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Preface

After providing a variety of conceptual lenses through which to assess and understand family functioning, we guide the reader through each successive stage of the family life cycle and later through a number of alternative developmental pathways brought about by the death of a family member, divorce, or remarriage. At each stage, current research findings and conceptual formulations are used to highlight the relationship between the family's interactional strategies and the functioning and well-being of individual family members and the family system as a whole.