

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
INTRODUCTION: HOW TO USE THIS BOOK	ix
Chapter 1 ABOUT THEORIES	1
Chapter 2 SYSTEMS THEORY: A PARADIGM SHIFT	5
Chapter 3 DEFINITIONS OF SYSTEMS CONCEPTS	9
Boundaries	10
Communication/Information Processing	11
Entropy and Negative Entropy	14
Equifinality	15
Homeostasis, Morphostasis and Morphogenesis	16
Open and Closed Systems	17
Positive and Negative Feedback	18

Purpose or Goal	20
Relationship	21
Wholeness	24
Chapter 4 FAMILY INTERPRETIVE SYSTEMS	27
Chapter 5 FAMILY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE LIFE CYCLE	33
Chapter 6 THE FAMILY AS SYSTEM	49
Chapter 7 A CRITIQUE AND DEFENSE OF THE SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE	53
Chapter 8 IMPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY THERAPY	59
General Principles	61
Engaging the Family, Assessment, and Therapeutic Goals	70
Pragmatics	75
Chapter 9 IN CONCLUSION	85
REFERENCES	87
INDEX	90