Home Study Questionnaire

(This information will be completed by both applicants together [if applicable].)

Describe your current relationship (include how you met, how your relationship evolved, and current legal status).

Describe your spouse/significant other's personality. What are the differences and similarities between the two of you?

Describe strengths and weaknesses in this current relationship (including areas of typical conflict or disagreement).

Describe your communication styles and problem-solving strategies in your current relationship.

What kind of impact do you feel your foster care/adoption plan will have on your relationship (both positive and negative)?

Children in the Home

List children currently in the home (include name, age, relationship to applicant(s), and custody situation of the child).

Describe child(ren)'s physical and personal characteristics (including any special needs).

Describe child(ren)'s attitude and feelings regarding the foster/adoption plan and how a new placement may impact the child(ren) currently in the home.

Describe your relationship with each child and areas in which you would like to improve.

Describe your children's relationship with each other.

Absent or Part-Time Children (Adult Children)

If you have other children who do not live in the home, include information about them (including their age, quality of relationship with applicant, attitude about foster care, why they do not live in the home, and how often they are in the home).

Roomer or Boarder

List other adults who live or stay in your home on a regular basis.

Support Systems

Discuss your current support system (both formal and informal).

Discuss your plan to prepare your extended family/friends/support networks to receive a foster/adoptive child.

What is your plan for child care and substitute care (babysitting)?

Who is your emergency support system or what resources do you have available in an emergency?

Parenting Skills and Hands-On Parenting

Describe how you were parented. By whom were you parented?

Discuss your parenting experience and skills.

Discuss the most rewarding part of parenting as well as the most challenging part of being a parent.

What do you consider a parent's biggest responsibility to a child?

Describe the differences in parenting styles/roles between you and your spouse/significant other.

Discuss your knowledge of child development.

Discuss your parenting methods (including supervision, behavior management, nurturing and discipline techniques).

Describe your role as a "hands-on parent" (who plays with the child, who helps the child with homework, who reads to the child).

Describe your ability to parent a child with special needs, your willingness to learn new techniques and skills, and your flexibility to adapt your family life to meet the child's needs.

Adoptive and/or Foster Parenting

Discuss your hopes and concerns for each family member related to foster/adoptive parenting.

What is your motivation to be a foster and/or adoptive parent?

Discuss your feelings related to parenting another person's birth child (including your ability to empathize with the grief and loss experiences by the child, their birth parents, and extended birth family).

Discuss your understanding of support services and how to access those services as a foster/adoptive parent as well as your willingness to do so.

Describe the type of special needs you foresee a foster/adoptive child having.

Permanency Planning

Discuss your understanding of the legal aspects of child welfare (including parental rights, parental roles, and the process of concurrent permanency planning in the child welfare system).

Discuss your level of understanding of the importance of preserving a child's connections and family history through visitation and contact and how this relates to a child's identity and development.

Discuss your ability to support reunification and the likelihood of a child's return to the birth parents or other relatives.

Discuss your thoughts on attachment and what it means to a child (including how multiple moves affect a child's sense of trust, stability, and their behavior).

What do you see as being the long-term needs of a foster/adoptive child and discuss your ability to provide for those needs.

Discuss your ability to meet the special challenges for foster care/adoption (including partnership with birth parent[s] and agency staff, your level of commitment to care for a foster/adoptive child, your comfort level with teamwork, and your ability to work within the guidelines of the child welfare system).

Discuss your ability to adjust your family's routine and practices to meet the special needs of a child.

Discuss the type of care you are willing to provide, the age and gender of children you are willing to care for, level of child's needs and how you are prepared to provide this type of care.

Describe your home and space available for a foster/adoptive child.

Family Life

Describe your daily routine (including work hours, children's school hours, transportation used by the family, and typical evening activities).

Describe the chores in the home that are assigned to the children, family rules, and how these expectations are communicated.

Explain how the family makes decisions and ensures that shopping, cooking, and cleaning are done and how social activities are planned. Who is responsible for these decisions?

Discuss your mealtime routines and expectations and any special diet your family follows.

Discuss the social and recreational activities your family enjoys together.

Describe how your family celebrates holidays and other special events.

Discuss any religious or spiritual rituals your family practices.

Discuss your family’s expectations/routines regarding personal hygiene and health care.

How has your family prepared to share their life with a foster/adoptive child?

How and which boundaries are set and observed in your family?

Discuss your family's ability to support the religious and cultural values and practices of a child that may be different from your own.

Family Finances

Describe your current financial situation and how you are able to financially support a child.

What is your knowledge of the assistance that is available for foster/adoptive parents?

Family Strengths

Family Needs

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