Contents

	Preface	IX
ŀ	PART I MARRIAGES THAT CREATE STEPFAMILIES—WHY DO THEY OCCUR? FAIL? SUCCEED?	
1	The Evolution of Marriage and the Problem of Stepfamilies: A Biosocial Perspective David Popenoe	3
2	Stepfamilies in the United States: Challenging Biased Assumptions Marilyn Coleman	29
3	Remarriages and Stepfamilies Are Not Inherently Problematic Lawrence A. Kurdek	37
4	Biology, Evolutionary Theory, and Family Social Science Norval D. Glenn	45

ix

PART II HOW DO STEPFAMILIES FUNCTION AS CHILDREARING ORGANIZATIONS?

5	Stepfamilies as Settings for Child Development E. Mavis Hetherington and Kathleen M. Jodl	55
6	The Implications of Research Findings on Children in Stepfamilies Paul R. Amato	81
7	"Settings" and "Development" From a Demographic Point of View Elizabeth Thomson	89
8	Understanding Why Children in Stepfamilies Have More Learning and Behavior Problems Than Children in Nuclear Families Nicholas Zill	97
Н	PART III OW DO STEPFAMILIES FUNCTION AS SOURCES OF SUPPO	RT?
9	Stepfamilies Over the Life Course: Social Support Lynn White	109
10	Conceptual and Methodological Issues in the Study of Stepfamilies Over the Life Course Teresa M. Cooney	139
11	Stepfamilies: Selectivity of High-Risk Persons or Risk State? Dennis P. Hogan	147
12	Intergenerational Ties in Adulthood and Childhood Experience Judith A. Seltzer	153

PART IV BUILDING RESEARCH AND POLICY AGENDAS—WHAT IS NEEDED?

13	Research on Stepparenting Families: Integrating Disciplinary Approaches and Informing Policy Jeanne Brooks-Gunn	167
14	Reformulating the Legal Definition of the Stepparent-Child Relationship Margaret M. Mahoney	191
15	Social Policy Pertaining to Stepfamilies: Should Stepparents and Stepchildren Have the Option of Establishing a Legal Relationship? Mark A. Fine	197
16	Policies for Stepfamilies: Crosswalking Private and Public Domains P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale	205
17	Stepfamilies: An Overview Judy Dunn and Alan Booth	217
	Author Index	225
	Subject Index	231