

## CHAPTER ONE: DEFINITIONS AND RESOURCES

Often, when asked about a family's resources, we think primarily of money. This chapter provides a broad definition of resources to be considered, when assessing a family situation: financial, emotional, mental, spiritual, physical, support systems, relationship/role models, and knowledge of hidden rules. The chapter includes a number of different scenarios that offer a deeper understanding of these different resources and educate us about the differences between those in the middle class and people who live in generational poverty.

Focusing on the difference between the classes, the scenarios expose the importance of the knowledge of hidden rules of middle class, the significance of relationships vs. money, differences in ideas about sharing money, penance and forgiveness vs. change, the use of physical violence and fighting, the role of grandparents in raising grandchildren, the impact of divorce, and some issues common to certain ethnic groups. The process of defining resources in a given situation provides the opportunity to highlight these key ideas that will be presented later in the book.