

ISS Kinship Placement

Comments:

- Kinship placement can be an alternative form of care when the child is unable to live temporarily or permanently with his/her birth family or when it is not in his/her best interests to remain with them.
- Extended family living overseas might be willing to take care of the child and should therefore be evaluated in order to understand their motivations, capacities and living environment.
- A psycho-medical-social study of the family should be carried out to ensure they are capable of protecting, respecting and caring for the child, even if they already have an established relationship with the child.
- The family has to have the capacity to recognise, understand and support a child who has suffered the possible trauma of separation from the birth family and who has to integrate into a new environment.

Home Study on Prospective Carers

Part I: Introduction

- 1) Professional Qualification
- 2) Details of Subject Child
- 3) Basic of Report
- 4) Background to Assessment

Part II: Social Information

5) Civil Status of the prospective carers

- a) Family name (in CAPITALS), first name, relationship to the child, date and place of birth, nationality, ethnicity (if relevant), religion (if relevant), address, Marial status
- b) Immigration
- c) Whether prospective carers have thought about an inappropriate plan
- d) Social Service thoughts/plan

6) Other family members in the home

- a) Name (in CAPITALS), first name, relationship to the child, date and place of birth, nationality, ethnicity (if relevant), religion (if relevant)

7) Family Background

- a) Family history; includes both genetic and psycho-social factors
- b) Education and Profession
- c) Previous partnerships and/or marriages
- d) Interests and hobbies

8) Health

- a) Present and past physical and mental health, specific illnesses
- b) Alcohol and Drugs

9) Personalities and Relationships

- a) The character and personality of the prospective carers and the other family members in the home, their roles within the family
- b) The relationship between the prospective carers
- c) Their experiences of family life and their relationship with other family members in the home
- d) Their relationship with the child and the child's birth family (parents, siblings)
- e) Their relationships with extended family members
- f) Their relationship in general with any children in the family (behaviour, education, discipline attitudes, shared activities, etc.)
- g) The opinion of these children regarding their relationship with the prospective carers
- h) History of childhood experiences of prospective carers
- i) Significant changes in their family/household composition
- j) Prospective carers strength and difficulties

10) Religion/Beliefs

- a) Are the prospective carer's members of a religious faith or do they hold other strong beliefs which impact on their lives?
- b) Are they members of the same religious faith as the child or do they have the same beliefs as the child?
- c) What is the attitude of the prospective carers to other beliefs or religious convictions?
- d) Within what framework of faith or belief would the child be brought up?

Part III: Environmental and Economic Information

11) Living Environment

- a) General description of the family home and neighbourhood
- b) Suitability for welcoming a child/suitable to the needs of disabled family members/child
- c) Local amenities (kindergarten, schools, clinics/hospitals, activities)
- d) Provide pictures

12) General Living Circumstances

- a) Are the prospective carers able to live comfortably within their financial means? What is their current financial situation?
- b) Can they afford health care when necessary?
- c) Do they have any financial concerns?
- d) Benefit entitlements/recourses available to the family
- e) Who is working in the household, their pattern of work and any changes? Impact on the child?
- f) How is work or absence of work viewed by family members
- g) Child care during working hours
- h) Child's experience of work and its impact
- a) Reference from employer

13) Certification

- a) Certified criminal record check
- b) Some countries require a certified social service clearance

PART IV: Attitudes

14) Experience

- a) What experience do the prospective carers have with children?
- b) What is their understanding and commitment to taking care of a child?
- c) If relevant, what qualities do the prospective carers bring to their own relationship, what makes it positive, how do they support each other and how do they cope with problems?
- d) If relevant, what experience do they have of meeting or working with people of different cultures?
- e) Social Integration
 - 1. Degree of the family's integration or isolation
 - 2. Friendship and social networks and the importance attached to them
 - 3. Social presentation

15) Expectations

- a) What are the prospective carers' motivations for considering kinship placement? If relevant, are they both equally committed to this course of action?
- b) What do the other family members in the home think about the kinship placement plan and what is their understanding of the implications of this for themselves?
- c) What does the extended family think about the kinship placement plan?
- d) Who will be the primary caregiver?
- e) How the child will be nurtured and cared for? What is the prospective carers understanding of the child's needs?
- f) How will they ensure the child's safety and protection?
 - 1. Protection from contact with unsafe adults
 - 2. Recognition of danger both in the home and elsewhere
- g) What are their plans for the child in terms of education?
- h) What have the prospective carers planned to maintain contact between the child and the birth family (parents, siblings)?
- i) If the placement is approved, what are the prospective carers' ideas and suggestions about the integration period of the child within the family?
- j) Guidance and Boundaries
 - 1. Social Problem Solving
 - 2. Anger Management
 - 3. Effective discipline and shaping of behaviour

16) Awareness

- a) Are they aware of the difficulties they and the child may face (re-location, cultural differences, health problems both physical and psychological, traumas the child might have experienced, etc.)?
- b) Are they aware that there may be other times in the child's life when these difficulties could re-surface (e.g. adolescence)?
- c) How do they plan to deal with these issues?
- d) How do they feel about seeking professional support when necessary?
- e) Are there already linked intervention/support?
- f) How will they help the child to understand the kinship placement?
- g) How do they plan to discuss the child's background, culture, etc.?
- a) If relevant, how do they feel they will address and help the child to deal with matters relating to inter-racial issues or intolerance?

Part V: Analysis and Recommendations made by the Social Worker

17) Analysis

- a) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the prospective carers?
- b) In what areas might they experience difficulties and require support?
- c) Any other relevant comment
- d) Additional findings
- e) Observations (if children are already in the household)

18) Recommendations

- a) What are the social worker's recommendations on placing the child with the prospective carers?