

Preparing for Life and Career © 2013

Chapter 2: Your Family—Glossary

adoptive family. Family that forms when an adult brings a child from another family into his or her own family through legal means.

childless family. A married couple without children.

chronic. Sickesses that continue for a long time and may be life threatening.

cooperation. When everyone works together and does their share to reach goals.

crisis. A difficult situation that becomes very serious.

culture. Beliefs and customs of a particular racial, religious, or social group.

domestic violence. Physical or emotional abuse of a family member.

dysfunctional family. Family where a member does not do his or her part to fulfill responsibilities to the family unit.

empty nest. When the last child in the household leaves home.

extended family. Relatives other than parents (or stepparents) and children living together in one home. May include grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins.

family. Group of two or more people related to each other, including by blood (birth), marriage, and adoption.

family life cycle. Changes that occur within families in six basic stages: beginning stage, childbearing stage, parenting stage, launching stage, mid-years stage, and aging stage.

foster family. Family that temporarily takes care of children because their parents are unable to do so.

functional family. Family where each member contributes to the family unit by fulfilling his or her roles and responsibilities.

grief. Emotions felt such as sadness, loss, anger, and guilt when someone you know or love dies.

nuclear family. A married couple and their biological children.

relationship. A special bond or link between people.

shelters. Places that provide food, clothing, and housing to families who do not have anywhere else to go.

sibling rivalry. Competition between brothers and sisters.

single-parent family. One parent and one or more children.

socialization. Teaching children about the culture of the society in which they live.

stepfamily. A family that forms when a single parent marries. Also called *blended family*.

stepparent. Person who marries a child's mother or father.

substance abuse. The misuse of drugs, alcohol, or some other chemical to a potentially harmful level.

support groups. Group of people who meet regularly to discuss common challenges and to help one another cope.

telephone hotlines. An immediate source of support for people coping with a crisis.