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Foster/Adoptive Parent Questionnaire for Applicants

Name: _____

Date: _____

The goals of child welfare are safety, permanency, and well-being. In your own words, explain the meaning of each goal.

Safety

Permanency

Well-being

What do you think your biggest challenge will be in your role on the child welfare team?

What lessons in relationship-building did you learn from your parent(s) that you can use when you become a caregiver or adoptive parent?

Which protective factor do you think is your biggest strength? Resiliency Social Connections, Knowledge about parenting and child development, or Concrete supports Explain your answer.

On a scale of 1-5 (with 1 being not very prepared and 5 being fully prepared), please rate how prepared you are to parent a child who has experienced multiple childhood traumas. Please explain your answer.

On a scale of 1-5 (with 1 being not very prepared and 5 being fully prepared), please rate how prepared you are to parent a child with developmental delays? Please explain your answer

List three things you can do right now to make your home safer for all children including children who may have been sexually abused.

Knowing that children placed in care may have been sexually abused but never disclosed, what are some potential indicators of sexual abuse you may observe?

Personality/Background

Think about a time when you felt unsafe as a child. What caused you to feel unsafe? What did it take to make you feel safe again?

Which of the following strategies do you think you will most likely use to build a relationship with the child and manage their emotions? Please explain your answer.

- a. Safety script
- b. Connect and correct
- c. Win/win solutions
- d. Specific, clear feedback
- e. Natural consequences
- f. Logical consequences

Describe your own personality. What do you like best and least about yourself?

What are your strengths and vulnerabilities?

Give some examples of your ability or inability to delay gratification.

Describe instances where you may have felt unappreciated. How did you react?

Has there ever been a time when you quit something that you didn't really enjoy? Tell me about it... (Were you committed for a certain time frame, did you finish, did you quit midway through?)

Has anyone every broken a commitment to you? What was it, how did it make you feel, what did you do to cope?

Marriage/Relationships

Describe your spouse's personality. What do you like most and least about them?

What are some of the difficulties you have faced in your marriage? How have you resolved them?

If you have ever been separated or had marriage counseling, please explain.

State the approximate extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your mate on the following items.

Handling family finances: Completely Agree • Mostly Agree • Slightly Agree/Disagree • Mostly Disagree • Completely Disagree

Matters of recreation: Completely Agree • Mostly Agree • Slightly Agree/Disagree • Mostly Disagree • Completely Disagree

Demonstration of affection: Completely Agree • Mostly Agree • Slightly Agree/Disagree • Mostly Disagree • Completely Disagree

Friends: Completely Agree • Mostly Agree • Slightly Agree/Disagree • Mostly Disagree • Completely Disagree

Sex relations: Completely Agree • Mostly Agree • Slightly Agree/Disagree • Mostly Disagree • Completely Disagree

Conventionality: Completely Agree • Mostly Agree • Slightly Agree/Disagree • Mostly Disagree • Completely Disagree
(right, good or proper conduct)

Philosophy of life: Completely Agree • Mostly Agree • Slightly Agree/Disagree • Mostly Disagree • Completely Disagree

Ways of dealing with in-laws: Completely Agree • Mostly Agree • Slightly Agree/Disagree • Mostly Disagree • Completely Disagree

Empathy: Give examples of instances where this has been a strength or caused problems in your life.

Others in the Home

Describe each of adult's personalities. How do they get along with you? With one another? With others?

How do others in your home feel about your plan to foster and/or adopt?

Children in the home

Describe each of child's personalities. How do they get along with you? With one another? With others?

How do your children feel about your plan to foster and/or adopt?

Views on Parenting

Describe your mother and father as parents. How would you be like them? How would you be different?

Why do you think your spouse would be a good parent/adoptive parent/foster parent?

How do you/would you help your child(ren) develop positive self-esteem?

What goals do you/would you have for your child(ren) as adults?

If you have no children in your home currently, what experiences have you had with children?

Lifestyle

What are your favorite family activities?

Describe a typical week in your life:

Foster Care/Adoption

Describe how you think it will be to parent "another person's birth child?"

Are you comfortable being involved in a child's case, meeting parents, participating in some way with visits?

Imagine that you are a foster child coming into a brand-new home to people that you have never met before. What would you like to have happen when you first arrive at the foster home?

Imagine that you are a drug addict with 3 children that were just taken away due to your drug use. What do you think you would be most concerned about with your children?

Would you like to meet the foster parents? Yes _____ No _____

What would you want to know about the foster parents?

What would you like the foster parents to tell you about your children?

What are your biggest fears in working with primary families? What do you think will help ease your fears?

What thoughts and expectations do you think a child coming into your home will have of you?

As you are unpacking the child's suitcase, you find a bedbug. You also note that the blanket the child sleeps with every night, according to the caseworker, is in the suitcase. It is very late at night and the child needs to get to bed. How would you resolve this issue?

Adoption Only

How do you feel about children placed in your home maintaining contact with family members (such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings) that are important in their lives? What type of contact are you comfortable with?

Are you willing to continue the parenting role in the child's adulthood if necessary?

In your own words, explain the benefits of having openness in adoption.
