### Glossary

**A**
- **abortion** Induced or spontaneous termination of a pregnancy before the fetus is capable of surviving on its own.
- **abstinence** Avoidance of sexual contact.
- **adolescence** The general social and biological changes a child experiences in becoming an adult.
- **agape** Greek term for spiritual love.
- **alternative birth center** A special birth center that creates a homelike atmosphere for birth.
- **amniocentesis** A prenatal diagnostic procedure in which a long hollow needle is inserted through the mother’s abdomen into the amniotic sac to obtain a sample of amniotic fluid, which is analyzed for signs of defect or disease.
- **amniotic fluid** The fluid that surrounds and insulates the fetus in the mother’s womb.
- **anaphrodisiac** A drug or medicine that reduces sexual desire.
- **antibody** A protein produced by white blood cells that fights infection.
- **anxiety** A generalized fear without a specific object or source.
- **aphrodisiac** A chemical or other substance used to induce erotic arousal or to relieve impotence or infertility.
- **artificial insemination** Induction of semen into the vagina or uterus by artificial means.
- **assumption** The supposition that something is true.

**B**
- **basal body temperature** The lowest body temperature of a person taken upon awakening.
- **blended family** Husband and wife, at least one of whom has been married before, and have one or more children from previous marriages.
- **body language** Nonverbal communication of a speaker.

**C**
- **child snatch** The taking of children from the custodial parent by the noncustodial parent after a divorce.
- **clitoris** A small organ situated at the upper end of the female genitals that becomes erect with sexual arousal; homologous with the penis.
- **cohabitation** A man and woman living together in an intimate relationship without being legally married.
- **colostrum** The fluid secreted by the breast during the first days postpartum consisting of immunologically active substances and white blood cells, water, protein, fat, and carbohydrate in a thin yellowish fluid.
- **common law marriage** Legal recognition of a cohabitating couple as being married after a given number of years (usually seven) of cohabitation.
- **communication** The sending and receiving of messages, intentional and unintentional, verbal and nonverbal.
- **conception** Fertilization of the egg by the sperm to start a new human life.
- **condom** A sheath, usually made of thin latex, designed to cover the penis during intercourse; used for contraceptive purposes and to control sexually transmitted disease.
- **congenital defect** A condition existing at birth or before, as distinguished from a genetic defect.
- **contraceptive** Any agent used to prevent conception.
- **crisis** Any event that upsets the smooth functioning of a person's life.
- **crude divorce rate** Ratio of divorces to each 1000 persons.

**D**
- **diaphragm** A contraceptive device consisting of a hemispherical thin rubber cup that is placed within the vagina, covering the cervix.
- **dilation and curettage** An abortion-inducing procedure that involves dilating the cervix and scraping out the contents of the uterus with a metal instrument (curette).
- **domestic partnership** Policy recognizing intimate hetero- or homosexual unions, often to allow work-related benefits.
- **double standard** Role orientation in which males are allowed more freedom, especially sexual, than females.
- **drug** Any substance taken for medical purposes or for pleasure that affects bodily functions.

**E**
- **ectopic pregnancy** Implantation of the fertilized egg in one of the Fallopian tubes.
- **embryo** The developing organism from the second to the eighth week of pregnancy, characterized by differentiation of organs and tissues into their human form.
- **empathy** Ability to understand what the other is thinking, put oneself in the other’s place, and intellectually understand the other’s condition.
- **endogamy** The inclination or the necessity to marry within a particular group.
- **episiotomy** A small incision made between the vaginal and anal openings to facilitate birth.
- **eros** The physical, sexual side of love called “Cupid” by the Romans.
- **estrogen replacement therapy** Supplying estrogen to menopausal women.
- **exogamy** The inclination or the necessity to marry outside a particular group.

**F**
- **false pregnancy (pseudocyesis)** Signs of pregnancy occur without the woman actually being pregnant.
- **family of origin** The family into which we were born and grew up.
- **family science** The study of marriage and family.
- **fecund** Having the capacity to reproduce.
- **fellatio** Oral copulation of the male.
- **fetoscopy** Examining the fetus through a small viewing tube inserted into the mother’s uterus.
- **fetus** The developing organism from the eighth week after conception until birth.
- **fraternal twins** Twins who develop from two different eggs and therefore have different genetic makeup.

**G**
- **gender role** Attitudes and behavior associated with each of the two sexes.
- **genetic defect** An abnormality in the development of the fetus that is inherited through the genes, as distinguished from a congenital defect.

**H**
- **halo effect** The tendency for a first impression to influence subsequent judgments.
- **hermaphrodite** A person who has both male and female sexual organs, or organs that are indeterminate, such as a clitoris that resembles a penis.
- **home birth** Giving birth at one’s home rather than in a hospital.
- **homogamy** Marriage between those with similar social or personal characteristics.
- **hysterectomy** Surgical removal of the uterus; results in sterilization.

**I**
- **identical twins** Twins who develop from the subdivision of a single egg and thus have the same genetic makeup.
- **immune system** The body’s biological defense system that wards off disease and illness.
- **impotence** Inability to gain or maintain an erection.
- **infertile** Unable to produce viable sperm if a man or become pregnant if a woman.
- **inhibited sexual desire** A pervasive disinterest in sex.
- **intimacy** Being emotionally, intellectually, and perhaps physically close to another person.
- **intimate** Experiencing intense intellectual, emotional, and, when appropriate, physical communion with another human being.
- **intrauterine device** A small object inserted into a woman’s uterus to prevent conception.
A written agreement between marriage/prenuptial contract. A sterilization procedure for females involving the use of a telescope instrument (laparoscope) to locate the Fallopian tubes, which are then cauterized. A type of white blood cell that is active in the body's immune system. A written agreement between marriage/prenuptial contract. A sterilization procedure for males involving the surgical removal of the testicles. A person, usually a woman, trained to assist in childbirth. The second adolescence, experienced in middle age, usually involving reevaluation of one's life. Marriage or interbreeding between members of different races. Learning vicariously by observing others’ behavior. The idea that marriage is natural and will take care of itself if we select the right partner. Birth wherein the parents have learned about themselves. A married couple and their children living by themselves. Hormonal material in pill form that suspends ovulation and prevents conception. The climax of excitement in sexual activity. Progressive deterioration of bone strength. The study of how people experience their world. A person who has a compulsion or obsession to be a member of the opposite sex through surgical changes. A person with inadequate conscience development. Chemical substance that destroys or immobilizes sperm. Any procedure (usually surgical) by which an individual is made incapable of reproduction. An event that provokes a crisis for an individual in a family. A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a child for another woman incapable of giving birth. Actions taken to cure or solve a problem. The passage of the baby through the cervix into the birth canal. A person who has a compulsion or obsession to become a member of the opposite sex through surgical changes. A person who prefers to dress as the opposite sex and derives sexual satisfaction therefrom. A sterilization procedure for females in which the Fallopian tubes are cut or tied. The hollow, pear-shaped organ in females within which the fetus develops; the womb. The process of recognizing and expressing one’s feelings, opinions, and attitudes while remaining aware of others’ feelings and needs. Several spouses over a lifetime but only one at a time. Blood reacts positively to a test for a disease or illness, indicating that the person is carrying the disease germ or virus. Injecting drugs directly the bloodstream with a needle and syringe. Acquiring skills necessary to survive as an individual and as a member of society. A pattern of behavior in which a negative behavior derives sexual satisfaction therefrom. An abortion-inducing procedure in which a salt solution is injected into the amniotic sac to kill the fetus, which is then expelled via uterine contractions. An abortion-inducing procedure in which a salt solution is injected into the amniotic sac to kill the fetus, which is then expelled via uterine contractions. Blaming a person or group for the mistakes or crimes of another. Marrying, divorcing, and marrying again; a series of legal marriages. Having several spouses over a lifetime but only one at a time. Adult having consensual sex with underage individual. Any procedure (usually surgical) by which an individual is made incapable of reproduction. Saline abortion. Saline abortion. Human egg cell. The healthy offspring of a marriage. A pattern of behavior in which a negative behavior provokes a negative reaction, which in turn provokes more negative behavior. Employed people who live below the poverty line.