

Adoptive Family Assessment

(To be Updated Annually, or for Significant Change)

Agency Information:					
Agency:		Assessor:			
Phone:	Email Address:	Original Completion Date:			
Updated by:		Date:			
Updated by:		Date:			
Updated by:		Date:			
Dates of Home Visits:					
Identifying Information:					
Name of Parent 1:		Email Address:		Cell Phone #:	
Name of Parent 2:		Email Address:		Cell Phone #:	
Street Address:					
City, State and Zip Code:					
County of Residence:		Home Phone:		Fax #:	
Language(s) Spoken in the Home:					
Household Members (Include Parents, Children and Other Household Members):					
Name	Relationship with Each Parent	DOB	SSN	Race/Ethnicity	Is There Full Time (FT) or Part Time (PT)

Comments (Describe the Family Structure. If family is interested in adopting a specific child, note relationship):

Parent's Histories

For each parent, list where they have lived, worked, and attended school. Describe their general personality, relationships in family of origin, significant growing up experiences, losses/grief/trauma experiences, strengths/needs, medical and mental health, coping mechanisms, and special interests/hobbies. Include information about issues with drugs or alcohol. Discuss previous relationships – dates, description, how they ended, and if there were connections with any children. How did they deal with ended relationships? How did they help any children involved deal with it?

Parent #1:

Parent #2:

Current Relationship Between Parent #1 and Parent #2:

Describe the length and nature of the relationship, strengths/challenges, communication styles, how decisions are made and conflicts resolved, any fertility issues, and the stability of the relationship.

Parenting Styles and Strengths:

Describe how each parent was parented, how they were disciplined, their child-rearing beliefs and practices, how they discipline, their experience in parenting children not born to them, and their child care plans for an adopted child. Document they received and agreed to the DCF policy regarding positive discipline.

Non-Parent Adults Living in the Home:

For each non-parent adult listed on page 1, explain whether the arrangement is considered temporary or permanent and why, their general characteristics, what their role will be regarding the adopted child(ren) and their feelings about the adoption.

Information about the Children:

For each child listed on page 1, list their school history and grade completed. Describe their personality, health, special needs, attitude toward the adoption plan, and how they have been prepared for the possible addition to the family. Address if they live in the home all of the time or part of the time, and why.

For children out of the home, list who they are and their age and explain why they are no longer in the home, their relationship with parents and siblings, and their opinions about the adoption. For adult children of the adoptive parents, describe their perspective on their upbringing and family life.

Criminal History:

For each person 10 and over in the household, list criminal offenses – what they are, where they occurred, whether there was a conviction and the sentence. Explain how the person feels they have dealt with the issue.

Family Finances:

Attach the PPS 5318A, Adoptive Family Budget. Summarize the Parents' financial situation, their ability to meet the basic needs of the household and how this will be impacted by adoption. Describe their financial stability and ability to manage finances.

Family Environment:

The House: Describe the house, where bedrooms are located and which family member sleeps in each. Note where the adopted child(ren) would be. Describe the structure, number of levels, furnishings, and housekeeping. Document practices regarding smoking, pets, guns and medications.

The Yard: Describe the outside spaces. Note if there are ponds, pools, hot tubs, fencing, buildings, or play structures, and how safety of the child(ren) can be assured.

The Community: Describe the neighborhood where the family lives, and their access to resources, such as medical facilities, schools, counseling services, places of worship, theaters, museums, recreational activities. (Note: do not reference the racial or ethnic composition of the neighborhood.)

Family Involvement in the Community: Describe the family's level of involvement and ability to access community resources. Address whether they home school and if they plan to home school adopted child(ren). Describe the family's involvement in other community activities, such as places of worship, volunteering, or school groups, and what kind of support system they have in place. If the family runs a business out the home, note what type of business and any impact to the plan to adopt. Describe information received from community service providers.

Transportation:

Describe the vehicles owned by the family, insurance information, access to car seats, public transportation options/alternate transportation plans, and note each driver's license number.

Military History:

List who was in the military, which branch, when they entered and were discharged, the type of discharge. Describe how the parent feels military experience has affected/will affect their parenting, both negatively and positively.

Motivation to Adopt and Attitudes/Beliefs about Adoption Issues:

Describe the parents' motivation to adopt, their experience/ability to parent children not born to them, their expectations of themselves and the adoptive child, and how they feel adoption will affect them, their marriage and the family. Assess if they prepared to meet the special challenges of adoption such as: birth parent issues; parenting children with special needs; parenting children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, and traumatized; dealing with behavior problems, differences in race, culture, religion, lifestyle; accessing and accepting services to meet the needs of the child and family, including the agency. Explain their plans for the future of the adoptive child(ren) should something happen to them. If the parents have experienced an adoptive placement that did not finalize or an adoption dissolution, explain how this has been addressed.

Attitudes About Open Adoption:

Discuss the parent's support of open adoptions and explore the continuum of openness in adoption with the family and how these needs change as an adopted child grows and experiences different stages of development. Identify the family's preferred method(s) for maintaining openness with members of an adopted child's birth family and/or other important connections. What are the family's fears and concerns around openness in the adoption experience? What efforts will the family make to assist their adopted child in maintaining important connections and attachments? Describe the family's plans on how and when they will discuss adoption with the child and make adoption a part of the child's story and their family's story. Assess if they will be supportive of the child if they choose to search for their biological family.

Large Family Assessment:

If the family being assessed already has 6 or more children that live in the home, describe the family's motivation for wanting a large family, and their ability to access the supports and resources necessary. Assess their skills in managing time, being flexible, juggling appointments/schedules, and supervision. Discuss who will be available to the children during the day, and how transportation will be handled.

Summary and Recommendations:

Include a summary of the references, the family's strengths and needs, a recommendation as to whether they should be approved as adoptive parents, a justification for that recommendation, and a statement about their suitability for children with specific types of need. List the number, age and sex of the children for which they are approved.

Adoption Assessor Signature:		Date:
Licensed Supervisor Signature:		Date:
Parent # 1 Signature		Date:
Parent # 2 Signature		Date:
I have read and agree with the Adoptive Home Assessment. I understand it will be shared with others who need information regarding the adoption of children from foster care.		

