



3355 Lenox Road Suite 750 Atlanta, Georgia 30326 / Phone 678-860-0849 / www.myadoptionresources.com

ADOPTIVE PARENT CHILD SAFETY AGREEMENT

This form contains information about the safety of children placed in your care through adoption. Your signature indicates your acknowledgement that the agency has reviewed with you the safety requirements outlined in this form and that you are in agreement with the safety requirements for adoptive homes as stated below.

Animal Safety – As children are the primary victims of animal bites, (I/we) agree to comply with the following mandates listed below to assure the safety of any child placed in (my/our home):

- Provide close supervision of children when around animals.
- Refrain from keeping dangerous or aggressive dogs, or other pets, in the home, unless properly secured with a leash, fence or cage, etc.
- Notify all agencies involved immediately if any dog attacks a child placed in your home.

Gun Safety – Firearms take the lives of thousands of children each year. To prevent the accidental death of any child placed in (my/our) home, (I/we) agree to the following mandates:

- Inform all agencies involved of the presence of firearms in (my/our) home, now or at any time in the future.
- Secure all firearms in (my/our) home, using one of the commercial brand safety locks available for this purpose, or under lock and key.
- Keep all firearms unloaded and out of the view and reach of children in the home.
- Never allow children placed in the home to handle guns.

Motor Vehicle Safety – Motor vehicle accidents are the leading causes of death for children of all races, ages 5-14, according to national statistics. To ensure the safety of children placed in (my/our) care, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following safety precautions while riding or driving motor vehicles:

- Secure children 8 years of age and under in a federally approved child safety restraint seat and/or booster seat that is properly installed to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Secure children over 8 years of age in the rear seat of the vehicle with federally approved and properly installed safety seat belts.
- Refrain from transporting children/youth under 18 years of age in the bed of a pickup truck at any time. Children must always be properly secured with safety belts.

Supervision – Children in care are required to be supervised by appropriate adult caretakers at all times. In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:

- Provide appropriate adult supervision for the children in my care at all times.
- Refrain from leaving children placed in my care in the supervision of minors.
- Refrain from leaving children unattended in a motor vehicle.

***Water Safety** – According to the recent statistics, drowning ranks highest among the causes of accidental deaths for children and youth 0-24. Adoptive parents whose primary or alternative place of residence is equipped with an in ground/above ground swimming pool are required to take extra safety precautions with children placed in their care. To ensure the safety of children in our home, (I/we) agree to the following water safety guidelines:

- Inform Adoption Resources & Counseling, Inc. immediately if/when our home fits into the above criteria.
- Know or learn how to swim.
- Ensure direct adult supervision of children when around bodies of water.
- Ensure the compliance with any local or state ordinances regarding pools or waterfront property.
- Secure the entire perimeter of the pool area with a fence and locked gate of sufficient height to prevent the entry of young children.
- **Note:** Homes with ponds, or homes located on waterfront property, are required to employ substantive safety measures to ensure the protection of children in the home.

Discipline Policy – Adoption Resources & Counseling, Inc. policy prohibits the use of corporal or unusual punishment on a child in the home. To ensure the safety and well-being of the children placed in (my/our) home, (I/we) agree to the following:

- Refrain from the use of any corporal or unusual punishment on a child placed in (my/our) home, including, but not limited to the following: spanking, slapping, switching, shaking, pinching, biting, twisting, or pulling; tying with rope, withholding food, force feeding, denying mail, denying appropriate contacts with family, denying contact with worker; degrading child or child's family, or humiliating child; creating fear, anger and anxiety, locking child in a room, closet or outside the home; group punishment or delegating older children to administer punishment; destroying the child's property and any other practices which may physically or emotionally damage the child.
- Seek on-going information/training to build and enhance (my/our) child behavioral management skills.
- Immediately inform the agency of the need for assistance in managing the behavior of any child placed in (my/our) home, prior to finalization of adoption.

_____ Date: _____
Applicant 1 Signature

_____ Date: _____
Applicant 2 Signature

_____ Date: _____
Adoption Resources & Counseling, Inc. Representative