**Writing your family narrative—guidelines and questions**

The family narrative gives children’s caseworkers a glimpse into your family’s life. The narrative should be easy to read and descriptive without revealing confidential information.

Below we provide brief writing tips and the questions that you will be asked to respond to when composing your family’s narrative.

**You can use this Word document to draft your family narrative in advance.** Preparing and saving your narrative will give you additional time to think about your responses and ensure that you do not lose your work.

**Writing tips**

* Write in the first person (“We are big sports fans.” Or “I have experience working with children as a soccer coach.”)
* Write in your own voice. The point of this section is for caseworkers to get to know your family.
* Do not be too specific and detailed; describe your family and your interests in terms that are easily understood by and relatable to a broad audience.
* Try to begin and end the narrative on a positive note.
* Write in short sentences and paragraphs, which are easier to read quickly.
* Use only first names when describing your family.
* Do not include personal details of your family's past, such as deaths, divorces, alcohol treatment, etc.
* Do not feel compelled to describe your family’s financial situation.

**Family narrative questions—type your responses below**

The family narrative consists of the following five questions, three of which are required. Your responses to these questions will be combined to create your family’s narrative.

* Type your responses to the following questions below. (\*Indicates required question.)
* Save this document for your records.
* Copy and paste your responses into the “family narrative” section of the registration process.

**\*Introduction** (250–3,000 characters)

Briefly describe all members of your family (including age of children), the community in which you live (for example, urban, suburban, or rural), and the child or children you are hoping to adopt. This is your opportunity to help caseworkers get to know your family.

Enter text here.

**\*Lifestyle and interests** (250–3,000 characters)

Describe the hobbies and the activities that you enjoy doing together (for example, camping, cooking, horseback riding, sports). Include any significant community involvements that affect your family’s life (for example, your church or synagogue).

Enter text here.

**\*Experience with children** (up to 3,000 characters)

Describe your experience caring for children in your primary or extended family, as well as children you have worked with in your career or as a volunteer (for example, as a scout leader, a coach).

Enter text here.

**Support network** (up to 3,000 characters)

Describe your support network, including extended family, close friends and neighbors, and your faith community if you have one. This information is valuable for all families and especially pertinent for single applicants.

Enter text here.

**Available resources** (up to 3,000 characters)

Describe or list resources your family can access in your community or region, such as medical facilities, schools, and cultural opportunities.

Enter text here.