

Skills for Living

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Topic 4-3

Family Structures Change

- In this topic, you will study the changes in family structures, as well as
 - ❖ **Family life cycle**
 - ❖ **Divorce**
 - ❖ **Remarriage**

Family Structures Change

Objectives for Topic 4-3

After studying this topic, you will be able to

- list the six stages of the family life cycle
- determine the consequences of divorce
- explain why second marriages are more likely to be successful for people whose first marriages ended in divorce

Topic 4-3 Term

❖ family life cycle

Family Life Cycle

- The *family life cycle* is basic stages of growth and development experienced by families

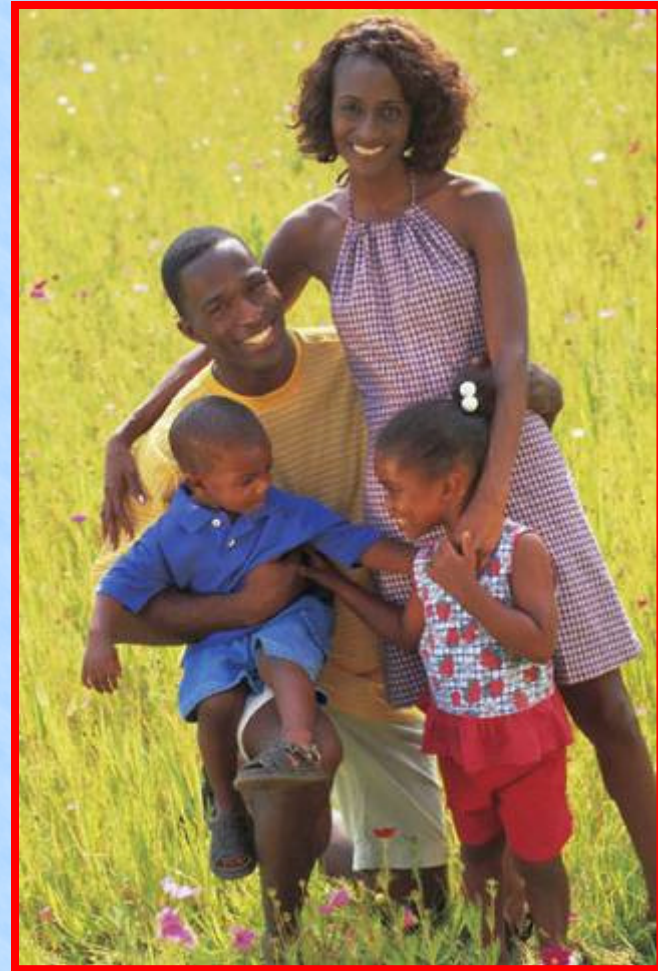


Stages in the Cycle

- The family life cycle has six stages
 - ❖ beginning
 - ❖ childbearing
 - ❖ parenting
 - ❖ launching
 - ❖ mid-years
 - ❖ aging

Variations in the Cycle

- Variations include overlaps of the stages and substages
- Roles and responsibilities change as a family progresses through the stages



Divorce

- Adjusting to divorce includes such changes as
 - ❖ lowering budgets
 - ❖ learning to think of self as an individual
 - ❖ living independently
 - ❖ helping children cope with changes

Did You Know...

- Divorced and separated older persons represented only 10.6% of all older persons in 2004
- Why do you think teens are more likely to get divorced than older persons?

Remarriage

- Why are second marriages usually more successful than first marriages?
 - ❖ Spouses are older and more mature
 - ❖ They have a willingness to spend the time and energy to make marriage work
 - ❖ Spouses have more realistic views
 - ❖ Spouses are more willing to cooperate and communicate

Summary for Topic 4-3

- Over time, the structure of a family changes
- Some changes occur as a family goes through the stages of the family life cycle
- Other changes in family structure are the results of divorce or remarriage