

PART I : Each parent complete this section

- 1) **Describe what your beliefs are in regarding foster care and adoption issues. What do you see as the differences between foster care and adoption? As a foster parent, can you work with birth parents regarding care of their children? Can you see yourself serving as a role model for those parents. As an adoptive parent, what are your beliefs about openness with the birth family?**

- 2) **Describe ways that you deal with stresses in your life. What resources do you use to get you through? Describe the worst thing that has happened in your life. How did you get through that situation?**

- 3) **What is your motivation to foster and/or adopt? Why now? Whose idea was it to begin this process and how long did it take to get your partner on board with this? How do you think fostering and adoption will impact your family?**

- 4) **Describe your religious and spiritual beliefs? Could you see yourself learning about new religions and practices and instilling them in your daily lives for a foster child? How would you accomplish that?**

- 5) **Tell me about your marriage. How long have you been together? What has your life been like? How do you handle disagreements? How do you make time for each other? How does your extended family feel about you fostering and adopting? Do you have close ties with friends? How long have you been friends with your oldest friend?**

- 6) **Describe your physical appearance as well as your personality.**

- 7) Describe your openness in relationships. Who do you include in your “family”? How have you used other people or community resources to help you solve a problem? Are you open to counseling for yourself or your family?
- 8) Describe your ability to be a hands-on parent. If you have children, tell me about things you do with them. If you are not a parent, how do you see yourself getting involved? Do you take the instructional approach or the role modeling approach? Describe what that means to you.
- 9) Describe your ability to empathize with others. How can you tell if someone in your family is upset, mad, sad? Give examples of how you can tell what they are feeling by the way they act. How do you help others when they are really upset? What do you want from others when you are upset?
- 10) What do you enjoy most about parenting? (If you aren’t a parent, what do you see yourself enjoying the most). How does(will) parenting fit into your daily life? Have you ever had full-time responsibility for parenting a child who had emotional or behavioral problems? Describe that for me.
- 11) Describe ways that you have fulfilled commitments in your life. Once you commit to do something, what would it take for you not to fulfill that commitment? When thinking about parenting, how long do you see your commitment lasting to that child? Describe how commitment will be different for foster care versus adoption.
- 12) Parents typically feel entitled to parent children who are born to them. But, how do you plan to show that entitlement to “someone else’s child”? Describe how you see your role as it relates to parenting foster children. Adopted children?
- 13) Describe your personal strengths. Tell me about the strengths of your other family members. How about your weaknesses? Have you ever wanted something you couldn’t have? How did you feel and what did you do? What’s it like for you when someone “pushes your buttons?” How do you

respond? Have you ever had to stick with something for a long time before you saw the payoff? How did that make you feel? How do you and your partner deal with anger and frustration?

- 14) **What is your educational background? Do you intend to further your education? What are your hobbies and leisure time activities?**
- 15) **Summarize your personal history. Where were you born; where did you grow up; how many siblings do you have; what were the significant times in your life? In your family of origin, did you grow up in a one or two-parent home? Did your parents work? Was there any abuse or neglect when you were growing up? Any substance abuse history in your family?**

PART II : Answer each question as a couple

- 1) **When and how did your relationship begin? How has it changed over the years?**
- 2) **Describe any absent or part-time children in your home**
- 3) **Describe your support system. When do you rely on them the most? In case of a tragedy, who would be named as guardians of your minor children?**
- 4) **Who handles the finances in your home? How do you decide on how to spend your money? Who makes the “big purchase” decisions?**
- 5) **What are your strengths and needs as a couple? Do they compliment each other’s, or are you the same in all areas?**
- 6) **Describe your child(ren)’s personality, physical appearance, health, and hobbies.**