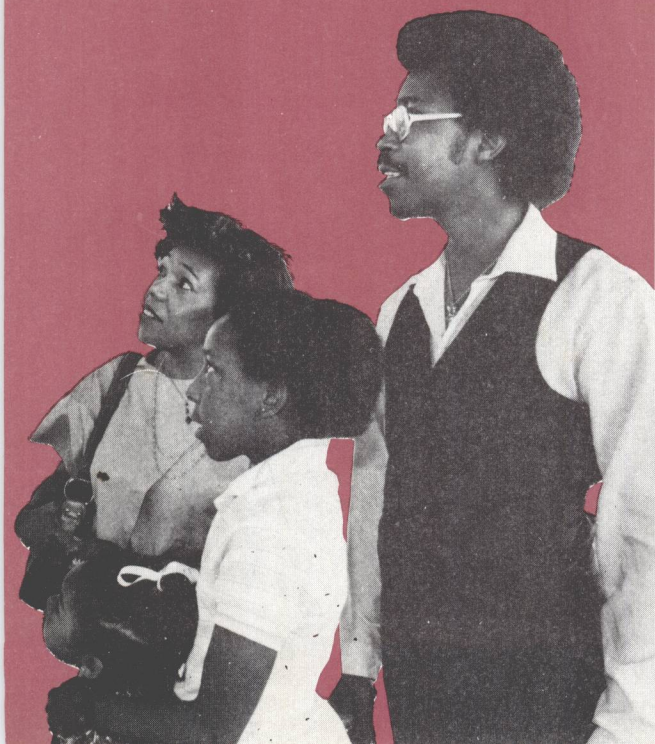
*Utah State University*

Sharon J. Alexander

*American Association for  
Counseling and Development*



Brooks/Cole Publishing Co.  
*Pacific Grove, California*



Brooks/Cole Publishing Company  
A Division of Wadsworth, Inc.

©1986 by Wadsworth, Inc., Belmont, California  
94002. All rights reserved. No part of this book may  
be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or  
transcribed, in any form or by any means—electronic,  
mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—  
without the prior written permission of the publisher,  
Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, Pacific Grove,  
California 93950, a division of Wadsworth, Inc.

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

### **Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Gullotta, Thomas, [date]

Today's marriages and families.

Includes index.

1. Family life education. 2. Family—United  
States. 3. Marriage. I. Adams, Gerald R.  
II. Alexander, Sharon J. III. Title.

HQ10.G85 1986 306.8 85-19051

ISBN 0-534-05520-6

Sponsoring Editor: *C. Deborah Laughton*

Editorial Assistant: *Mary Tudor*

Marketing Representative: *Rich Giggey*

Production Editor: *Phyllis Larimore*

Manuscript Editor: *Rephab Berg*

Permissions Editor: *Mary Kay Hancharick*

Interior and Cover Design: *Jamie Sue Brooks*

Cover Illustration: *Pauline Phung*

Art Coordinator: *Judith Macdonald*

Interior Illustration: *PC & F/Maggie Stevens/Wayne  
Clark*

Photo Editor: *Judy Blamer*

Photo Researcher: *Lindsay Kefauver*

Typesetting: *Bi-Comp, Inc., York, Pennsylvania*

Printing and Binding: *R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co.,  
Crawfordsville, Indiana*

Title Page Photos: *Frank Keillor*

Credits continue on page 503.







9761464

贈閱

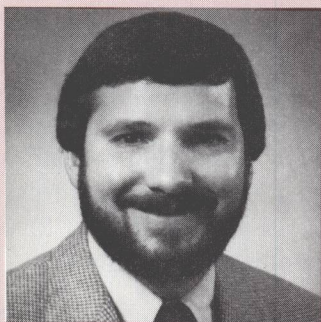
TODAY'S  
MARRIAGES  
AND  
FAMILIES

*A Wellness Approach*

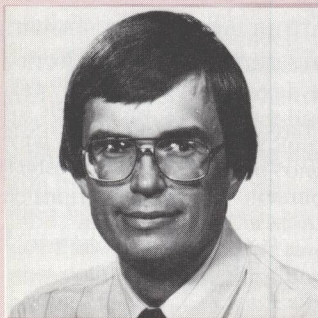


E9761464

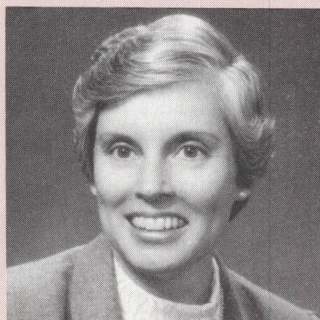




**Tom Gullotta** is the executive director of one of the nation's oldest and most respected family service agencies, the Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut. Holding academic appointments at several state colleges in Connecticut, he is a nationally recognized expert in the fields of primary prevention and adolescence. In addition to being the founding editor of the *Journal of Primary Prevention*, Tom holds editorial board positions on the following publications: *Family Relations*, *Journal of Early Adolescence*, *Journal of Adolescence*, and is a general series editor for *Advances in Adolescent Development: An Annual Book Series*. This is Tom's second published textbook. His first, co-authored with Gerald Adams and entitled *Adolescent Life Experiences*, has received critical acclaim nationwide.



**Gerald Adams** is a professor of Family and Human Development and Psychology at Utah State University. A nationally recognized expert in the fields of adolescence and family relations, he has consulted with such diverse organizations as the National Science Foundation, the Boy Scouts of America, and the District Court of Utah on adolescent and family issues. Gerald has co-authored several previous textbooks, including *Physical Attractiveness: A Cultural Imperative* (1978), *Adolescent Life Experiences* (1983), and *Understanding Research Methods* (1985). In addition he holds editorial board positions on the following publications: *Family Relations*, *Journal of Adolescence*, *Journal of Adolescent Research*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Primary Prevention*, and is the senior general series editor for *Advances in Adolescent Development: An Annual Book Series*.



**Sharon Alexander** is the director of professional development and research for the American Association for Counseling and Development. A nationally recognized expert in the fields of human sexuality and family life education, she is on the boards of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists, and the National Family Life Education Network. She has been an active participant for many years in the affairs of the National Council on Family Relations, serving on a number of important committees, and represented the council at the White House Conference on Families in 1980. In addition to her active participation in several professional associations, Sharon has a strong research interest in the subject area of adolescent sexuality and holds an editorial board appointment to the journal *Family Relations*.



## *Dedication*

To Pasquale, Tom, Big Bernie, Margie, Chris, and Little Bernie, but especially to Rosa and Marietta—I dedicate this work to you for your support and love over these many years. While death may have separated us prematurely, never could it dissolve the bonds of love that bind us together as a family.

*Thomas P. Gullotta*

To my mother and father, Florence and Arthur Adams, for showing me the meaning of commitment in marriage. And to my four daughters, Elizabeth, Shawnelle, Shelli, and Sheryl, who have suffered through my learning how to parent, for having helped me grow as a father, and for having given me such love and attention.

*Gerald R. Adams*

To my husband, Bob, for all his encouragement, support, and love; to my mother, Evelyn Jaramillo, who did a splendid job of socializing me; to my siblings, Richard, Pixie, Rita, and Roger, from whom I learned so much about family living; and to Derek, who is adding daily to my understanding.

*Sharon J. Alexander*



## PREFACE

*This is a textbook* about marriage and family life. Having made that statement we suspect some of you are already grumbling, "Oh no, not another one." And in some ways you are correct. This book, like other marriage and family textbooks, is written from a functional perspective; but in other ways it is different. It is those differences that we feel make this work not only distinct, but unique.

This book is different in that Gerald, Sharon, and I, coming from our own respective disciplines of psychology, family studies, and social work, have strived to integrate our individual understandings of marital and family life into a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, applied overview. The two thousand sources that were used to write this volume are drawn not only from our own fields, but also from history, sociology, psychiatry, education, law, child development, and medicine, in an effort to provide the reader with as thorough an overview of this subject area as possible.

A second difference is that this book combines a functional perspective with an issues approach. Reviewing the table of contents, the reader will notice that the book is divided into five parts. The first consists of three chapters that deal with a historical introduction to the family, major theories of family behavior, and, briefly, how to understand research on marriage and the family.

Part Two, "In the Beginning," reviews the precursors to marital and family life. Part Three traces family life across the life span and explores the plasticity that has always characterized family life. Notice that we have chosen to include the topics of divorce and remarriage in this section in order to examine them as a part of "normal" family life.

Part Four, "Family Matters of Concern," is unique in family textbooks. From our own experiences in teaching this subject, from our conver-



sations with other family life experts, and from our conversations with students over the years, we have chosen five family matters of concern. We explore each of these in depth, providing flexibility for instructors in tailoring a course to meet the needs of their students. For example, Chapter 14 examines family economics not only in good times of employment but in bad times of unemployment. Chapter 15 explores the insidious nature of discrimination on minority families and how those families have survived. Chapter 16 analyzes the effect alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine have on family life. Chapter 17 investigates the factors that contribute to child, spousal, and elder abuse in the family. Chapter 18 examines a subject that, surprisingly, has been ignored in most other family textbooks: death and grief, and how they affect the family. We explore the feelings and emotions of individuals as they struggle to make sense of the loss of a child, spouse, or parent. Finally, the book concludes with a historical reevaluation of the "good old days" and a projection of what family life at the turn of the next century might be like.

To assist students in understanding the material in this book, we have provided several helpful study aids. These include study questions at the beginning of each chapter, discussion questions throughout the chapter, and a comprehensive list of major points to remember at the end of each chapter.

Another unique aspect of this work is the inclusion in most chapters of a section called "Promoting Family Wellness." This book is designed to encourage students to take active roles in promoting their own emotional health, and that of their families and the wider society. As one astute reviewer observed in an early draft of this work, wellness (or primary prevention) is not value free. And on more than one occasion students and instructors may disagree with us. We encourage that behavior and urge you to take us to task when you feel we are incorrect. Learning, we feel, occurs during such discus-

sions and we have tried throughout the book to include discussion questions that will inspire a critical examination of the subject material.

Also, there is nothing sacred about the order in which the chapters in this book appear. While more than half of our reviewers follow the format of this book in teaching their own courses, others do not. We recognize that there are probably as many ways of ordering the material in this text as there are family variations. And as we are firm believers in the strength of a pluralistic society, we encourage instructors to pick and choose and to design a course that meets the needs of their students.

We have tried in this work to reflect the many contributions and viewpoints of scholars from different disciplines to the study of marriage and the family. We have tried to blend theory, research, and practice in a way that students and teachers will find enjoyable and stimulating to read. We have tried to encourage the student to use the principle of wellness (primary prevention) to promote health and prevent illness. We have been assisted in these efforts on several levels and would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the following individuals to the creation of this manuscript.

First, we would like to thank the typists who struggled to decipher the crude hieroglyphics we call writing: Ann Hurley, Vicki Luther, and April Boyer. We would also like to acknowledge the important role the reviewers of this manuscript and other professional colleagues played in developing this work: Elaine Anderson, University of Maryland; Paul Aschenbrenner, Hartnell Community College; Clifton Barber, Colorado State University; John Bellfleur, Oakland Community College; Betsy Bergen, Kansas State University; Gregory Brock, University of Wisconsin, Stout; Kathleen Campbell, Bowling Green State University; Rodney Cate, Oregon State University; Ken Davidson, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire; Roberta Felker, Marymount College; Harold Grotevant, University of



Texas, Austin; Marilyn Ihinger-Tallman, Washington State University; Justin Joffe, University of Vermont; Sally Lloyd, University of Utah; Ann Marie Orza, Eastern Connecticut State University; Arnold Orza, University of Connecticut; Judy Rosenbaum, Director of National Board of Certified Counselors; Rita Phylliss Sakitt, Suffolk County Community College; Eugene Thomas, University of Connecticut; and Jerry Shepperd, Austin Community College. Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the staff at Brooks/Cole, particularly C. Deborah Laughton, Mary

Tudor, Phyllis Larimore, Judy Blamer, Jamie Sue Brooks, Mary Kay Hancharick, and the editor, Rephah Berg, for their good humor, patience, and support in seeing this manuscript grow from a simple little book of 14 chapters to an encyclopedia . . . which is missing, much to our chagrin, a brilliant description of the medical practice known as a craniotomy.

*Thomas P. Gullotta*

*Gerald R. Adams*

*Sharon J. Alexander*



# BRIEF CONTENTS

## *Part One*

### **SETTING THE STAGE 2**

- 1** Marriage and Family Life: A Historical Overview 4
- 2** Understanding Family Behavior 25
- 3** Understanding Research on Marriage and the Family 48

## *Part Two*

### **IN THE BEGINNING 62**

- 4** Sex Roles, the Family, and Society 64
- 5** Human Sexuality 88
- 6** Communication: The Essence of Relationships 125

## *Part Three*

### **FAMILY LIFE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN 150**

- 7** Intimacy, Love, and Maybe Marriage 152
- 8** The Developing Marital Relationship 177
- 9** Parenthood: The Family Expands 203
- 10** Divorce and the Single-Parent Family 230
- 11** Remarriage and the Blended Family 255
- 12** Marriage and Family Life in the Later Years 275
- 13** Alternative Family Lifestyles 299

## *Part Four*

### **FAMILY MATTERS OF CONCERN 323**

- 14** Family Economics: In Good Times and Bad 324
- 15** On Being a Minority in a Majority 348
- 16** Substance Use, Abuse, and Dependence and the Family 367
- 17** Family Violence 387
- 18** Death, Grief, and the Family 411

## *Part Five*

### **SOME FINAL OBSERVATIONS 430**

- 19** Here to Stay in Several Ways 432



# CONTENTS

## *Part One*

### **SETTING THE STAGE** 2

#### *Chapter 1*

### **Marriage and Family Life: A Historical Overview** 4

#### **Questions to Guide Your Reading** 5

#### **Defining Marriage and the Family** 5

Marital Forms 6

Family Forms 6

#### **Premodern Family Life** 7

Children in Past Times 7

*Box 1-1 A Swaddling Update* 8

Women in Past Times 10

Men in Past Times 11

Families in Past Times 11

The Transition from Premodern to Modern

Family Practices 12

#### **Family Life in America** 12

The Family in Harmony: 1620 to 1820 12

*Box 1-2 The Swinging Puritans* 15

The Cult of Domesticity: 1820 to 1920 15

The Move toward Equity: 1920 to the Present 17

#### **The Black Experience in the United States** 21

The Moynihan Report 21

A Revisionist View 22

A Reappraisal 23

#### **Summary** 23

#### **Major Points to Remember** 23

#### **Additional Sources of Information** 24

#### *Chapter 2*

### **Understanding Family Behavior** 25

#### **Questions to Guide Your Reading** 26

#### **Understanding Families: Three**

#### **Theoretical Frameworks** 27

Psychological Theories 27

Early Psychoanalytic Theory 27

Social-Learning Theory 28



Social-Psychological Theories	28
Symbolic Interaction Theory	29
Social Exchange Theory	30
Sociocultural Theories	31
Structural-Functional Theory	31
General Systems Theory	32
<b>Developmental Theory: An Integration</b>	<b>33</b>
<i>Box 2-1 The Ecological Perspective</i>	<i>34</i>
<b>Understanding Family Crises: Stress Theory</b>	<b>35</b>
The ABCX Model	36
A, the Stressor	36
C, the Meaning	36
B, Resources	37
X, the Crisis	37
The Double ABCX Model	38
Functional and Dysfunctional Responses to Crisis	38
<b>Primary Prevention and Its Technology</b>	<b>39</b>
Education	40
Community Organization/Systems Intervention	42
Competency Promotion	43
<i>Box 2-2 Misconceptions about Community Organization/Systems Intervention</i>	<i>44</i>
Natural Caregiving	44
Wellness and You	45
<b>Summary</b>	<b>45</b>
<i>Box 2-3 A Primary Prevention Worksheet</i>	<i>46</i>
<b>Major Points to Remember</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Additional Sources of Information</b>	<b>47</b>
Publications	47
Organizations	47
 <b>Chapter 3</b>	
<b>Understanding Research on Marriage and the Family</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Questions to Guide Your Reading</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Four Principles of Social Science</b>	<b>50</b>
Social Regularity	50
Cause and Effect versus Association	51
Operationalization	51
Reliability and Validity	52
<i>Box 3-1 Transhistorical History?</i>	<i>53</i>
Summary	53
 <b>Theories as Frames of Reference</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Research Methods for Studying Families</b>	<b>54</b>
Questionnaires and Interviews	55
Observation	56
Participant Observation	56
Naturalistic Observation	57
Field Observation	57
Laboratory Observation	57
Experimentation	57
Evaluation	58
<i>Box 3-2 Evaluating Research Reports</i>	<i>59</i>
<b>Limits in Studying Families</b>	<b>59</b>
Access	59
Ethics	60
Implications	60
<b>Summary</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Major Points to Remember</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Additional Sources of Information</b>	<b>61</b>
 <b>Part Two</b>	
<b>IN THE BEGINNING</b>	<b>62</b>
 <b>Chapter 4</b>	
<b>Sex Roles, the Family, and Society</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Questions to Guide Your Reading</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Historical Development of Sex Roles</b>	<b>65</b>
Masculinity and Femininity	65
Androgyny	68
<b>Societal Changes in Sex Roles</b>	<b>68</b>
The Movement toward Role Sharing	68
<i>Box 4-1 Sex Roles and Division of Labor in Early Marriage</i>	<i>69</i>
Shifts in Motives and Values	70
<i>Box 4-2 A Traditional/Liberated Self-Concept (for Females Only)</i>	<i>72</i>
Benefits and Problems	72
<b>Sex-Role Development in Children</b>	<b>74</b>
Dimensions of Sex-Role Development	74
Three Theories of Sex-Typing	74
Psychoanalytic Theory	74
Social-Learning Theory	75
Social-Cognitive Theory	76
Influences on Sex-Role Development	76
Parent/Child Interactions	77



The Media	77
Toys	77
<i>Box 4-3 Television Viewing and Adolescents' Sex-Role Stereotypes</i>	78
<b>Sex Roles and Competence</b>	78
<i>Box 4-4 The World of Sports: A Critical Perspective</i>	79
<i>Box 4-5 A Male Chauvinist Quiz</i>	80
<b>Sex-Role Differentiation, Marriage, and Parenting</b>	81
<b><i>Promoting Family Wellness: Preventing Sexism</i></b>	82
<b>Education</b>	82
<i>Box 4-6 In a Different Voice?</i>	83
<b>Community Organization/Systems Intervention</b>	84
<b>Competency Promotion</b>	85
<b>Natural Caregiving</b>	85
<b>Summary</b>	86
<b>Major Points to Remember</b>	86
<b>Additional Sources of Information</b>	86

## Chapter 5

### Human Sexuality 88

<b>Questions to Guide Your Reading</b>	89
<b>Religious History and Sexuality in Marriage</b>	90
<b>The Anatomy of Human Sexuality: A Brief Review</b>	92
Male Reproductive Organs	92
Female Reproductive Organs	93
The Sexual Response System	93
<b>Forms of Sexual Expression</b>	95
<b>Sexual Preference and Responsible Sexuality</b>	95
<i>Box 5-1 A Victorian View of Masturbation</i>	96
<b>Patterns of Sexual Behavior during the Life Span</b>	97
Childhood and Early Adolescence	97
<i>Box 5-2 An Experience with Nocturnal Emission</i>	99
Middle and Late Adolescence	99
Adulthood	103
Late Adulthood	104
<b>Sexual Dysfunctions</b>	104
<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</b>	105
Syphilis	106

Gonorrhea	108
Herpes	10
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	110
<b>Birth Control</b>	112
Contraception	112
<i>Box 5-3 Abortion Rights for Minors</i>	116
Abortion	117
<b><i>Promoting Family Wellness: Sexual Responsibility</i></b>	119
<b>Education</b>	119
<b>Community Organization/Systems Intervention</b>	119
<b>Competency Promotion</b>	120
<b>Natural Caregiving</b>	121
<b>Summary</b>	122
<b>Major Points to Remember</b>	122
<b>Additional Sources of Information</b>	122
Publications	122
Organizations	123
AIDS and Gay Issues	123
Birth-Control Information	124
Herpes Information	124

## Chapter 6

### Communication: The Essence of Relationships 125

<b>Questions to Guide Your Reading</b>	126
<b>The Elements of Communication</b>	126
<b>Barriers to Effective Communication</b>	129
Self-Concept and Relationships	130
Perceptual Filters	130
Communicating Feelings	131
<b>Communication in Different Types of Relationships</b>	132
The Intimate Pair	132
The Family Group	135
<i>Box 6-1 When Does Communication Begin?</i>	136
<b>Improving Communication between Adults</b>	137
Developing a Positive Self-Concept	137
Making Time for Communication	138
Assessing the Purpose and Responding to the Message	139
If the Other Person Owns the Problem	140



If We Own the Problem	141
If We Share the Problem	143
<b>Improving Communication between Parents and Children</b>	144
Fostering a Positive Self-Concept	144
Making Time for Communication	144
Assessing the Purpose and Responding to the Message	145
<b>Promoting Family Wellness: Fostering Communication Skills</b>	146
<b>Education</b>	146
<b>Community Organization/Systems Intervention</b>	146
<b>Competency Promotion</b>	147
<b>Natural Caregiving</b>	148
<b>Summary</b>	149
<b>Major Points to Remember</b>	149
<b>Additional Sources of Information</b>	149

## **Part Three**

# **FAMILY LIFE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN**

150

### **Chapter 7**

## **Intimacy, Love, and Maybe Marriage**

152

<b>Questions to Guide Your Reading</b>	153
<b>Discovering Relationships</b>	153
Developing Heterosexual Interests	153
Falling in Love	154
<b>Dating and Courtship</b>	156
Dating Patterns	156
Definition of a Date	157
Two Views of Dating	157
Dating Expectations	158
Dating among College Students	158
<i>Box 7-1 First the French Kiss and Now the French Feel</i>	159
Courtship Development	160
Changing Roles	160
Communication Patterns	160
Relationship Enhancement	160
Theoretical Perspectives	161
<i>Box 7-2 Courtship American Style: Let's Make a Deal</i>	162

<b>Intimate Relationships</b>	165
Defining Intimacy	165
Identity and Intimacy	166
Styles of Loving	167
Influences on Romantic Love	168
Arousal States and Love	168
Predicting the Course of Love	169
Love across the Life Span	169
Therapy for Problems in Relationships	170
The End of a Relationship	171
<b>On Remaining Single</b>	171
<b>Promoting Family Wellness: Fostering Individuals' Competence in Intimate Relationships</b>	173
<b>Education</b>	173
<b>Community Organization/Systems Intervention</b>	174
<b>Competency Promotion</b>	174
<b>Natural Caregiving</b>	174
<b>Summary</b>	175
<b>Major Points to Remember</b>	175
<b>Additional Sources of Information</b>	176

### **Chapter 8**

## **The Developing Marital Relationship**

177

<b>Questions to Guide Your Reading</b>	178
<b>The Marriage Contract</b>	179
<i>Box 8-1 Topics to Discuss before Marriage</i>	180
<b>Learning to Live Together</b>	182
Personal Habits	183
Separation and Togetherness	183
Decision-Making Power	183
Sexual Adjustment	185
Sex-Role Adjustment	187
<i>Box 8-2 Extramarital Sex</i>	188
Finances	190
<b>Marital Satisfaction</b>	191
Causes of Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction	192
<i>Box 8-3 Pointers about the Marital Relationship</i>	193
Satisfaction over the Life Span	193
<b>Marital Stability</b>	195



<b>The Working Wife</b>	196
<b>Promoting Family Wellness: Understanding the Marital Relationship</b>	198
<b>Education</b>	198
<b>Community Organization/Systems Intervention</b>	199
<b>Competency Promotion</b>	199
<b>Natural Caregiving</b>	199
<b>Summary</b>	201
<b>Major Points to Remember</b>	201
<b>Additional Sources of Information</b>	201
Publications	201
Organizations	202

## Chapter 9

### Parenthood: The Family Expands 203

#### Questions to Guide Your Reading 204

#### To Be or Not to Be a Parent 204

- The Choice 205
- The Issues 206
- The Impact of Children 207

#### Pregnancy and Birth 208

- Infertility 209

*Box 9-1 Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenthood 210*

*Box 9-2 On Being an Adoptive Parent 214*

- The Pregnancy Experience 214
- Giving Birth 216

#### Some Facts for Parents 217

- Aspects of Child Development 217
- Box 9-3 Guidelines for Parents 219*
- Roles of Parents 220
- Differing Parental Behavior 221
- Box 9-4 Parental Role Responsibilities 222*

- Some Realities of Raising Children 223

#### Promoting Family Wellness: Fostering Child-rearing Competency 226

#### Education 226

#### Community Organization/Systems Intervention 226

#### Competency Promotion 227

#### Natural Caregiving 227

#### Summary 228

#### Additional Sources of Information 228

- Publications 228
- Organizations 229

## Chapter 10

### Divorce and the Single-Parent Family 230

#### Questions to Guide Your Reading 231

#### The History of Divorce 232

#### Divorce: Demographics and Explanations 233

- Demographics 233
- A Theoretical Perspective: Social Exchange Theory 234
- Factors Contributing to the Divorce Rate 235

*Box 10-1 The Future of Marriages Made in 1977 236*

#### The Stages of Divorce 236

*Box 10-2 The Future of Divorce among the Elderly 237*

- The Emotional Divorce 237
- The Legal Divorce 238
- The Economic Divorce 239
- The Coparental Divorce 241
- Effects of Divorce on Young Children 241
- Effects of Divorce on Adolescents 243
- Adjusting to Parental Divorce 243
- The Community Divorce 244
- The Psychic Divorce 245

#### Is Divorce Good or Bad? 246

#### After the Divorce: Parenting 246

*Box 10-3 Mothers without the Custody of Their Children 248*

#### Promoting Family Wellness: Easing the Distress of Divorce for Children 249

#### Education 249

#### Community Organization/Systems Intervention 250

#### Competency Promotion 250

#### Natural Caregiving 251

#### Summary 253

#### Major Points to Remember 253

#### Additional Sources of Information 254



## **Chapter 11**

### **Remarriage and the Blended Family** 255

#### **Questions to Guide Your Reading** 256

#### **Remarriage: A Historical View** 256

#### **Demographics and Explanations** 257

Demographics 257

A Theoretical Perspective: Symbolic

Interaction Theory 257

*Box 11-1 Remarriage in Later Life* 258

Why People Remarry 258

Why Second Marriages Fail 260

#### **The Stages of Remarriage and the Family** 261

The Emotional Remarriage 261

The Psychic Remarriage 261

The Community Remarriage 262

The Parental Remarriage 263

Entry of a New Stepparent 263

Role Ambiguity in Stepparenthood 264

Reaction of Offspring to the Remarriage 264

Parenting Issues 266

*Box 11-2 The Ten Commandments of Stepparenting* 267

The Economic Remarriage 267

The Legal Remarriage 268

#### **Promoting Family Wellness: Helping Stepfamilies** 269

#### **Education** 269

#### **Community Organization/Systems Intervention** 269

*Box 11-3 Tips on Preparing to Live in Step* 270

#### **Competency Promotion** 271

#### **Natural Caregiving** 272

#### **Summary** 273

#### **Major Points to Remember** 273

#### **Additional Sources of Information** 273

Publications 273

Remarriage 273

Stepfamilies 274

Organizations 274

## **Chapter 12**

### **Marriage and Family Life in the Later Years** 275

#### **Questions to Guide Your Reading** 276

*Box 12-1 Achievers Late in Life* 278

#### **Middle Adulthood** 278

Psychological Changes 278

Family Relationships 280

The Spouse 280

Children 281

Grandchildren 282

Siblings 282

Parents 283

Employment 284

#### **Late Adulthood** 285

Psychological Changes 286

Family Relationships 287

The Spouse 287

Children 288

Grandchildren 289

*Box 12-2 Simulating the Sensory Losses of Age* 290

Other Relationships 290

Health 290

Housing Arrangements 291

Social Services 292

*Box 12-3 Group Homes* 293

#### **Promoting Family Wellness: Preventing Ageism** 294

#### **Education** 294

#### **Community Organization/Systems Intervention** 294

#### **Competency Promotion** 295

#### **Natural Caregiving** 295

#### **Summary** 297

#### **Major Points to Remember** 297

#### **Additional Sources of Information** 297

Publications 297

Organizations 298

## **Chapter 13**

### **Alternative Family Lifestyles**

299

#### **Questions to Guide Your Reading** 300

#### **Variations on the Theme of the**

#### **Traditional Nuclear Family** 301

#### **Variations Based on Family**

#### **Composition** 303

Singleness 303

Married Childfree Couples 305