



Stepfamily Relationships: Development, Dynamics, and Interventions

By Lawrence H. Ganong, Marilyn Coleman

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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.

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Stepfamily Relationships: Development, Dynamics, and Interventions By Lawrence H. Ganong, Marilyn Coleman **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

Review

From the reviews:

"Anyone who studies stepfamilies should read this book. It provides as comprehensive a review as possible of the explosion of research on stepfamilies in recent years, with 30 pages of references in very small type. ... A rather interesting feature of the book is the attention given to clinical research on stepfamilies. ... this book serves well as a source of reference for family scholars, a basic text for advanced undergraduate or graduate courses, and a stimulus for further research." (Elizabeth Thomson, European Journal of Population, Vol. 23, 2007)

From the Back Cover

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.

About the Author

Lawrence H. Ganong, Ph.D. is a professor of Nursing and Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Missouri (MU) Sinclair School of Nursing. A noted authority on post divorce families, Ganong's research has included intergenerational family obligations, post-divorce family dynamics and social cognitions related to family life. Ganong is a member of the National Council on Family Relations Board of Directors, and has conducted workshops for stepfamily members and for professionals working

with stepfamilies. He is the co-editor of numerous articles, books, and book chapters on post-divorce family relationships and step families.

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