



SEVEN CORE ISSUES IN ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY

A Comprehensive Guide to Promoting Understanding and Healing in Adoption, Foster Care, Kinship Families and Third Party Reproduction

Sharon Kaplan Roszia and Allison Davis Maxon

Foreword by: Deborah N. Silverstein, MSW

Based on a hugely successful US model, the Seven Core Issues in Adoption is the first conceptual framework of its kind to offer a unifying lens that was inclusive of all individuals touched by the adoption experience.

The Seven Core Issues are Loss, Rejection, Shame/Guilt, Grief, Identity, Intimacy, and Mastery/Control. The book expands the model to be inclusive of adoption and all forms of permanency: adoption, foster care, kinship care, donor insemination and surrogacy. Attachment and trauma are integrated with the Seven Core Issues model to address and normalize the additional tasks individuals and families will encounter.

The book views the Seven Core Issues from a range of perspectives including: multi-racial, LGBTQ, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, African-American, International, openness, search and reunion, and others. This essential guide introduces each Core Issue, its impact on individuals, offering techniques for growth and healing.

PRAISE:

“What do you get when two highly experienced, talented, thoughtful and respected adoption experts write a book together? The answer is this exceptional piece of work, which falls into the rare ‘must have, must read and must use’ category of literature relating to all sorts of ‘nontraditional’ families. From my perspective as both an adoption professional and an adoptive parent, I couldn’t recommend it more strongly.”

— Adam Pertman, President of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency and author of “Adoption Nation”

“For decades, I have been responding to these “seven core issues” as an adopted person, as a parent by adoption, as a poet. Now I imagine myself as a therapist trying to help someone in the adoption constellation. I would definitely want this book close at hand.”

— Penny Callan Partridge, Co-founder in 1973, Adoption Forum of Philadelphia

“As an adoptive Dad of three kids from foster care, I found the book to be an insightful and useful resource. It gives voice to both the challenges and resiliencies of those touched by foster care and adoption.”

— Sean Anders, writer/director of Paramount Pictures’ Instant Family

PB: ISBN: 9781785928239 • \$39.95

TO ORDER

JESSICA KINGSLEY PUBLISHERS
400 Market Street
Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19106

TOLL-FREE: 866-416-1078
FAX: 215-922-1474
EMAIL: hello.usa@jkp.com

ORDER ONLINE:
www.jkp.com

“A BEAUTIFULLY-ORGANIZED HANDBOOK, FULL OF BOTH STRONG, CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS AND PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIVING, SURVIVING AND THRIVING IN THIS WORLD OF ADOPTION.”
—MICHAEL TROUT, DIRECTOR THE INFANT-PARENT INSTITUTE

www.jkp.com

B READ OUR BLOG:
<http://www.jkp.com/jkpblog/>

 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:
twitter.com/JKPBooks

 FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/JKPadoption



**Jessica Kingsley
Publishers**

400 Market Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19106
T: 215-922-1161 | F: 215-922-1474

SEVEN CORE ISSUES IN ADOPTION & PERMANENCY

Seven Core Issues in Adoption and Permanency are experienced by all members of the constellation and include the following: Loss, Rejection, Shame/Guilt, Grief, Identity, Intimacy and Mastery/Control. Members of the adoption/permanency constellation include adopted persons, birth/first parents, permanent parents and extended family, all of whom experience lifelong intergenerational losses and complexities. All children, including those placed at birth, experience attachment disruptions and *relational trauma* that will be processed through each developmental stage.

Awareness of these *Seven Core Issues* and the challenges they create along with their accompanying tasks can help constellation members better understand how the experience of adoption/permanency has impacted their life and relationships. In addition, it allows constellation members to use this unifying lens to better communicate their own core issues and better understand other constellation members' core issues. A parent's understanding of the *Seven Core Issues* enables them to better address the complex challenges and feelings their child may experience throughout various stages of development. The goal of the Seven Core Issues is to provide a roadmap to de-pathologize the complexities built into adoption and permanency and address the traumatic losses in order to promote understanding and healing.

Loss – The losses connected to adoption/permanency are profound and change the trajectory of an individual's life. Loss begins the journey. There are Core Losses, secondary losses, ambiguous losses, and vicarious losses that will be experienced through each development phase.

Rejection – These Core Losses typically create feelings of rejection or fear of further rejection which may impact a constellation member's ability to feel connected and attached. A primal human need is our need to belong to a person, a family, and a tribe/community. Rejection and isolation feel like an emotional death.

Shame and Guilt - Rejection leads to feelings of shame and/or guilt. Shame and guilt impact an individual's self-esteem, self-worth and may create anxiety. Shame is maladaptive, while guilt is generally an adaptive emotion. Shame relates to self, guilt to others. Shame and guilt have long been created by the secrecy in adoption and permanency. Secrecy has been used as an element of control over constellation members in the name of privacy.

Grief - The profound losses that create feelings/fears of rejection, which led to shame and guilt, must be grieved. Adoption and permanency losses are too often left un-named, un-acknowledged and un-grieved. The losses may be difficult to acknowledge and mourn in a society where these forms of family building are seen as problem-solving events that benefit everyone.

Identity - If constellation members have acknowledged and identified their losses, examined feelings or fears of rejection, become aware of any issues connected to shame and guilt, and addressed their grief process, they have the opportunity to build a cohesive identity that includes their adoption and permanency status. As a life-altering event, adoption/permanency affects an individual's identity. Missing information, secrecy and lies negatively impact identity formation.

Intimacy - If individuals have acknowledged their core losses, note where, when and with whom rejection surfaces, addressed feelings of shame and guilt, taken time to grieve, and have embraced their identity, they are more able to offer an authentic self in an intimate relationship. Identity and intimacy are linked; as a person clarifies and re-clarifies who they are, their ability to relate to others, forgive others, embrace others and trust others is enhanced. If the earlier core issues have not been addressed, an individual may not know themselves well enough to know what they 'really need' or what they have to offer the other person in an emotionally intimate relationship.

Mastery and Control - All of the unidentified, un-named, unacknowledged and un-grieved losses can create intense feelings of powerlessness and loss of control. Everyone lost some power and control because of a life crisis, with the infant/child losing the most as they had no input into the decision that changed their life trajectory. The achievement of Mastery connected to adoption/permanency is a process that requires adapting, resiliency, learning, self-awareness and forgiveness.