

Stepfamily

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Myths are beliefs that can strongly affect the way people react to various situations. Myths regarding the dynamics of stepfamilies can often create hurdles for those trying to form a successful stepfamily. The following statements are either facts or myths regarding the characteristics of stepfamilies and stepfamily life. See if you can correctly decipher the facts from myths. Circle F if you believe the statement is a fact or circle M if you believe the statement is a myth.

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1. Older children are more capable of handling parental marital problems. F M
 2. Girls usually have a harder time adjusting to stepfamily life. F M
 3. Children of divorce and remarriage are forever damaged. F M
 4. Adjustment to stepfamily life occurs quickly. F M
 5. Children would prefer that a stepparent relate to them as more of a friend rather than a parent. F M
 6. There is a legally recognized relationship between a stepparent and a stepchild. F M
 7. Stepfamilies have the same dynamics as first-time (nuclear) families. F M
 8. Role ambiguity of the stepparent can often lead to problems in the stepfamily. F M
 9. Stepmothers are wicked. F M
 10. The number of transitions experienced by a child during a remarriage can have an impact on adjustment. F M
 11. Love occurs instantly between the child and the stepparent. F M
 12. Stepfamilies formed after a parent dies are easier. F M

Some statements taken from Adler-Baeder, F., Sanford, T., West, C., & Smith, L. (2001). *Smart steps for adults and children in stepfamilies*. Jefferson County, NY: Cornell Cooperative Extension., www.stepfamilies.info

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