

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL</b>	
	<b>Chapter 12: Foster Family Home Licensing</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> March 1, 2007
	<b>Tool 12.A : Resource Family Preparation Assessment</b>	<b>Version:</b> 1

### Overview of the Family's Preparation

1. How did the family learn about adoption or resource parenting?
2. How long has the family been considering becoming an adoptive or resource parent?
3. What is the reason for adoption or resource parenting?
4. How many children are they interested in adopting or resource parenting?
5. What characteristics (e.g., age, race, sex, handicap) is the family expecting in a child?
6. Has the family received Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Training pre-service training and when?

### Current Family Structure, Family Network Diagram, Description of the current family:

#### *Ecomap portion of the Family Network Diagram*

1. Who currently resides in the household?
2. Who helps out with the children?
3. Who visits regularly?
4. Who stays over?
5. To whom do they go for advice?
6. Describe the family's formal and informal support system.
7. For single persons, is there a special person in the single person's life?
8. Describe the relationship prospective resource parents have with their parents?
9. What supportive resources does the family currently have?
10. Anticipate issues affecting the family's Ecomap after the adoption or foster placement of a child, such as resources needing to be developed or changes in relationships with larger systems.

#### *The Genogram portion of the Family Network Diagram:*

1. Who raised the prospective resource parents?
2. Describe any recent losses (death, moves, divorces, fights, estrangements, etc.) within the extended family, non-blood kin, or friendship network?
3. Present a brief biographical sketch of each parent, including date of birth, race, where born, who raised each, and present occupation.
4. Marital history of each parent, where they met, how long married.

### Current Relationship

1. How does each partner describe the strengths of their relationship?
2. How does the couple describe the challenges in their relationship?
3. Describe how the couple plans to work together with discipline issues (or does currently if they have children).
4. How do members of the adoptive or resource family see their family's history and life experience leading to their decision to adopt or foster a child with special needs?
5. What is the extended family's history and experience with adoption or fostering?
6. Describe the extended family's attitude toward the family's decision to be resource parents.

### Parenting Style and Strengths

1. How were the potential resource parents parented as children?
2. What experience has this family had with parenting?
3. What discipline methods were used with them and what discipline methods have they used?
4. Describe the couple's understanding of child development.

### If children are presently in the household:

1. How do the parents describe each child, including the child's adjustment and needs?
2. How comfortable is the family with the agency's policy on discipline?
3. Describe the parents' expectations of each child?
4. Are there particular stresses and strains with each child, and how are they handled?
5. Are children included in decision-making?
6. How does the family deal with or control anger, rage, possessiveness, or withdrawal in parent and child interactions?
7. How are anger, affection, joy, sadness, and other feelings expressed?
8. What are the family's expectations of adoption; of the adoptive child; of fostering; of the foster child; of siblings; and of themselves as adoptive parents?

### Home Environment - Community

1. Describe the home, neighborhood, and community.
2. Can the home adapt to the needs of any child or a child with physical limitations?

### Financial Profile

1. For an adoption summary, attach the financial profile to the summary.
2. For a resource family summary, the financial profile can be attached or the information can be included in the narrative in a financial subsection.
3. Does the family have enough income to meet their ongoing expenses?
4. Has all income and expenses been verified?

### Parental Understanding of Child's History

1. Visualize a specific child in the Family's Network Diagram and genogram.
2. Discuss the family's preparedness to deal with the child's previous history.
3. Consider physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.
4. Address attitudes toward openness in adoption.
5. Address helping a child to adjust emotionally to the stress of separation and placement.
6. Discuss the family's ability to help a child maintain cultural and ethnic identity.
7. Address the family's readiness to maintain contact with the child's birth parents.

### Child Specific Assessment

1. What are the needs and strengths in this proposed placement?
2. What child-specific preparation occurred?
3. What training needs have been identified? Include scores for the Casey Foster Applicant Inventory (CFAI) or Completing the Casey Home Assessment Protocol (CHAP), if available.
4. What are the factors that indicate success for this family with this child?
5. Can the family realistically project how their decision to adopt or foster this specific child will impact the family one year, three years, five years, ten years from now? Is the family open to seeking help in these areas?
6. Are there specific child safety risk factors?
7. What risk management techniques have been put into place to minimize these risks?

8. Describe the parent's expectations regarding the child's behavior.

#### Verifications

Complete the Requirements Checklist for foster care. For adoption summaries, address the information received from the following as required by the state adoption code and agency policies:

1. References
2. Medical report
3. Limited criminal history information

#### Family's Understanding of Agency Role

1. Describe the family's understanding of their role and responsibilities as resource parents?
2. Describe the family's understanding of the agency's role?
3. What is the family's expectation of supportive services?
4. Describe the couple's availability of time in their life to parent a foster child.
5. Describe the couple's readiness to seek appropriate help and support from the agency?
6. Describe the couple's readiness to inform the family case manager of critical challenges and concerns?

#### General and Summary Assessment

1. What are your impressions of this family?
2. Describe the family's strengths and needs?
3. How were they addressed?
4. What plans have the family developed to minimize safety risks for a child?
5. What are the family's potential areas of vulnerability?
6. What are the necessary supports and supervision?
7. Comments and signatures of resource parent(s) on the [Resource Family Preparation Assessment Cover Page \(SF52795/CW2125a\)](#).
8. Comments and recommendation of agency completing the assessment.