

Counselor Quick Links

Equipping You to Counsel Stepfamilies

www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com/go/Counselor

- Therapy with Stepfamilies – article by Ron L. Deal, LMFT, LPC providing an overview of remarriage and stepfamily assessment and intervention. An essential guide for learning how to counsel stepfamilies.
- Stepfamily Developmental Tasks – download a PDF quick reference guide by Ron L. Deal describing the key developmental tasks for stepfamilies over three periods of time: before the wedding, during the integration years (first 7 years), and beyond 8 years of marriage. Plus, separate charts describe the tasks of stepfamilies following death, divorce, and an out-of-wedlock birth. Ron candidly calls this his “cheat sheet” for ministry leaders and therapists.
- Couple Checkup inventory – have dating, engaged, and remarried couple’s take the online Couple Checkup (powered by PREPARE/ENRICH) before or during treatment. You will get an x-ray of their strengths and couples’ receive dynamic feedback (and intervention) for their relationship.
- Pre-Stepfamily Counseling – learn how preparing couples for stepfamily living is different than first-marriage premarital counseling and see a sample 10-session format.
- Stepfamily Ministry – encourage your congregation to build a supportive, educational ministry to couples in stepfamilies. Learn about available resources and how to structure the ministry here.
- Marriage Intensives – difficult cases and crisis couple’s may benefit from a 2 or 3-day Marriage Therapy Intensive with Ron L. Deal. He will work with you to provide after care following the intensive.



Key Interventions: depending on the client system’s needs, these links may be helpful to you as you counsel the couple, children, or family.

- Psychoeducational interventions prove very helpful with stepfamilies because couples gain perspective and understanding as to the dynamics impacting their family. You can suggest they:
 1. Watch an online TV program (click here) <http://www.successfulstepfamilies.com/view/521>
 2. Read or listen to one of our resources (e.g., *The Smart Stepfamily*) <http://www.successfulstepfamilies.com/view/119>
 3. Watch *The Smart Stepfamily* DVD series <http://www.successfulstepfamilies.com/ecommerce.php/mode/view/product/60>
 4. Attend a live conference event
 5. Read an online article at our web site (see below)
- Read & share with your clients: *How to Cook a Stepfamily*
- Articles for **Dating Couples**
- Articles on a variety of subjects for **Couples and Stepfamilies**
- Learn about Marriage Therapy Intensives <http://www.successfulstepfamilies.com/view/450>