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Certification of Adoptive Parent Preparation & Education

Adoptive families are required to be prepared and knowledgeable about adoption issues. It is expected that we, as the home study agency, have provided this training for the adoptive family and we certify that this training has been satisfactorily completed by the adoptive parent(s). Time and experience has shown that it is extremely beneficial to the family to have help and access to resources early in the placement in order for the family to be assisted with their adjustment and with the child(ren)'s adjustment regardless of whether you are adopting domestically or internationally. This certification verifies that the following topics have been discussed at length throughout the adoption home study process to the satisfaction of the adoptive parent(s) and the knowledge to the adoptive parent that this agency is available to them after placement should these issues warrant further discussion.

The following topics will be discussed by your home study caseworker throughout the home study process:

Initials	Preparation & Education Topic
	Georgia ICPC rules and guidelines for domestic adoptions
	Finalization of the adoption process and how that process differs from state to state. For international adoptions, the re-adoption requirements.
	Education for the family regarding attachment and bonding. Discussing the basics of how bonding and attachment occur. Ways to facilitate bonding. The possibility of attachment resistive or disordered child placed with them and that there is a continuum of severity with attachment resistive and disordered children. Awareness that infants are not immune from having attachment difficulties. Development of a plan to address these issues should they occur with their child(ren). Awareness of grieving in adopted children and how this impacts attachment.
	Preparation with regard to abandonment, separation and loss issues for the child as they relate to placement, during initial adjustment and at each state of the child's development.
	Discussion of the various ways children grieve when they are separated from all that is familiar in their life and how they may experience that loss, as well as every day events perceived as losses during long-term adjustment.
	Discussion of the various behaviors families may anticipate from their child which relate to the grief process. Awareness that grieving has no time limit and may occur at any one or at numerous stages of development.
	Discussion of various forms of discipline and how different types of discipline may work for one child and not another. Corporal punishment is strongly discouraged.
	Discuss ESI's and Human Empowerment Leadership Principles (HELP) as a resource for intervention.
	The ability of the adoptive family to assess their personal level of self esteem and their ability to handle rejection, so that they can handle the rejection if that is an aspect of the child(ren)'s behavior during the attachment process.
	Awareness that there are no "perfect" children, Just as there are no "perfect" parents. When problems come up that feel overwhelming, the adoptive parents must be willing to seek help and be open to changing their own perceptions as they learn and grow with their adopted children.
	Adoptive parent counseling regarding difficulties and delays associated with different types of adoption situations.

	Awareness and education regarding learning difficulties, known and unknown, which may be present in the child that they adopt.
	Education regarding Sensory Integration and/or Processing Disorder.
	Awareness of "special needs" and the many different definitions of "special needs" and how it may affect their placement.
	Respect for birthparents and the openness to communicating with those birthparents and their child's relationship with his/her birthparents as they age.
	Attitudes regarding their adopted child's culture and heritage. Awareness for having a plan to help their child develop an appreciation for their cultural heritage and to help the child develop a positive self-identity.
	Understanding that adoptive parents may parent the way they were parented. If there is any history of emotional, physical, substance or sexual abuse in the background of the adoptive parent(s), have they been able to adequately address these issues and in what ways has this been professionally evaluated?
	If there is a history of infertility, giving the family the opportunity to address this issue and come to terms with it.
	Help with assessing how to cope with crises.
	Preparation that adoption is a lifelong process and the child's adjustment to their adoption is life-long as well.
	Lack of accurate medical history for both domestic and international adoption is discussed.
	The affects of pre-natal alcohol abuse (i.e. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) and other forms of substance abuse. The possibility that an adopted child may suffer from the affects of various forms of drug use and it not be assessed prior to the adoption.
	Awareness that social and medical information may be scanty, exaggerated, misrepresented, and inaccurate.
	The impact of institutionalization on adopted children (including infants).
	What developmental delays may or may not mean with regard to the child's physical, speech, and language development, emotional, and psychological development for both the short term and the long term.
	The importance of the awareness for medical, social, emotional, developmental and other needs after placement.

The Adoption Resources & Adoption, Inc. home study preparer hereby affirms the home study Applicant(s) have received counseling/education on each of the above mentioned adoptive issues and have been advised of the risks and adjustment issues relating to the parenting of children through adoption.

_____ Date _____
 ARC, Inc. Representative Signature

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By signing this document, the adoptive family affirms that they have received adoption counseling and education of the previously mentioned adoptive issues and have been advised of the risks and adjustment issues for children coming from various adoption situations (i.e. foster care, infant to older child domestic/international adoption, post institutionalized adoption, family adoption, etc.)

_____ Date _____
 Applicant 1 Printed Name Applicant 1 Signature

_____ Date _____
 Applicant 2 Printed Name Applicant 2 Signature