

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE PERSONAL HISTORY FORM

You can write on the back if you need more room or you can include this information in your personal history form in the section it pertains to if there is room: Each of you needs to answer these questions separately; it will help for you to consider your answers for the interviewing process. Not all of the questions will pertain to your situation. Some of the questions may seem repetitive but a different aspect of information may be needed.

COMMUNITY:

What is the population of the community you reside in?

What is the geographic location (km from nearest large centre etc?)

What resources/agencies is there that provide services for children, particularly ones that would pertain to the special or unique needs of a child?

What are some of the events in the community?

What are some of the cultural events in the community?

What events do you participate or volunteer in?

What is your relationship like with your neighbours?

What about your relationship with others in the community?

What kind of pets do you have and are they inside or outside?

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND:

How connected are you to your racial/ethnic background?

How was it promoted in your family upbringing and by whom?

How are you going to promote a child's racial/ethnic background?

RELIGION:

What were your religious teachings as a child, youth, young adult?

How have your past religious experiences/teachings impacted your current thoughts, philosophies or practises of religion?

What religion or faith are you planning on raising your adopted child?

How will you handle in the future if your child decides they do not want to practise your religious affiliation or teachings?

HEALTH:

Be sure to include how old you were and the dates if you have had any illnesses.

Be sure to either have your doctor write a letter that addresses the current health of children in your care or you can use the medical form provided.

For independent adoptions where you have information you already know about the child or the child is in your care already, provide the following:

Address if immunizations are up to date?

Placement history of the child. (Tell me what you know about this child or tell me the story of how your child came to live with you) Use the back if you have to. Include what you know about the birth family.

Health history of the child: (If you know, or the birth mothers pregnancy if you know)

Current functioning and development of the child:

Address current functioning of the birth family if known.

Your health:

What is your position or opinion on the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco?

Are you currently being treated for anything?

Have you had counselling before? If so.

What were the dates and duration?

Whom did you see?

What were the goals of counselling?

What do you feel you learned?

How did counselling help you?

What do you still put in to practise that you learned from counselling?

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

Do you feel free to ask your partner for time to allow yourself to practise self care?

For your Family medical history be sure to include the relationship of your family member, whether on your mother or fathers side. Is the person still alive and if not when did they pass away?

Who are you planning to appoint in the event either of you become physically incapacitated?

Who are you planning to appoint in the event that both of you pass away at the same time or close together?

EDUCATION:

How old were you when you completed high school?

How do you feel about higher learning in general?

How do you feel about the education you have?

How was your education supported and by whom?

How are planning specifically, on a day to day basis, to help/support your child(ren) with their education, after school activities or future educational pursuits?

What is your view if your child does not want to pursue higher education?

PERSONALITY:

Give examples of why you used the words you did on the personal history form to describe yourself and your partner. (In other words, in what way do you demonstrate that you are the way you are in your personality?)

And for your partner?

How did you see yourself at each stage in your life; childhood, teenager, young adult and adult?

Why did you see yourself this way for each stage?

What experiences throughout these phases have shaped who you are now?

What has influenced you from the way you were parented?

Why?

How has that influenced your current thinking?

What values were you raised with by your parents?

Do you hold the same values?

Which ones?

How is it important to whom you are now?

Are you going to incorporate those values into your parenting?

Which ones??

FAMILY HISTORY:

NOTE: your frame of reference for these questions is your childhood and teens ...

Describe your overall Family life as you were growing up:

Were there any periods of trauma, death or disruption in your childhood? If so

How were you impacted? If so

How did you cope??

What roles did your parents have in the home and how was that decided ?

Describe your father's character. (Use adjectives)

and your mother's character

Why did you use those words to describe them?

Give examples of why you saw your parents this way?

How did you see your parent's solving problems or making decisions?

Did they argue or fight??

If so, what was that like for you?

What was your relationship like with each of your parents?

Is it different than it is now as an adult? If so

How is it different?

What kind of things did you do as a family, sports trips etc?

How did you interact with your siblings?

What did you and your siblings do together?

Were you closer to one sibling or another? If so

What was the reason for this?

Were there any issues arising from your birth order??

If you were disciplined by spanking then describe the way you were spanked, (where on your body, clothes off or on, hand or spoon etc),

For what reasons were you spanked and by whom and how often?

How were you impacted by the spankings?

What are your current thoughts on use of corporal discipline?

Describe your relationship with your grandparents while growing up, both maternal and paternal?

How often did you see them??

How did your grandparents influence you??

Did you have relationships with other extended family such as aunts, uncles, cousins or other extended family? qualify whether or not you are referring to your mother or fathers side.

Who did you confide in most as a child?

AT PRESENT:

Who do you have the closest relationship(s) with now in your family?

Why have you chosen this person(s)?

How helpful and supportive are your family in times of need or crisis?

How does your family preserve family bonds at present?

How do you resolve conflict within the immediate and extended family?

What things do you do to keep in touch with family?

MARRIAGE:

What roles do you each have in the relationship and in the home?

How are these roles determined?

How often do you argue?

How does each partner react to an argument?

In what areas do you have conflict or differences of opinion?

What causes stress in the relationship?

Are there issues in this relationship that have been carried over from previous relationships?

If so then how are these being dealt with?

Have you been impacted in your thoughts and behaviour by previous relationships?

Do you think your partner has? If so ...

How have you approached this with your partner?

How have you been dealing with it?

What brings joy to this relationship?

Do you have the support of your partner in your interests, your career, and your activities?

PARENTING (Experience with Children) QUESTIONS:

How are you planning on preserving the culture and history of the child's family of origin if this applies to the situation?

How do you plan on seeking out information about the culture and heritage?

What experience have you had with children?

What resources or information have you currently sought out in order to deal with a child that you are raising or have raised that has had challenging behaviours?

What resources have you already accessed?

How do you plan on dealing with your child's questions about adoption?

How do you plan on supporting their potential desire to know who their birth parents or birth siblings are?

Are you aware of potential emotional issues for a child from adoption, regardless if they are raised in a stable loving family?

How do you plan on supporting a child's emotional issues that could arise from adoption in the future?

FINANCES:

How do you handle finances?

How is the responsibility of handling finances worked out?

What is the process for making decisions?

Have you had any past financial issues? If so ..

How have they been worked out?

RANGE OF ACCEPTANCE:

If a child has known medical, physical, emotional or mental challenges, what are you prepared to deal with at this time and why?

What are you not prepared to deal with and why?