

## Helpful Tips When Completing the Adoption STAR Parent Profile Registration

### Adoptive Parent Online Profiles

#### **General Information Regarding Adoptive Parent Online Profiles**

The Internet now plays an important part in the matching of hopeful adoptive parents with expectant parents. The Internet is an important tool and venue for sharing information and making connections. Expectant parents now live in a time when information technology is one of the most effective means of obtaining information.

#### **Filling Out the Online Registration Form**

Go to [www.adoptionstar.com](http://www.adoptionstar.com) and visit the Adoptive Parent section to fill out the online registration to place your profile online:

[http://www.adoptionstar.com/adoptiveparents\\_profile\\_form.php](http://www.adoptionstar.com/adoptiveparents_profile_form.php)

Once there you will be asked a series of questions. These answers will help us build your online profile

#### **Suggested Areas of Content**

Below is a list of topics that we ask you to respond to.

#### **Contact Information**

Contact information will not be used on your online profile. This information is just for the agency as we help to put your online profile together.

#### **Names**

Use of first names only is appropriate. When you have a match, based on the type of adoption arrangements that follow, you may have the occasion to reveal your surname, if you are comfortable.

#### **Introduction**

Simply introduce yourselves, welcoming potential birth parents to get to know you and read further. You may mention that you are interested in sharing information and connecting with a birth family and are interested in an open adoption that may include ongoing contact, if they are comfortable.

#### **Why Adoption?**

Talk about wanting to have a family, your experience with other children, your dreams for parenting children who will be loved and cherished and cared for. This is often a good place to touch on your infertility story. Keep it short and simple though. Parents considering placing their children for adoption are looking for adoption situations where their child is a first priority and a very important choice. Do not use phrases, like "we could not have our own children..."

#### **Parenting**

Talk about your dreams and plans for parenting and raising a child. You may also have personal experience with other children, family members, or friends. Express your values regarding parent-child relationships, family, your preferred style of parenting, and how you face challenges.

#### **Family**

Your extended family is important. Talk about the qualities of those who will be surrounding your child's life. Give examples of how these individuals already interact with other children in the family, or how they have in the past if children are already grown.

#### **Marriage**

If you are married, mention when you were married; perhaps you have a unique story about

how you met. Talk about the love, stability and communication you have, etc. If you are single, talk about your readiness for parenthood and the support system you have in place.

### **Education**

Education can mean your educational background or your hopes for your child. You can address one or both. You can also address your life experiences as education does not only occur in a classroom.

### **Home**

Give some thought to sharing what makes your house a home. Present what your life is like in the place where you live; what are your favorite places in your home and what do you do there. You may even want to talk about how a child will fit into this place you call "home". It is important to make note of the enriched nature of your home environment in terms of love, having fun together, nurturing, traditions, and stability.

### **Traditions**

Traditions are part of a stable, loving and nurturing environment. You may want to put some creative thought into sharing traditions; not only what they are, but what they mean to you and how you anticipate a child will be a vital part of the meaning of those traditions, both to you and the child.

### **Professions**

In our society, adults are often defined by what they do. Use care in explaining your profession and work as they relate to what you do as a responsible and caring member of your society and family. Give thought to how your work enriches your life and contributed to who you are as a person, a friend, a spouse, and a parent. If the husband or wife is going to be a stay-at-home parent discuss the intent of this decision. If not, reflect on who will care for the child and how that decision was made.

### **Friends**

You can mention your friendships and how you interact with friends. Mention friends who have children. Describe how you enjoy spending your time with friends.

### **Religion**

Your online profile is brief so it is best not to use it as a platform for promoting religious or spiritual beliefs. However, it is advisable to state your religious affiliation(s) and in what religion you may raise your children. It is also advisable to briefly state how your religions or spiritual affiliations impact the way you live life, and make you a better person and couple.

### **Activities**

Start out by asking yourselves, "What do I enjoy doing in my spare time?" It is best not to just make a list of activities and interests. Present how those things you love to do enrich your life and even the lives of those around you. Talk about how you would involve your child in your interests, and how you would encourage your child to discover and develop their own talents and interest.

### **Closing**

Finally, you want to end with acknowledgement of your respect for the birth mother or birth parents, your appreciation for the decision to place a child for adoption, and your simple invitation for contact. Let your final words be positive, authentic, and your final expression of who you really are.