

Questions for SAFE HOME STUDY Name:

DATE:

Please note: This questionnaire is designed for different kinds of SAFE homestudies if you have previously filled out paperwork and feel you have already answered a question in full then just indicate that under the question or a draw a line through it and go on to the next.....this questionnaire also 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

What are your reasons for wanting to become adoptive parents?

Do you have any previous adoption or foster care experience?

Note: for a child specific adoption where you are already matched or a child that has already been placed in your home: Describe anything you know, past and present, of the functioning of the child's birth family (include what you know about the birth mother, birth father, any siblings that child may have, any grandparents or aunts and uncles of the child)

(Use the back of this paper or a separate sheet if you have to)

Placement history of the child with you in the past or what you know of the child's placement history: Tell your story of how you came to care for this child (use the back or a separate sheet if you have to)

Any medical history you may have about the child

Any child welfare history you are aware of:

YOUR Home:

Type of residence (House, Apartment, Condo, etc.):

Square footage:

Bedrooms:

Bathrooms:

Length of time in current residence:

Describe the general characteristics of your home:

Describe the floor plan

Describe your neighborhood

Describe the yard space and indicate if there is a pool, pond/fountain, play centers,

How is your home child friendly etc etc.

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

Describe your physical appearance

Do you wear glasses, birthmarks, tattoos, height and weight etc

Describe your personality (use descriptive words)

Why did you choose those words to describe yourself, give examples of how you demonstrate this personality trait?

Describe any interests you have

What are your hobbies?

What expertise do you have

or talents

What are your strengths:

What are your personal values?

Aspirations

What are your goals in life?

How would you describe your partner as per personal characteristics?

Family Lifestyle

Describe your proposed child care arrangements once the child is in your care

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

How would this be different once the child is in your care

How dependent or independent are the members of your family

What about when the child comes into your care ??

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

What are the basic household rules in your home,

What are each of the family members roles

What are your expectations of people in your home?

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:

What religion are you? How is religion incorporated into your family?

Do you attend church or church functions and activities, which ones?

If you were raised in a religious faith and no longer attend church or practice your religion, what are the reasons?

What kind of recreational, social and religious activities does the family engage in?

Culture/Ethnicity/Family Traditions:

What culture or ethnicity are you ??

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

What are your family traditions, besides celebrating major holidays?

How does the family celebrate holidays; which ones and how are they spent?

History:

Provide a factual description of your childhood history: summarize what your childhood was like...use descriptive words

Why did you use those words.....give some examples of why you saw your childhood in this manner

Tell me what was your mother was like in her character and personality during your childhood: Use descriptive words and reasons why used those words ...give examples to support the way you described your parent

Tell me what was your father was like during your childhood in his character and personality: Use descriptive words and reasons why used those words ...give examples to support the way you described your parent

How did your parents communicate?

How did your parents solve problems?

How were the children involved in addressing family 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?

What were your teenage years like in your home?

Were there any traumatic events in your childhood or teens such as death of a significant person in your life, an accident or sickness of anyone including your self

What are your fondest childhood memories?

Did anything bother you as a child?

What is your birth order and do you feel that it had any bearing positive or negative on your upbringing

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

How were you disciplined and by whom: Note if you were spanked please describe how you were spanked such as with an open hand or closed, with an object and if so what object and how often as well as if your clothes were on or off and what area of the body was spanking administered.

How did you think you were influenced by the way you were disciplined?

What was your relationship like with your siblings?

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

How did you feel loved and cared for by your parents

Where were you were raised,

Education:

What schools were attended, **give dates and time frames**

age you graduated,

Names of certificates or degrees obtained, from what institution**year achieved**

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

Work History:

Your work history, give employment names, give time frames in years or months that you were there and in what capacity were you employed

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

Does your current employment give you satisfaction and if so they how ??

Relationship with your Family of Origin:

What is your relationship like with your parents now and how often do you see them, by what means do you stay connected ie phone, visits, email etc

What is your relationship like now with your siblings?? Include how often you are in contact and by what methods, ie phone computer or visits

Are there others in your extended family you stay in contact with??

Relationship history: Indicate name(s) of previous spouses/domestic partners and the timeframe of these relationships. Include how relationships were terminated, e.g., death, divorce, annulment, separation, etc. Identify any children born of these marriage/domestic partner relationships or any other unions and describe their current situation

Personal characteristics

What childhood illnesses did you have

Have you had any surgery's or health issues in the past that required treatment?

Are you in good health or are there some current health problems and if so any that would interfere with your ability to be a caregiver.

If there are some health problems, how significant are they and what treatment interventions and medications are being used? (Please state name of medication and dosage)

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

How do you stay active?

Have you ever been to counseling?

If so explain what the circumstances were and the outcome

Have you ever been diagnosed with a psychiatric illness?

Have you ever needed psychiatric care, including seeing a medical doctor or psychiatrist, taking medications for anxiety, depression or any other conditions? For how long, name of medication and dosages. What were the circumstances that required this referral?

Has a member of your immediate or extended family ever needed psychiatric care, including taking medications for anxiety, depression or any other conditions? For how long, name of medication and dosages. What were the circumstances that required this referral?

What is your family's health history both your maternal and paternal side of the family; illnesses, death, current treatments

Tell me about the following concerning your abilities: **GIVE EXAMPLES** to support your answers

Communication skills

Commitment and responsibility/accountability

Problem solving/ability to deal with conflict

Interpersonal relationships with others/ maintaining close friendshipsnumber 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

How do you take care of yourself when you need to relax

How do you manage stress?

How do handle disagreements with others

Marriage or partnership

Marriage or partnership to current partner; please include each item listed; how you met , how long you dated, date of wedding and place, where did you first live, any adjustments either of you have had to make

Any issues you have experienced as a couple that have been challenging

How do solve problems together and handle conflict

What are the positive or negative qualities about your relationship

What are the areas that you have disagreements?

What are your goals as a couple

How much time to do spend pursuing individual interests

What are the individual interests you pursue?

Is your partner supportive of your interests?

Please comment on the following:

Emotional support, being sensitive and responsive to each other's needs, ability to express feelings to one another

Attitude towards one another, enjoying one another's company, loving respectful interactions, recognition of personal strengths and ability to talk about them.

Balance of power, shared through consensus?, agreement about who makes decisions or equal partnership

Stability of the partnership, commitment, trust and balance of dependence versus independence

Sexual compatibility, do you have a mutually satisfying sexual compatibility.....or are there anyissues??

Children in the home

For each minor son or daughter, provide the minor's name, age and gender followed by a description of their personality, interests, school and living situation

Is the minor's behavior age-appropriate, give examples?

Does the minor present any health, developmental, educational or mental health issues? If so describe

If a health, developmental, educational or mental health evaluation was accomplished, what were the results?

How secure, well-adjusted and adaptable is the minor?

Does the minor exhibit any behaviors that pose a threat to the health, safety and well-being of self or others? describe

Does the minor have a secure attachment to both his/her/parents? Describe or examples

Does the minor have any alcohol or drug involvement? If so describe

How does the minor feel and how prepared is the minor for the arrival of a new child into the family?

Extended Family

For your extended family (your parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousinsAre family members readily able to make necessary adjustments to accommodate new circumstances and/or relationships?

Is communication within the extended family respectful, clear and well received? How does everyone communicate and get along Examples.....

Are extended family members ready, willing and able to respectfully accept differences and embrace new family members?

Are family decision making and conflict resolution processes fair and effective? examples

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

Is your extended family supportive of the kinship care and what are their opinions?

How are they supportive of you and your family

How do you maintain family closeness and connections with them

When you are all together how does everyone get alonggive examples

How often do you talk to extended family like grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts etc

How does your family show that they care for one another?

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 their current expenses and financial obligations.

Why do you believe your income is sufficient to meet the family's needs?

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

Are there adequate resources for emergencies?

Are there are pets in the home? If so then 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?

Any guns or weapons in the home and if so how are they stored

Does anyone 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.

What kind of facilities are close to your home including recreation, sports, parks etc

What is available in your community for you to access for the child for recreation, sports,

What available agencies in the community can you foresee using for the child once in your care: (educational, medical, child orientated agencies like Midwest family connections)

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

Parenting:

Tell me about your philosophy of parenting (what do you believe is important about being a parent)

What have you learned through your experience as a parent what children need?

How has your parenting experience prepared you for the child coming into your care

What are the child's needs that you are aware of?

What discipline methods do you use? Include whether you use corporal discipline and how you will discontinue the use of corporal discipline once a child is in your care)

How do you plan to interact with the child in play and learning?

Give examples of how you communicate to a child on their level of understanding; include use of your tone of voice and ability to listen

Tell me about your plans on how you will have the child well supervised?

What substitute childcare will be appropriately used as needed?

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

How stable will these arrangements be and why?

What are 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, 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

Identify and describe adoption and/or foster care or parenting education activities including pre-service training that you have took part in. Include past child care experiences

If applicable, indicate the preparation process addressed by you for issues specific to the special needs of a child requested

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

What about the effects of Separation and loss

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

What are your plans to promote the child's or youth's cultural/racial/religious heritage and identity?

What is your readiness to support a cultural plan for an Aboriginal child or a child of any other race or culture?

How are you prepared to provide the child with positive racial/cultural role models/peers, experiences, information and knowledge? How will you do this

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

Are your 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?

Discuss the availability of resources in your community, your community involvement and contact with professional agencies for a child with specialized needs/ medical needs.

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

Describe the opinion of the child's or children's birth parent about this placement

What is your attitude about the birth parents?

Are you willing to involve them, or birth siblings, or other birth extended family in the child's life, and if so then how would you do this

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 to the child, specifically the terms you will use

Are you willing to compile a record of the child's growth and development including photos?