

How Siblings Sometimes Worsen Parental Estrangement

In some homes, siblings form bonds that are far closer to each other than those that they would have with either parent. And in homes where one or both of the parents have issues, siblings sometimes form a united front against the parent, either behind the scenes or in front of them. This may also occur in homes where one or more of the siblings have psychological problems and the parents are the healthier of the family members.

Other siblings have reasonable relationships with each other formed through shared experiences and common bonds, even if they wouldn't consider their sibling their closest friend or ally.

And in still other families, long-standing sibling rivalry or other problematic issues provide fodder to justify the need for the estrangement or the lumping together of the siblings with the parent.

In many homes, the more troubled sibling, sometimes the one who becomes estranged, creates disharmony in the family because of how much parental time, emotion, and often money gets allocated to trying to get them on the right track.

However, a common problem is that the estranged sibling may attempt to negatively influence the non-estranged siblings in the direction of also becoming estranged. He or she may tell the other siblings that they were also abused or neglected and refuse to have contact with them also unless they agree with his or her version of the past. It's complicated.