

## FACTORS IN THE DISRUPTION OF AN ADOPTION\*

- Mismatching of the adopted child and the family
- Inadequate preparation of the adoptive family, including “stretching”
- Poor preparation of the child; child being uncertain whether or not s/he wishes to be adopted; forced interruption of child’s other attachments
- Inconsistent post-placement visits by the social worker
- Unrealistic expectations of change in the child’s behavior
- Child and parent fail to develop reciprocally positive personal exchanges
- Uncovering of previously unknown characteristics of child
- Ineffective problem-solving with persons outside the family; lack of utilization of available resources
- Delayed or no contact with the agency until situation is a crisis
- Failure to find an appropriate intervention service; referrals which reinforce the permanence of the problems
- The choice of disruption to deal with the adoption crisis
- Repeated running away by the child
- Physical assaults on parents or siblings by the child

### Reference

Barth, R.P., and Berry, M. (1988). *Adoption and disruption: Rates, risks, and responses*. New York, NY: Aldine de Gruyter.

\*Adapted from:

Silverstein, D.N., & Roszia, S.K. (1994). *Understanding adoption today*. Jacksonville, FL: Daniel Memorial Institute.



# ACT

Participant  
Resource  
Notebook

Tools for  
Skilled  
Practice

Practice  
Tools