

CARING ADOPTION ASSOCIATES

AUTOBIOGRAPHY INSTRUCTIONS

As part of the family assessment, we ask that each applicant write a 6-10 page, double-spaced, typed autobiography. The autobiography is an important tool which enables your social worker to get to know you, your family and more about your plans to adopt. The following is an outline of topics that we would like you to cover. We recognize that all people have both negative and positive experiences throughout their lives and we ask that you share this information with us as openly as possible. Please focus on how these experiences have shaped your life.

Childhood

What are your parents' names, birth dates, current marital status, current health status and current residence? Describe your parents' personalities. What were their individual parenting strengths? In what areas could their parenting skills have been improved? What were your parents' methods of discipline? How many siblings do you have? Describe your relationships with your siblings, parents, and extended family. What were you like as a child?

Personal Strengths and Weaknesses

Describe yourself and your spouse including personality, character and temperament. List specific strengths and weaknesses in reference to relationships, interpersonal skills and work habits.

Education

Include names of schools, dates of graduation, areas of study, degrees/certificates for high school and post high school education. Please write in greater detail about your educational experiences in elementary, middle school, high school and post high school.

Job history/present job

List dates, employers, titles, job responsibilities. If you prefer, you may attach a resume in addition to your autobiography. Describe the responsibilities, challenges and rewards of your present job.

Marital relationship

Describe your courtship. How do you negotiate differences? What is your division of chores? If married previously, describe circumstances.

Philosophy on parenting and discipline

Please describe how you plan to discipline your child. What do you think children need

to grow and develop? What are your expectations for your child?

Children/experience with children

Please describe each child's personality and discuss your parenting challenges and successes, if applicable. What other opportunities have you had to spend time with children?

History of motivation to adopt

Why do you want to be a parent? Describe how you arrived at the decision to adopt. Are your extended family and friends supportive of your decision? How are you coping with infertility, if applicable? What led to your choice of the country program?

Support systems

Please describe your support system including extended family, friends, community, etc.

Leisure time interests and community involvement

Please describe.

Spirituality/religion

What role do these play in your life? How do you feel this will impact your child(ren)?

Health

Please identify and describe any health problems you have. How would these impact your parenting ability?

Criminal History

Describe and explain the circumstances surrounding any arrests or convictions.

Child Desired

Describe the age range (at time of match), gender preference(if applicable) and racial and/or ethnic background. Discuss special needs you are willing to consider. Please be as specific as possible.