

Adoption Forecast and Plan Instructions

The Adoption Forecast and Plan is a summary written to organize information on each child being considered for placement in a specific family. Staff develop a summary that reflects information gathered during the selection staffing, case record review, and presentation staffing. The information is organized to identify the child's past trauma and how their history influences their current functioning and ability to regulate their emotions. It identifies overall childhood development and current social skills. Its aim is to identify ways the parent will make rich connections with each child. It also identifies unmet needs driving emotional dysregulation resulting in behavior challenges. It helps each adoptive parent identify strategies to meet the unmet needs of each child. It also includes projections for the child's problematic behaviors to ensure TBRI and Trauma Informed strategies are identified to help the child re-regulate in a manner that disarms fear and builds trust.

The Forecast and Plan includes:

- Parent-led-attachment activities to ensure relationships get off to a good start and is child focused on a pace comfortable to the child,
- has the child's needs for felt safety, compassion, and understanding as primary goals to facilitate timely attachment by the adoptive family, and
- it serves to collect the preliminary tasks to be included in the adoption service plan.

Using a Trauma Informed approach to provide a short summary on the abuse history for the child. State the child was victimized by this maltreatment and abuse. The trauma they endured will have an impact on their mental, emotional and behavioral issues. Trauma can affect a child's self-esteem, relationship patterns, and their view of the world in profound ways. It can lead children in to disruptive behavior patterns. Adoptive parent's need to understand that most problematic behaviors are a direct result of the child's traumatic past. These maladaptive behaviors are based in fear. Creating Felt Safety will lead to improvements with problematic behaviors. It is critical the adoptive parent view the behavior with a TBRI and Trauma-Informed approach. Meaning, the behavior likely results from their past trauma and needs to be addressed with a relationship based approach using techniques that draw the child into a relationship with the parent rather than distancing the child from the parent. These techniques never involve measures that might be interpreted as shaming the child but rather an approach that helps build their self-esteem.

Topics to cover:

- abuse/neglect history- type, severity, duration of time in abusive environment, and frequency of abuse and or neglect,
- relationship history- identify who the child is bonded to and how that relationship can be maintained or transferred to the adoptive parent,
- information from psychological relating to the child's current developmental and intellectual functioning, diagnoses, and treatment strategies,
- information on the goals or tasks in the child's current treatment plan, and
- the need for continued therapeutic services for the child.

Staff provide the Adoption Forecast to the adoptive parent near the end of their pre-placement visitation. This allows the parent an opportunity to become familiar with the child prior to completing the forecast. Once the Adoption Forecast is completed and returned, staff will review to ensure the attachment activities and interventions are appropriate to meet the child's needs.