

KEMP COUNSELING AND CONSULTING SERVICES
Northeast Florida Adoption Support
Dr. Shawna Kemp Haley, Ed.D, LCSW
Carissa Heck, MSW, LCSW

SELF-STUDY
(Autobiography)

A major task of the home study process is getting to know you as an individual, couple and as a family. This is not a test; your answers will reflect your thoughts and feelings. Please complete these questions without talking to your spouse. Please complete this autobiography individually and do not share your responses. If you need more space, please use additional paper.

Name: _____
 First Middle (Maiden) Last

Signature: _____ Date: _____

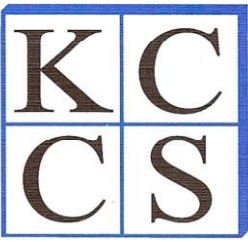
PERSONALITY:

Describe your personality; include what you view as your strengths and weaknesses.

What activities or hobbies do you enjoy? What gifts or abilities do you have?

CHILDGOD AND FAMILY OF ORIGIN:

Describe the family in which you grew up. Please include your current relationship with your parents and siblings.



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What types of activities did you and your family do together? How did your parents discipline you and your siblings? What aspects of their parenting do you hope to emulate and what will you avoid?

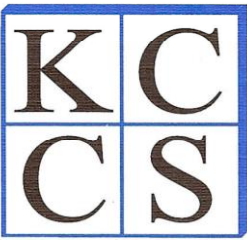
Which relative, apart from your immediate family members, had the greatest influence on your childhood and why?

What is your fondest childhood memory and why?

RELIGION:

What is your religious background and your current involvement?

Describe how spirituality plays a role in your life.



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MARRIAGE:

When, how and where did you and your spouse meet? How long did you date prior to marriage?

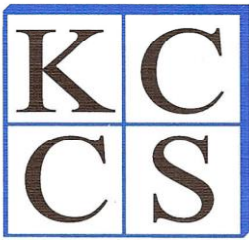
Describe any change(s) you would like to make in your marital relationship to make it better and how you would accomplish this?

What interests do you share with your spouse? What are your separate interests?

How do you divide family responsibilities (i.e. wage earnings, household jobs, childcare)?

What are your areas of disagreements? How do you settle disagreements?

What are your relationships with each other's family? How do they feel about your adoption plans?



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Please describe the circumstances of any previous marriage(s), divorce(s). List how you came to dissolve the marriage. Give the name of the spouse, length of the marriage, children of the marriage and relationship with them today.

What did you learn from this experience? How has it affected your current marriage?

CHILDREN:

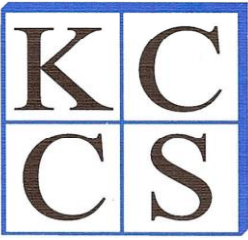
If you have children already, please give a description of each child including their age, personality, characteristics, interests, strengths and weaknesses. Indicate biological or adopted or foster child.

How does/do your child(ren) feel about your adoption plan?

PARENTING STYLE/DISCIPLINE:

What experience, if any, have you had with children?

How do you anticipate a child (or another child) will impact your life?



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Describe what kind of parent you want to be.

What will your methods of discipline be with your children? How would you set limits? What do you feel are important characteristics of good discipline?

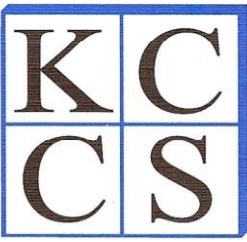
ADOPTION MOTIVATION:

When did you first start thinking about adoption and why?

If infertility is present, please comment on when and what medical diagnosis/consultation you have received and how long ago. Are you still pursuing medical means to conceive?

Do you and your spouse feel the same about adoption? Who initiated the action?

Describe how you will help your child(ren) understand their adoption?



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To what extent are you willing and expecting to have contact with your child's birth parents?

EMPLOYMENT:

Describe your current job (position, responsibilities, hours, job satisfaction).

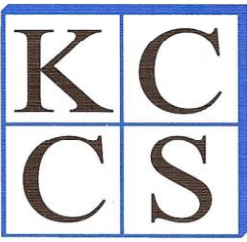
Explain your desires and expectations for the care of your child from birth through school (i.e. daycare, stay-at-home parent) and what are your thoughts on a parental leave of absence from work after placement to allow for time to bond with your child?

What are your childcare plans once your child(ren) come home?

HEALTH:

Describe your overall general health.

Have you ever received any personal or family counseling? Please explain.



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HOME AND COMMUNITY:

Describe your house (size, square footage, number of bedrooms and bathrooms) and property.

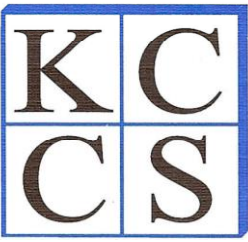
FAMILY LIFESTYLE:

Describe what you do to have fun as a family, perhaps describe a typical weekend.

PRE-CLEARANCE:

Have you ever been arrested?	YES	NO
Do you have a history of substance abuse?	YES	NO
Do you have a history of sexual or child abuse?	YES	NO
Do you have a history of domestic violence?	YES	NO
Have you ever been rejected as a prospective adoptive parent or been the subject of an unfavorable family home study?	YES	NO
Do you have any firearms in your home?	YES	NO
Do you have a swimming pool on your property?	YES	NO

**If you answer “yes” to any of the following, please explain.



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THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS FOR APPLICANTS WHO MAY CONSIDER ADOPTING CHILDREN OF OTHER RACES AND CULTURES

What has influenced you to consider adopting a mixed-race child, a child of another race, or a child from another culture?

Have you discussed your interest for parenting a mixed-race child, a child of another race or a child from another culture with your family? What was their reaction?

Do you have friends or neighbors who are of the same race/culture as the child you wish to adopt?

What is the racial composition of your neighborhood?

Are there people in your life that could be models to the child as a regular part of that child's life?

How will a child in your home learn about his or her own race, culture and history?

How do you feel your decision to parent a racially mixed child will benefit you? How do you feel it will benefit the child?

How will you teach coping skills to a child of a different race?

What problems do you think might come up in school or your neighborhood? How will you handle this?

What have you done to learn about other races and culture? Specifically, the race of the child that you are wanting to parent?

How might you help your child deal with discrimination he or she will experience?