

Additional Assessment Questions

1. Why did you adopt or become your child's guardian or foster parent? What motivated you to embrace this child?
2. What were the circumstances that led you to choose building your family this way?
3. Whose decision was it to adopt, become the guardian, or foster?
4. What were the circumstances leading to the placement?
5. At what age did your child join your family?
6. How would you describe your child's adjustment to the family?
7. How does your child understand the circumstances of their removal from their birth family and their current placement?
8. What does your child know about their story?
9. What information was given to you at the time of placement that provides an understanding of the child's history?
10. Who is the key communicator about their history and how they came to your family?
11. What is the extended family's feelings toward the placement?
12. How many times did your child move before joining your family and who did they live with?
13. What do you know about where your child lived before joining your family?
14. What is your understanding of the types of losses your child experienced before joining your family?
15. Was there any history of abuse, neglect, or deprivation and what ages did this occur?
16. Do you have a comprehensive history of your child's life experiences before joining your family?
17. What do you know about your child's identity and heritage?
18. Does your child have biological siblings? If yes, do they live together? If not, do they have contact?
19. What relationships does your child have with their birth parents, siblings, birth family kinship network, community, or tribe?
20. For those children placed at an older age, with whom did or does your child have a close relationship?
21. What do you know about your child's birth history? Any complications or medical issues? Do you know if there were any exposures to toxic stress in utero and/or prenatal substance exposure?
22. What do you know about your child's medical history? Do they or you have contact with their birth family? If yes, tell us more about this experience?
23. If no contact, what does your child know about their birth family?
24. Do you know of any medical or mental health issues in their birth family?
25. What is the child's medical history, any chronic or acute issues? Did your child have any previous mental health treatment? For what? Is there a prior diagnosis and/or medication history for your child? Are they currently receiving any mental health care? If so, with whom?

26. For children placed internationally, what do you know about their foster care or orphanage experience? If in an orphanage, during what ages? What do you know about the conditions in the orphanage?
27. What precipitated you seeking support now?
28. What are your child's strengths, what do they enjoy doing or have skill/talent in?
29. What are the behaviors, challenges, or issues you are most concerned about and when did they start?
30. Can you tell me about any incidents that preceded your concerns? Consider possible triggers from the child's past history.