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Preplacement Assessment

A Child's Hope

Identifying Data:

Adoptive Father:

Date of Birth:

Occupation:

Adoptive Mother:

Date of Birth:

Occupation:

Address:

Phone(s):

E-mail address(es):

Marriage Date: (Verified by marriage certificate)

Child in the home:

Date of Birth:

Previous Preplacement Assessments / Dates of Contact:

This is the first Preplacement Assessment requested by the _____. A joint interview and home visit took place on _____. An individual interview took place with _____ on _____ in their home. A joint interview and individual interview with _____ took place in the home on _____. The _____ have never been rejected as prospective adoptive parents nor been the subject of an unfavorable Preplacement Assessment.

Description of Parents:

_____ is a Caucasian male who is 6 ft.3 in. tall, weighs 200 lbs., and has brown hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion. _____ is a hard worker, easy-going, protective, loving, and committed. He strongly values family relationships and is looking forward to adopting soon.

_____ is a Caucasian female who is 5 ft. 7 in. tall, weighs 150 lbs., and has blond hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion. _____ is creative, nurturing, loving, and supportive. She is very excited and hopes that they will be able to adopt soon.

Background Information:

_____. - *Adoptive Father*

_____ was born on _____ to _____ and _____ in _____. He is the youngest of seven children and has four brothers and two sisters. His brother, is 53 years old, and lives with his wife, son and two stepdaughters in New York. His sister, is 50 years old and lives with her two children in New York. His brother, is 49 years old and resides in Maryland. His brother, is 48 years old and live with his wife and three children in New York. His brother, is 46 years old and lives with his wife and two children New York. His sister, Amy, is 43 years old and lives with her with her child in New York. _____ regularly communicates with his siblings once every couple of weeks by phone or email and sees his siblings three to four times a year.

When _____ was growing up, he enjoyed outdoor activities, especially sports. He was also a Cub Scout and was involved in the Rotary Club. _____ enjoyed a close relationship with his siblings and relatives. He has fond memories of annual family reunions every summer where his siblings and cousins enjoyed playing baseball, basketball and swimming. _____ was heavily involved in sports, holding the school record in basketball since 1988. His mother, Marguerite, was in Retail Sales and is now retired, residing in New York. His father, was an Engineer until he retired. Sadly, _____ father passed away in 1999 from complications related to lung Cancer.

_____ describes his parents as loving and firm. They set expectations and challenged _____ and his siblings to do their best. His parents strongly encouraged that _____ and his siblings to obtain a good education. He remembers a great childhood and feels fortunate to have been raised by such loving and supportive parents. _____ communicates three to four times a week with his mother by phone and sees her at least four times a year.

After graduating from high school in 1988, _____ attended the State University of New York at Cobleskill from 1988-1991 and received an Associate's degree in Business Administration. He went on to attend the State of New York at Oneonta from 1991- 1993 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Economics with a minor in Marketing.

Since graduating from college _____ has had employment primarily in the satellite TV industry. He is currently employed _____, which he began in 2000. He states that the

company has grown a lot since then, now with 60 employees. He has many excellent benefits with this job and has quickly established a wonderful network of friends through his employment.

_____ loves his job and the people he works with. He plans on continuing to improve professionally and would like to eventually sell his company and pursue opportunities in the non-profit industry. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with _____, his son, _____ and their dog. He also enjoys going to sporting events and works out three to four times a week to maintain his health. _____ is looking forward to becoming a father again and is anxiously anticipating another child to join their family.

_____ – *Adoptive Mother*

_____ was born on _____ to Walter and Suzanne Rosendale in New York. The family moved to New York when _____ was a year old. She is the oldest of two children. Her younger sister, is 39 years old and lives with her husband and three children in New York. Her parents ultimately divorced when _____ was in her mid-twenties. _____ communicates regularly with her sister by phone, text and email and visits with her a couple of times per year. Her father lives in New York. She speaks to him at least twice a week and sees him three to four times a year. Her mother currently resides in New York. She communicates with her four to five times a week via phone, email and text and sees her four to five times a year.

When _____ was growing up she enjoyed having lots of friends. She describes herself as being a “straight A” student through middle school and was very active and involved in dancing, singing, gymnastics, drawing, painting, fishing, boating, and swimming. She recalls some tumultuous moments growing up within her family, as her parents struggled to make their marriage work, but has felt a sense of healing within her family since their divorce. She firmly believes that she is a stronger person now and makes better decisions as a result of her ability to have learned from her family’s earlier struggles. _____’s father, Walter, was a parole officer and is now retired. _____’s mother, was a homemaker until _____ was about 11 years- old, when she entered the work force as a teacher and she currently works in real estate.

After graduating from high school in 1986, _____ attended _____ University. After one year she discontinued her attendance and worked odd jobs for a short time. She ultimately accepted a job at a local law firm and during her employment there she received her paralegal degree through _____. _____ has also obtained an Associate’s degree in 2006. Since 1989, she has been employed primarily as a paralegal but made a career change in 1999 and began working in the communications industry.

_____ is currently employed part-time as a Project Manager. She enjoys the benefits of her position and loves working with her staff. She also feels very fortunate to have a flexible work schedule. _____ spends most of her time with family and friends, but in her spare time she enjoys reading, going to the theater, working on puzzles, playing board games, drawing, painting

and decorating. She says her strengths are having good organizational skills and patience. _____ is excited about becoming a mother through adoption and is eager to welcome their new little one home.

Emotional Stability and Maturity:

The _____ present as emotionally stable and mature individuals. Neither one has a history of substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, or domestic violence in their backgrounds. They are financially stable and have positive relationships with friends and family members. _____ and _____ appear to be very committed to each other and communicate well. They have discussed the financial and emotional implications of the adoption process and raising another child and agree that they are prepared for these challenges.

Compatibility and Marital Satisfaction:

_____ and _____ grew up only one town apart from one another and both had friends in the same social circles. They met in 1989 and after dating for five years until 1998, they became engaged. The couple was married on _____ in _____. This is the only marriage for _____ and _____. Neither _____ nor _____ has ever filed for a dissolution or separation of their current marriage.

_____ and _____ agree that they have a very strong marriage with the same goals, trust, and commitment to each other. They are friends as well as husband and wife and enjoy spending lots of time together doing many activities. Although they don't have many disagreements, their biggest issues are usually about miscommunications or losing patience with one another. When disagreements do arise they openly talk about the issues and come to a mutual agreement. _____ and _____ are usually able to easily compromise and agree on solutions that satisfy both of them and never have conflicts that last very long.

Around the house, _____ typically does most of the cleaning and handles the finances and _____ takes care of most of the yard work and lawn maintenance. However, they both share responsibility in all household chores. _____ describes _____ as intelligent, independent, competitive, and as having a great sense of humor. _____ describes _____ as responsible and as having good people skills, common sense, and great instincts.

Parenting Abilities:

_____ and _____ both enjoy the responsibility in parenting their biological child _____, who is 4 years old. _____ and _____ have many children in their lives

through family members and friends. Growing up, _____ was an uncle at an early age and has a total of 10nieces and nephews, which gave him lots of experience providing babysitting for his siblings. While _____ did not have as much babysitting experience growing up, but she has assisted _____ with his nieces and nephews over the years. Both _____ and _____ have several friends with children and they believe that open communication leads to a very supportive and positive environment for children. In addition to their personal experiences with children, _____ and _____ are willing to acquire additional skills needed to enhance their child's growth and development. They both love children and have a strong desire to become parents again soon.

Feelings About Children / Reason for Wanting to Adopt:

The _____'s have been considering adoption for quite some time. After being married, they began trying to conceive a child and eventually consulted with a fertility specialist after being unsuccessful. They went through IVF and _____ became pregnant with _____. The couple continued to try additional IVF treatments with no success. They later decided not to pursue any further fertility treatments. _____'s infertility stems from having blocked fallopian tubes.

The _____'s have thoroughly discussed their options and have decided that adoption is the best way for them to become parents together so they can share their lives with another special child. _____ and _____ believe a family is more than just biology; it's more importantly about the love and bonding members share and they are eager to welcome a child into their family through adoption.

Children:

_____ and _____ have one biological child, _____, who is 3 years old. _____ is an adorable Caucasian male with blonde hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. He weighs approximately 32 lbs. and is approximately 38 inches in height. His immunizations are up-to-date and he sees a pediatrician regularly. He also attends the Pre-Kindergarten class.

Some of the things he adores are music, trucks, traveling, Sesame Street, and the park. _____ and _____ state that he loves being around people and has been in daycare since the age of 3 months. The couple has not yet started talking with him about a sibling, but he absolutely loves other children. _____ and _____ cannot wait to see the joy that a little brother or sister will bring _____ and to them.

Financial Resources:

The _____'s 2010 tax return indicated that their adjusted gross income was \$_____. Their current gross annual income is \$_____ and was verified by statements from _____ and _____'s employers. This amount includes _____'s gross income

from employment, which was listed as \$ _____ every two weeks or \$ _____ per year. In addition to her salary she also receives \$ _____ in bonuses. _____'s gross income from employment is \$ _____ every two weeks or \$ _____ per year. In addition to his salary he also receives \$ _____ in salary bonuses.

In addition to their income, _____ and _____ each have life insurance policies valued at \$ _____ and \$ _____, respectively, and have a combined total of approximately \$ _____ in their checking and savings account. They also have \$ _____ in a 401K-retirement account. _____ and _____ own their home, which has a current value of \$950,000 and also have 2 cars.

The _____'s monthly debt includes their mortgage payments of \$ _____ for two properties. They have no other major debt. Their major monthly household expenses are:

Utilities	\$350
Food/supplies	\$500
Transportation	\$200
Clothing	\$200
Entertainment/Eating out	\$250
Telephone / Internet	\$80

The _____'s monthly gross income is currently \$ _____, which exceeds their monthly expenses of \$ _____. _____ and _____ seem to be good financial managers. They have never filed for bankruptcy and appear to be financially stable. They have medical insurance that will cover an adopted child upon placement.

This financial information was provided by the _____'s on A Child's Hope's Preplacement Assessment Application as well as a budget submitted to this social worker. _____ and _____ have discussed the financial implications of adoption and raising another child and agree that they are prepared to accommodate the additional expenses.

Interests and Activities of the Family and Daily Routine:

_____ enjoys playing golf, playing cards, attending various sports events, tennis and traveling. _____ enjoys reading, spending time with the family, traveling and volunteering. Regardless of what they are doing, _____ and _____ have lots of fun and enjoy being with each other every day. They are best friends and get along exceptionally well and can't wait until the day arrives that they can include an additional child in their daily activities.

A typical weekday at the _____ house starts off with _____ and _____ rising and assisting with getting _____ ready for school and attending to Kaylee. _____ leaves for his office at approximately 8:00 a.m. _____ takes _____ to school at 7:30 a.m. _____ enjoys the flexibility of being able to work part time from home. She picks

_____ up from school at 2:00 p.m. When _____ arrives home typically between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., the family enjoys dinner and dessert together. The couple prepares _____ for his bath and reads him a bedtime story nightly sometimes together, but usually taking turns.

Weekends for the _____ typically include breakfast together, household chores, grocery shopping, running errands and trips to the park, museum or play dates. The couple enjoys spending family time with _____ and hanging out in the mornings in bed for an hour before beginning the day often enjoying yogurt. _____ and _____ have a strong network of friends that they enjoy spending time with. The couple also enjoys traveling as a family when the opportunity presents itself.

Child Care Plans:

_____ plans to move towards being employed part time to being able to be a full time mother upon the arrival of another child. Her schedule is flexible enough to support this plan. _____ indicates that he will take time off of work and he will assist with childcare as much as necessary. _____ and _____ also have family members and friends that are willing and able to assist the couple, once their child arrives. The couple has decided that they will utilize daycare services when deemed appropriate.

Religion:

_____ was raised Catholic and _____ was raised Protestant. The couple had their son, _____ baptized at a small local Methodist Church where they knew the pastor. They do not currently attend a church on a regular basis but plan to have their adopted child baptized at the same Methodist church and plan to encourage their children to make spiritual values a strong part of their lives as children and adults.

Discipline:

The _____ plan to use discipline techniques such as time out, redirecting, giving choices, positive reinforcement, natural consequences, and taking away toys or privileges. They do not believe in using corporal punishment as a means of discipline. _____ and _____ hope to instill strong values in their children and want discipline to be a positive learning experience.

Attitude of Family Members Toward Adoption – Motivation and Readiness of Applicants:

The _____ friends and extended family members are very happy that they have decided to adopt a child. They have been supported whole-heartedly by their families and close friends who have all been enthusiastic and excited throughout the process thus far.

_____ and _____ have been counseled about the domestic adoption process, its costs and potential difficulties, and they report that they are emotionally and financially prepared to deal with these challenges. They have been informed that the placement of an out-of-state child must be approved by the Interstate Compact Office before the child can cross state lines and go into the adoptive home. _____ and _____ are aware of the post-placement assessment requirements and are prepared to fully comply.

Type of Child Desired and Expectations of the Child:

The _____ are interested in adopting a newborn to 24 month-old male or female child of full Caucasian heritage or a biracial child of Caucasian and Hispanic, Asian, African American, or American Indian heritage. They are comfortable with considering a child that has had minor exposure to alcohol and marijuana in utero, prior to the birthmother finding out she was pregnant, but who discontinued use thereafter or no reported drug use during the pregnancy. _____ and _____ are willing to consider a child born with minor correctable medical conditions. The couple is also prepared to consider other issues on a case-by-case basis. They are interested in adopting twins if the opportunity arose.

The _____ feel that if they are given the opportunity to adopt a child of a different race, they have the knowledge and desire to provide the child with a loving, stimulating home, which will include experiences from his or her ethnic background. _____ and _____ understand the importance of emphasizing heritage and ethnic background and the correlation to healthy self-esteem. They realize that the child will know them as his or her parents but experiencing his or her ethnicity is a vital piece that must not be overlooked.

_____ and _____ realize that each child is unique in personality and development. They would not have unrealistic expectations for their adopted child and would ensure that he is provided with optimal medical care. They are invested in providing the child with a loving, stimulating environment to foster healthy bonding, growth, and development.

Age of the Adopted Child in Relation to the Ages of the Applicants:

_____ and _____ are both at appropriate ages to adopt and parent a very young child.

Attitude of Adoptive Family Towards the Birth Parents:

_____ and _____ are committed to rearing an adoptive child as their own but being open and honest about their child's adoption by talking about it at an early age. They plan to speak positively about the child's birthparents and answer any questions honestly. They feel that open communication about the birthparents is best to encourage the development of healthy self-esteem and positive self-identity in the child.

_____ and _____ are willing to maintain ongoing contact with birthparents through pictures, cards, and letters to encourage the development of healthy self-esteem and positive self-identity in the child. _____ and _____ are most interested in an open adoption if all parties are in agreement.

Home, Community, and Social Network:

The _____ live in Raleigh, North Carolina. Their home is located just minutes from area schools, medical facilities, and shopping. They are very familiar with area resources, are well connected in the community, and have a strong support network of friends and family members.

_____ and _____'s 2-story home has 3,200 square feet and is located in the _____ subdivision with a nearby park, walking trails and lots of community events. Their home includes 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, family room, 3 fireplaces, a living room, kitchen, child's play room, office, dining room, sunroom, mud room, pantry, and laundry room. The room they have designated as the nursery is bright, spacious, and has ample closet space. Outside the home is a 2-car garage, screened in porch, and fenced in yard with plenty of room to play.

There is one very special member of the _____ family, a loving black Labrador retriever/mix named _____. _____ is very friendly, enjoys attention from children and other visitors in the home, and has not shown aggression towards anyone in the home.

Safety is very important to _____ and _____. They are very aware of the importance of childproofing and child safety issues and will take the necessary steps to ensure children are safe in their home. In addition, their home has 4 smoke detectors, 4 carbon monoxide detectors, 3 fire extinguishers, and an alarm system. They have no guns in the home or in their vehicles.

Health:

_____ and _____ are both in excellent physical and emotional health. They are free of any communicable diseases and have normal life expectancies. The health information for _____ was verified by physician's report dated _____ signed by _____, PAC. The health information for _____ was verified by physician's report dated _____ signed by _____ M.D.

The _____ also submitted health information for their son _____ O'Connell. _____ is in excellent physical and emotional health. He is free of any communicable diseases and has a normal life expectancy. The health information for _____ was verified by physician's report dated August 30, 2010 signed by _____, M.D.

References:

Three references provided endorsements for the _____ adoption plan. Elizabeth Millwood has known the couple for approximately nine years. _____ believes that _____ and _____ are among the finest parents she has ever known. Ms. _____ further states that she and _____ has witnessed the moments of sadness and celebrations in raising their son _____. She further states that both _____ celebrate his differences and are doing all they can to help _____ make his way in this world. She fully supports their decision to adopt and feels that the couple will make outstanding parents.

_____ has known _____ since he was five years old. They have been life-long friend, having met in Kindergarten. Mr. _____ states that he has been truly impressed with both _____ and _____ as parents. Both are completely dedicated to ensuring that _____ has all of the help he needs in a home so full of love. Mr. _____ believes that _____ is one of the sweetest, most content and happy children that he knows and he strongly believes that it is because of the dedication and love that both _____ and _____ have for him. This reference feels that _____ and _____ will provide a wonderful home to another child and would provide a home full of love and support, with the kids being the absolute priority in their lives.

_____ is the sister of _____ and the sister-in-law of _____. She has known _____ for over 17 years. She states that they are loving, caring, and thoughtful people. Ms. _____ is thoroughly impressed with _____'s dedication to her brother and their son, _____. She further states that _____ works part time to spend more time with _____. Ms. _____ believes that both _____ and _____ have so much love to give another child and that the child they adopt will truly be blessed in many ways. She is in full support of the _____ adopting a child.

Each reference highly recommended the _____ as adoptive parents.

Verifications:

_____ and _____ submitted fingerprints to the FBI for a national background check. Their reports were received on December 28, 2010 and indicated no arrest record for either of them. Criminal background check dated 11/1/10 for _____ and 11/4/10 for _____ from the Wake County Clerk of Court indicating that neither one has any criminal record. These records indicate no charges of child abuse or neglect.

The State of North Carolina does not have a child abuse clearance system in place. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services maintains a central registry of abuse, neglect, and dependency cases; however, under N.C.G.S. Section 7B-311 and 10 N.C.A.C. 411.0102 the information contained within the central registry is confidential and cannot be shared for adoption purposes. Accordingly, A Child's Hope is unable to fulfill any requests for clearance.

However, private adoption agencies are able to access a system called the Responsible Individuals List. This listing contains names of all people who have abused or neglected a child from May 2006 until the present. Neither _____ nor _____ was listed as a responsible individual in this listing. _____ and _____ informed the agency in writing that they are not the subjects of any CPS Assessment and that they will notify the agency if that occurs prior to the entry of the final decree of adoption.

During the course of the Preplacement Assessment, the social worker individually asked Mr. and Mrs. _____ if either of them has ever been denied approval as a prospective adoptive parent or been the subject of an unfavorable Preplacement Assessment. Mr. _____ replied that he has never been denied approval as a prospective adoptive parent or been the subject of an unfavorable Preplacement Assessment. Mrs. _____ replied that she has never been denied approval as a prospective adoptive parent or been the subject of an unfavorable Preplacement Assessment.

The social worker also individually asked Mr. and Mrs. _____ if they have any history of child abuse, sexual abuse, substance abuse, or domestic violence, as either a victim or perpetrator, even if it did not lead to an arrest or conviction. Mr. _____ replied that he has no such history. Mrs. _____ also replied that she has no such history.

_____ and _____ were individually asked if either of them has ever been the respondent in a domestic violence proceeding or a proceeding concerning a minor who was allegedly abused, dependent, neglected, abandoned, undisciplined, or delinquent, and the outcome of the proceeding; or whether the individual has been found to have abused or neglected a child or has been a respondent in a juvenile court proceeding that resulted in the removal of a child; or has had a child protective services involvement that resulted in the removal of a child. _____ and _____ each individually denied any such involvement. _____ and _____ also individually stated that neither of them has ever been charged with anything more serious than a minor traffic violation.

Agency Evaluations and Recommendations:

_____, age 41, and _____, age 43, have been happily married for over 12 years. They became interested in adoption as a wonderful option for them to parent another child together. They appear to be a friendly, dedicated, loving couple with strong family values and a warm home in which they desire to raise a family.

_____ and _____ have been found to be physically, mentally, and emotionally ready to be adoptive parents. They are recommended for the adoption of a newborn to 24 month-old, male or female, child of full Caucasian heritage or a biracial child of Caucasian and Hispanic, Asian, African American, or American Indian heritage. This recommendation also includes twins if the opportunity arose.

A Child's Hope, LLC has complied with the rules and regulations of the State of North Carolina Department of Human Resources. A Child's Hope is fully licensed to recruit, screen and select adoptive parents, to place children, and to accept children for adoptive services.

Completed By:

Amy J. Solice, MSW
Adoption Counselor
A Child's Hope

Approved By:

Laura A. Kladis, MSW
Adoption Supervisor
A Child's Hope
November 23, 2010