

DEFINITIONS

Augmentation – In augmentation, children in stepfamilies identify both their biological parents and at least one stepparent in their definition of ‘members of my family’.¹

Blended Family - (synonymous with stepfamily, reconstituted, remarried, combined or second family) – A household that is formed when two adults, at least one of which has children from a previous marriage and/or relationship, decide to cohabit.²

Custodial Parent – the parent who has legal custody of the child/children after a family dissolution.³

De Facto Stepfamily – is a family arrangement in which a stepfigure, without formalizing the relationship through marriage, is cohabitating with the custodial parent and at least one residential stepchild.⁴

¹ Gross, Penny. (1987). *Defining post-divorce remarriage families: A typology based on the subjective perceptions of children*. Toronto: The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, p. 214.

² Elison, Bradley L. (1992). *Content and quality of ex-spousal interactions and the adjustment of stepchildren: An exploratory study*. Virginia: The College of William and Mary, p. 13.

³ Miller, James I. (1984). *Differences in children’s perceptions of parenting styles for the natural father and the stepfather*. Idaho: University of Idaho, p. 14.

⁴ Anderson, E. R. and Greene, S.M. (1999). Children of stepparents and blended families. In Silverman, W. K. and Ollendick, T. H. (Eds.); 1999, *Developmental issues in the clinical treatment of children*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, p. 343.

Divorced Family- is a household headed by a single parent due to divorce.⁵

Half-Sibling – a child, from a previous relationship, of one of the adults in a stepfamily situation. This child, although not living in the stepfamily household, has a parent in common with one, or more, of the children in the stepfamily union.

Intact Nuclear Family – is a household, including a least one child, and headed by two adults who are in their first married relationship.⁶

Mutual Child – a child born into a stepfamily union, i.e., biologically related to both parents.

Never Married – is a term used to describe a single/two parent household in which the family consists of one, or two, adult(s) and a child, or children, born out of wedlock⁷.

Quasi- Kin – extended family relationships formed when adults with children from previous relationships cohabit. This may include former spouses, stepchildren from a previous relationship, relatives of the ex-spouse and former in-laws⁸.

⁵ Bryan, Linda R. (1983). *Family structure stereotypes: Perceptions of stepfamilies*. Columbia: University of Missouri, p. 6.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid p. 7

⁸ Gross, Penny. (1987). *Defining post-divorce remarriage families: A typology based on the subjective perceptions of children*. Toronto: The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, p. 207.

Reconstituted Family (synonymous with blended family, stepfamily, remarried, combined or second family) – A household that is formed when two adults, at least one of which has children from a previous marriage and/or relationship, cohabit⁹.

Reduction – In reduction, children in stepfamilies identify fewer than two of their biological parents as members of their family. They do not identify a stepparent and also leave out one, or both, biological parents from their definition of ‘members of my family’.¹⁰

Remarried - a marriage in which one, or both adults, has left a previous marriage (through divorce or death of a spouse). A remarried family would be a similar relationship in which at least one of the adults had children from a previous relationship.¹¹

Re-partnering – a live-in relationship formed when two adults, at least one of which has left a previous relationship or marriage, decide to cohabit.

Restructured Family (synonymous with blended family, stepfamily, reconstituted, remarried, combined or second family forms) – A household that is formed when two adults, with children from previous marriages and/or relationships, cohabit¹².

⁹ Miller, James I. (1984). *Differences in children's perceptions of parenting styles for the natural father and the stepfather*. Idaho: University of Idaho, p. 13.

¹⁰ Gross, Penny. (1987). *Defining post-divorce remarriage families: A typology based on the subjective perceptions of children*. Toronto: The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, p. 212-213.

¹¹ Ibid. p. 206.

Retention – In retention, children in stepfamilies include both their biological parents (omit all stepparents) in their definition of ‘members of my family’.¹³

Single Parent Family – a household headed by one parent due to a never married situation, a divorce or the death of a spouse.

Stepbrother – a biologically unrelated, brother relationship (sibling relationship), that occurs when adults, with children from previous marriages and/or relationships, cohabit.

Stepchild – a child, living in a household in which one of the adults, in the parental role, is not biologically related to the child.¹⁴

Stepfamily (synonymous with blended, reconstituted, remarried, restructured, combined, and second families) – a household formed when adults, with children from previous relationships, cohabit. This includes relationships that are formed by a marriage or a live-in partnership.¹⁵

¹² Miller, James I. (1984). *Differences in children’s perceptions of parenting styles for the natural father and the stepfather*. Idaho: University of Idaho, p. 213.

¹³ Gross, Penny. (1987). *Defining post-divorce remarriage families: A typology based on the subjective perceptions of children*. Toronto: The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, p. 210.

¹⁴ Elison, Bradley L. (1992). *Content and quality of ex-spousal interactions and the adjustment of stepchildren: An exploratory study*. Virginia: The College of William and Mary. p. 15.

¹⁵ Miller, James I. (1984). *Differences in children’s perceptions of parenting styles for the natural father and the stepfather*. Idaho: University of Idaho, p. 13.

Stepparent – an adult, who takes on the role of a parent, due to a marriage or re-partnering relationship with the child's biological parent, i.e., not biologically related to the child.¹⁶

Stepsibling – a sibling relationship formed by the cohabitation of adults with children from previous marriages and/or relationships.

Stepsister – a biologically unrelated, sister relationship (sibling relationship), that occurs when parents, with children from previous marriages and/or relationships, cohabit.

Widowed Families – are single parent families formed due to the death of a spouse.

¹⁶ Elison, Bradley L. (1992). *Content and quality of ex-spousal interactions and the adjustment of stepchildren: An exploratory study*. Virginia: The College of William and Mary, p.15..