

Questions for SAFE HOME STUDY Name:

DATE:

**Please note: This questionnaire gives you a chance to provide further information than the SAFE Questionnaire One or agency paperwork which in general only provides home study writers a brief summary. The questionnaire was designed to save and maximize interview time for both parents and writer in gathering a lot of narrative information or data needed to complete the home study. Therefore interview time can focus on areas that need to be discussed in person only. It also gives you time to formulate your responses as many people have difficulty and find it frustrating to answer questions on the spot. Since this writer has developed the questionnaire, please direct any inquiries about this tool to me and I will be happy to help clarify. Each parent needs to fill it out individually and do not work in the email attachment or you will lose your work. Create a new document and SAVE AS into your own Microsoft document. My computer software is not compatible with Mac users please use Microsoft word if possible. If you prefer to hand print your answers then feel free to do so however you will need to ensure you number each question and use a separate sheet of paper with the corresponding numbered answer.**

For the following information please use the back of this page or continue in the box if using computer and record information for your parents, brothers and sisters, step parents, or step siblings

**EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS:**

Full Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant and Whereabouts, occupation, marital status, how many children, what are their age ranges
Example Jane Lee Doe	59	Mother, married to my biological father Joe, lives in Calgary, is employed as a teacher, has 5 children age:

**Note: the rest of the questions follow the SAFE home study format/report**

Do you have any previous adoption or foster care experience? If yes explain

**HOME:**

Describe your neighborhood (different than the question about your community)

Indicate if there is a pool, pond/fountain, play centers in your yard

How is your home child friendly?

Describe the sleeping arrangements in your home and the proposed changes once the child is in your care

Are you planning any updates to your home?

Are there any updates that are needed for safety reasons for the child? If so describe;

## **Personality**

**Do you wear glasses?**

**What expertise do you have, talents?**

## **Family Lifestyle**

**What are your current work and non-work day routines and rituals at present?**

**How do others in your home feel about a child coming into your care?**

**Who does what in terms of chores, cooking, bill paying, home maintenance, transportation, etc.?**

**Describe how the family deals with privacy and nudity in the home.**

**Religion: How is religion, going to church or attending church activities incorporated into your family?**

## **Culture/Ethnicity/Family Traditions:**

**How has your immediate and extended family identified with their cultural/ethnic roots??**

**What are your family traditions and how are major holidays spent and with whom (this is different than the regular activities you do with your family)?**

## **History:**

**How did your parents communicate and solve problems?**

**Were each other's interests or the interests of the children taken into account in decision making and give examples**

**Were assigned roles in the home age appropriate and clear,**

**How did your parents or family embrace new situations?**

**Were there any other adults that were influential in your upbringing? If so then how were they influential?**

**Did anything bother you as a child/Is there anything you think you missed out on as a child, if so then what?**

**What kind of activities did you do together as a family?**

**How did you feel loved and cared for by your parents?**

**Education:**

**Give dates and time frames for schools attended and age you graduated,**

**What year did you achieve your certificates or degrees obtained and from what institution**

**What kind of activities or hobbies did you participate in during your elementary or high school years?**

**Work History:**

**Give time frames in years or months that you were employed and in what capacity-**

**Why you left that employment and if there were any issues at the place of employment that caused you to leave....**

**Relationship with your Family of Origin:**

**By what means do you stay connected with family (parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles cousins etc) and how often ie phone, visits, email etc?**

**Relationship history: Indicate the time frame of relationships with previous spouses/domestic partners.**

**Personal characteristics**

**How are you physically active and what is your level of their physical stamina?**

**Have you ever been to counseling?**

**If so explain what the circumstances where and the outcome**

**For the interview please consider the following concerning your abilities: GIVE EXAMPLES to support your answers**

**Communication skills, Problem solving/ability to deal with conflict**

**Commitment and responsibility/accountability**

**Interpersonal relationships with others/ maintaining close friendships ....number of friends.**

**Self-esteem and self-worth...how do you handle feedback or criticism/ can you acknowledge your talents**

**Acceptance of differences/ ability to be respectful of others beliefs and customs, maintain relationships with others of another culture**

**Impulse control, mood, anger management (ability to handle and control anger) ability to forgive,**

**Judgment, forming opinions objectively and wisely**

**Adaptability, flexibility, handling new situations**

**Marriage or partnership**

**Please comment on the following:**

**What is your attitude towards one another,**

**enjoying one another's company,**

**loving respectful interactions,**

**Balance of power, shared through consensus-( such as equality in your workload, mutual decision making in finances, parenting, household, how time is spent together and individually) agreement about who makes decisions or equal partnership?**

**Children in the home**

**For each minor son or daughter, provide a description of their personality, interests, school, behavior, any health, developmental, educational or mental health issues? If a health, developmental, educational or mental health evaluation was accomplished, what were the results?**

**Extended Family**

**For your extended family (your parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins ....Are family members ready, willing and able to make the necessary adjustments to accommodate new circumstances and/or relationships, respectfully accept differences and embrace new family members?**

**How is communication, conflict resolution, and family decision making within the extended family?**

**How does everyone get along and care for one another? Examples.....**

**Are family roles, rules and expectations realistic, clear and adjustable?**

**How do you get along with your partner's family?**

**Finances**

**Tell me about your family's financial ability to meet the needs of an additional child in light of your current expenses and financial obligations.**

**Tell me about your ability to budget, organize and spend money wisely.**

**Do you have adequate resources for emergencies?**

**If you have pets in the home indicate breed and temperament and how long you have had your pet(s)**

**Do you have smoke detectors and where are they located?**

**Do you have fire extinguishers and where are they located?**

**Describe the home fire escape plan and the readiness and ability of every family member to implement the plan.**

**What arrangements do you currently have for safe storage of medications/cleaning supplies?**

**Are there any guns or weapons in the home and if so how are they stored?**

**Does anyone in the family/home smoke? How much? If anyone in the home smokes, describe the fire prevention precautions taken connected with smoking and measures taken to insure that children are not exposed to second hand smoke.**

**Describe all necessary water safety (drinking) precautions taken.**

**Do you have a support system with close neighbours, or are there close friends you can call on? If so give examples**

#### **Parenting:**

**What have you learned through your experience as a parent about what children need? How has this prepared you for the child coming into your care?**

**What substitute childcare will be appropriately used as needed and how stable will these arrangements be and why?**

**How are you choosing your substitute caregiver and ensuring that the substitute caretakers are responsible and sensitive to the needs of the child?**

**What is your emergency short-term and long-term substitute childcare plan in the event of one or both of you becoming sick, incapacitated or death of either one of you or both? Indicate who has been designated as a substitute caretaker, your relationship to the caretaker, as well as the kind of care they will provide and their readiness to assume this responsibility. Also indicate whether or not these arrangements have been formalized in a will or trust**

#### **Specialized parenting**

**What is your understanding of the effects on a child from all forms of abuse and neglect, Separation and loss?**

**What is your understanding about the need of a child who has been abused to have structure?**

**Are friends and family members supportive of the decision to parent cross-racially/culturally?**

**Are you ready to learn the skills necessary to meet the child's racially/culturally defined dietary, skin, hair and health needs? Explain how .....**

**If applicable, how are you sensitive to the issues faced by an inter-racial/cultural family and how are you prepared to help the child deal with the potential discrimination and the insensitivity of others?**

**In what way have you gained the necessary knowledge to become an effective consumer of therapeutic and education resources for a child?**

**How are you ready, willing and able to effectively utilize any therapeutic and educational resources?**

**How do you believe you would be a strong advocate for a child if they needed a service? Give any examples of how you have already done so**

**What are your plans on how you are going to tell the child about their birth family?**

**How are you going refer to the birth family, or yourself, when speaking to your child, specifically the terms you will use?**

**Are you willing to compile a record of the child's growth and development, including photos, and submit them to your adoption agency/birth parent?**