

Family Adoption Services
2010 Lancaster Road
Birmingham Alabama 35209
(205) 414-6003

ADOPTIVE PARENT AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Please type answers on a separate sheet with full but succinct answers for each prospective adoptive parent. It is important that your responses are honest and thoughtful.

I. Family of Origin:

- A. Describe the family in which you grew up; including roles of family members, relationships between parents, relationships between siblings, and involvement with extended family members.
- B. Describe religious, social, and recreational activities that your family participated in together.
- C. Describe discipline and child rearing practices used by your parents.
- D. Give an example of a problem that occurred within your family and how you and the other family members coped.
- E. What were you like as a young child and teenager? Include personality traits, social life, school, and interests.

II. Adult Life:

- A. What was your young adult/pre-marriage lifestyle life? How was your lifestyle changed by marriage?
- B. Describe your work with attention to satisfactions, frustrations, pressures, and plans for the future.
- C. What is your present relationship with your parents, siblings, and extended family members?
- D. Describe your present relationship with in-laws.
- E. What are your individual strengths and weaknesses? How do you compensate for your weaknesses?
- F. What individual activities do you enjoy?
- G. Discuss any previous marriages.

III. Marriage:

- A. How did you meet your spouse? Describe your dating relationship.

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- B. What was your family's reaction to and involvement with your wedding plans?
- C. Discuss the strong points in your marriage. How do you describe your present relationship with your spouse? How are the roles divided? Decisions made?
- D. What are areas of disagreement and how are they usually resolved? Describe your last conflict.
- E. Describe shared activities
- F. What are your shared goals?

IV. Adoption

- A. If you are unable to have children, describe the process that led you to adoption. How have you dealt with this as an individual and as a couple?
- B. What were some of the attitudes toward adoption that you grew up with and how, if at all, have they changed?
- C. What are your preconceptions about birth parents and what reasons do you think that birth parents place children for adoption?
- D. Do you anticipate dealing threatened if your child begins to ask questions about his/her birth parents and wants information about his/her adoption story? Discuss fully.
- E. Do you think that you will be tempted to pretend that your child is natural born?
- F. If your child does not physically look like either of you, how will you handle comments regarding his/her looks from strangers, friends, and family?
- G. How do you anticipate responding to questions such as "Was I in your tummy?" and "Why did my 'real' Mommy give me up?"
- H. Do you fear the birth mother or father as a threat to the security of your family? Discuss fully.
- I. Do you agree or disagree that the birth parent(s) should be given as much information about you as you are given about them? Discuss fully.

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- J. Specifically describe the type and duration of contact that you are willing to have with the child's birth parent(s).
- K. Do you agree or disagree that continuing contact of some kind with the birth parent(s) is beneficial to the child's emotional and psychological development? Discuss fully.
- L. What do you imagine a birth parent "feels like" after the adoptive placement? Do you believe that a birth parent "forgets in time" about the child? Please discuss.
- M. What are your primary worries and concerns about the adoptive placement and the lifetime commitment of adoption? Please discuss fully.
- N. What do you think is the best way for Family Adoption Services and you as the adoptive parents to help the birth mother and father "live with" their decision to place their baby for adoption?
- O. Will you feel betrayed by your child if he/she wants to search for his/her birth parent(s)? Discuss fully.
- P. If you have children, what has parenthood been like and how has it changed your lifestyle? Describe your relationships with your children. If you do not currently have children, what are your expectations in this area?
- Q. If you have children, what problems do you foresee in adding another child to the family? How will you resolve them?
- R. What do you see your strong points being as a parent? What parenting skills does your spouse possess?