



FAMILY PROFILES

By creating a family profile and having copies of the profile available to hand out at MARE adoption parties and other events, social workers can find out about you and identify potential matches between your family and the children on their caseloads.

Since the information that you write in the profile will be read by many social workers in many agencies, it is important that you do not reveal confidential information.

The purpose of the profile is to give social workers a general introduction to your family. These descriptions will give social workers an idea of what your family is like and whether or not your family might be an appropriate match for a child on their caseload. Your profile should be clear and have a positive tone. Listed below are items that you should include:

- A picture of your family.
- Family members are to be identified by first names or initial of last name only in order to preserve confidentiality.
- Include whether or not you are biological and or/adoptive parents, stepparents, foster parents, or if you have other involvement with children. Especially pertinent is any experience with children who have special needs.
- List the ages and hobbies for all of the children in your family.
- For single adults, include information on support systems available to you, such as an extended family network or support group.
- State whether the adult(s) work outside of the home and if they work full or part time.
- Include information on any resources that you may have access to in your community, such as medical and mental health facilities, special education programs, or cultural programs.
- Give information on your family's general lifestyle: activities, involvement in the community, etc.
- Mention the disabilities that your family will consider (level of physical, emotional and intellectual disabilities: mild, moderate, or severe). If you are adamant about not being able to consider a specific disability or behavioral issue, mention that as well.
- Include whether or not you are willing to consider children who are at legal risk.
- Explain your reasons for wanting to adopt.
- Include the age range, gender and race of child(ren) you will consider.
- In general, it is important to be positive and to highlight the family characteristics that demonstrate your ability to parent a child with special needs.
- Give your child(ren)'s feelings about adoption, if they are old enough to verbally express such feelings.
- Your social worker's name, agency and contact information.

Zoe, Kate, Daniel and Jeremy

Family Information

We live in Massachusetts in a 1920's farmhouse with a garden and a small yard, in a neighborhood full of children. Together, Kate (42) and Zoe (51) have raised Kate's birth children, Daniel (18) and Jeremy (14). Kate is a physician assistant, who works in the hospital and at local nursing homes. Zoe is the co-owner and director of a regional theater.



Our family members have diverse interests that we hope to share with an adopted daughter/sister. Zoe's theater has ongoing programs for children, both on and off stage. Zoe is also an artist and photographer, and she loves to swim and to be outdoors. Zoe is often out on a walk with Kate and their dog, Sienna. Kate enjoys her work in geriatric medicine, and both she and Zoe have flexibility in their work days. Kate is the cook and primary caregiver, and she is particularly fond of the family pets. In addition to Sienna, there are two cats, Jessie Cat and Tybee, a ferret named Little Bear, two aquaria of fish, and a newt.

Daniel is applying to colleges for next year, but he hopes to remain actively involved with his new sister. Daniel is secretary for the Drama Club, and he is an actor in the high school productions and at Zoe's theater. He is a member of the Anti-Defamation League and the Teen Suicide Prevention Project. Daniel is also a weightlifter, who loves sports and writing.

Jeremy is an avid skateboarder. He and his best friend (named Dan) practice in the neighborhood at every opportunity. Many of their friends meet them after school at the recreation center. They are nearly inseparable, since Dan is with us for most evenings as well. The boys are always ready for a rowdy family supper, followed by homework sessions of varying productivity.

Type of Child Family Can Parent:

We are hoping to adopt a little girl, between the ages of six and nine years old, of any racial or ethnic background. Our family is open to a legal risk situation, and we are happy to maintain previous relationships that the child may have established. We are open to mild cognitive, medical and behavioral concerns.

Daniel and Jeremy have a half sister, Grace, age five, who lives in England with their father. The boys would like to have a sister who lives at home with them. It is our belief that there is a child in need of the love and stability that our family has to offer. We believe that she will add to our family in ways that are immeasurable over a lifetime.

Social Worker Contact Information:

Name: Bridget Chiaruttini

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