

Remarriage Prep: Adjustment Areas & Non-Negotiables
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DEFINITION OF STEPFAMILY

A married couple where one or both bring children of any age into the relationship whether or not they reside with the married couple or not.

THREE REASONS FOR RE-DIVORCE

1. Pre-existing Relationships
 - a. Children
 - b. Ex-spouse
 - c. Out-laws
2. New Relationships
 - a. New spouse
 - b. Stepchildren
 - c. In-laws
3. Money & Stuff
 - a. Yours
 - b. Mine
 - c. Ours

TASKS IN DATING

Men vs. Women

THREE IMPORTANT QUALITIES

Learner
Responsible
Accountable

BLOCKS TO KNOWING

Scotomas / Blind spots
Distortions
Corrective Lenses

DISCOVERING SELF

1. How am I living?
 - a) By default
 - b) Or design
2. What do I want?
 - a) To be
 - b) To do
 - c) To have
 - d) Desires vs. Goals
3. What is my plan?
 - a) Do I have one?
 - b) Am I taking steps?
4. When will I arrive?
 - a) Realistic timeline
 - b) Contingencies

DISCOVERING ANOTHER

1. How is he/she living?
 - a) By default
 - b) Or design
2. What does he/she want?
 - a) To be
 - b) To do
 - c) To have
 - d) Desires vs. Goals
3. What is his/her plan?
 - a) Do I have one?
 - b) Am I taking steps?
4. When will he/she arrive?
 - a) Realistic timeline
 - b) Contingencies

DESIGNING A RELATIONSHIP.....

NON-NEGOTIABLES

Values that determine whether I develop or dump the relationship (deal breakers).

1. Spiritual
 - a. Style
 - b. Doctrine
 - c. Frequency
 - d. Involvement
 - e. Devotions

2. Money & Possessions
 - a. Tangibles (Disclosure)
 - 1) “Stuff” / Possessions
 - 2) Assets / Debts
 - 3) Mine / Yours / Ours
 - 4) Financial models
 - b. Intangibles (Observed Behavior)
 - 1) Values
 - 2) Control
 - 3) Styles
 - 4) Trust / “what I will do by when”
3. Space
 - a. Where
 - b. Style
Differences between men & women
 - c. How
4. Maintenance
 - a) Vehicles
 - b) Home
 - c) Yard
 - d) Pets
 - e) Personal
5. Time
 - a. “I” (alone)
 - 1) Work
 - 2) Hobbies
 - 3) Rest
 - 4) Recreation
 - b. “We” (you and me)
 - 1) Relationships built one-on-one
 - 2) Impacted by pre-existing relationships:
 - a) Children
 - b) Family members
 - c) Friends
 - d) Ex-spouse
 - 3) What activities compose the “we” time?

- c. "Us" (you, me & others)
 - 1) Impacted by pre-existing systems:
 - a) Bio-connections
 - b) Social network
 - c) "Out-laws"
 - 2) Developing a new step-system & social network at the same time
 - 3) What activities compose the "us" time?
 - 4) What configurations will be involved?
 - 5) What about those not wanting to be involved?
 - d. Primary & Foundational
 - 1) Definitions
 - a) Primary: First in origin
 - b) Foundational: That on which something is supported & maintained
 - 2) Applied to first & subsequent marriages
 - 3) Couple or Kid Centered
 - 4) For the children
 - 5) For the adults
5. Sex
- a) Something you ARE, not something you DO
 - b) Definition of Intimacy
 - c) Intimacy Ladder
 - 1) Spiritual
 - 2) Recreational
 - 3) Intellectual
 - 4) Aesthetic
 - 5) Work
 - 6) Emotional
 - 7) Financial
 - 8) Conflict
 - 9) Crisis
 - 10) Sexual

CONCLUSION:

Trust Building Process

- 1) Getting to know you
- 2) Establishing your non-negotiables
- 3) Getting to know your partner
- 4) Honoring his/her non-negotiables
- 5) Climbing the Intimacy Ladder
- 6) Establishing a couple agreement
- 7) GETTING STEPFAMILY EDUCATION !!