

Benton County
FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT SOCIAL HISTORY-Part 2
(To be completed by both applicants together)

FAMILY NAME: _____

FAMILY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS:

1. What are your unique strengths as a family? What do you have to offer a child?

2. What can Benton County Human Services provide to your family to assist you in providing care for foster children?

FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENTING:

1. Do you have any previous experience as a foster parent or adoptive parent? If so, describe, including where, when and the circumstances.

2. What difference can you make for a child who needs a foster or adoptive family?

3. What risks do you see in trying to make a difference by fostering or adopting? What could you lose?

PERMANENCY PLANNING:

1. What are your feelings regarding foster children visiting their parents while they are in foster care?
2. How can a child continue to identify with her/his parent while he/she is in foster care and still “fit in” with a foster family?
3. How would you respond if the Court returned your foster child to his/her parent(s), and you do not believe the child should be returned?
4. What effect do multiple moves have on foster children and their sense of stability and sense of family?
5. Sometimes foster children become available to adopt, which is a lifelong commitment. Birth families continue to be part of a child, regardless of whether they remain in the child’s life. How would you blend and honor a child’s past, including their birth family, while at the same time integrating them fully into your family forever through adoption?

FAMILY LIFE:

1. On a typical weekday, when does each individual working or attending school leave and return home?

2. How do they travel? (car, bus, school bus, other)

3. On a typical weekday, what other activities besides school or work do members of your family participate in? (sports, clubs/organizations, church, etc.)

4. Does anyone in your home attend daycare? If yes, please list name and address of provider.

5. Describe a typical weekend in your home.

6. What routine household chores are you children assigned? How do your children know what their chores are?

7. If you provide allowances, what are your guidelines (amount, age of child, expectations that go with the allowance)? If you do not provide allowances, how can children earn spending money?

8. What are your basic rules for children's behavior and activities in your household? What is allowed or not allowed?

9. Who makes sure the shopping, cooking, and cleaning are done in your family? If these tasks are divided, explain how. List any expectations that would involve foster children.
10. Is food provided at regular times or accessible anytime for children?
11. What time does your family generally eat meals? Do you routinely eat meals sitting together when at home? Is anyone on a special diet?
12. Explain what sorts of social or recreational activities your family enjoys and how these get planned. If a child does not want to participate, what do you do?
13. Do you have frequent overnight visitors in your home? (sleepovers, visiting relatives, etc.)
14. Does anyone in your household spend overnights away from your home? If yes, explain.
15. Which holidays or special times of the year does your family celebrate? Describe some of your family traditions.
16. How do you celebrate children's birthdays?
17. If you are involved in a faith community, please describe. Include where, how often you attend, who in your home attends, etc.

18. How would you support a foster child's different faith or cultural practices?

19. What are your expectations regarding children's grooming, bathing frequency and other personal hygiene? If a child resists, how do you handle that situation?

20. When you seek healthcare, where do you go? Do you have a regular clinician you family uses? If so, please list name and clinic.

21. What changes have you made to your household or routines as you anticipate a foster child moving into your home? If anyone is changing work hours once a child is placed, please describe the change.

22. Describe any routine "family time" set aside for talking or activities that everyone is expected to participate in.

23. What are your expectations regarding personal space and belongings? Are there off-limit areas of your home for foster children? Do you allow children to "borrow" clothing or other belongings back and forth?

FAMILY FINANCES:

1. Briefly describe your family's financial condition.

2. Do you anticipate any changes in household income over the next year? If so, explain.

3. What is your expectation of Benton County Human Services for financial support for foster children or adopted children?

4. Have you been provided with information regarding foster care payments, Adoption Assistance and Relative Custody Assistance and the disparities among them?

INSURANCE:

Please provide the following information regarding your automobile insurance:

Insurance Agency Name/Address/Phone:

Insurance Company Name and Policy Number:

Please provide the following information regarding your homeowners or renters insurance:

Insurance Agency Name/Address/Phone:

Insurance Company Name and Policy Number: