

STUDY GUIDE

DEALING WITH YOUR DIFFICULT SON-IN-LAW OR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: The Do's and Don'ts

A teleseminar with Dr. Joshua Coleman

What are some normal, expectable conflicts that one might have with a son-in-law or daughter-in-law?

Why is marriage so often a turning point for creating an estrangement?

What kind of concerns might the adult child have about getting married vis-à-vis his/her parents?

Why is thinking about your child's issues around independence, autonomy, and identity so important in understanding the role that your SIL or DIL plays in the estrangment?

Why does criticizing their choice of partner almost always backfire?

What kind of concerns might any future SIL or DIL have about their future in-laws?

Why is the family history of the SIL or DIL so important in trying to figure out what might have caused or perpetuated the estrangement?

Why is a pregnancy or the arrival of a child often important in understanding an estrangement?

Why are sons who were close to the parents sometimes more at risk to be estranged once they become married or become parents?

What are some ways that a SIL or DIL may be important in causing estrangement?

How does the SIL or DIL's mental health issues play into it?

Why does your own child's mental health issues tempt him or her to use the DIL or SIL to "gang up" against you?

Why is the psychological fragility of the DIL/SIL or your own child so important?

Why do they sometimes have to cut off anyone who's at all related to you?

Why is your child's ability to manage conflict so important?

What is the "glue" that holds families together today and how is that different from other cultures and prior generations here.

Why is it so important to try to make peace with your SIL or DIL if possible?

What are some ways that you could begin to do that?

NOTES FOR QUESTION AND ANSWER:

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