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| State_Seal3 | DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES  Personal Information | |
| NAME | | |
| It is important that the Licensing Division (LD) worker completing your home study gets to know you. These questions about your family background, education, employment, interests, values, lifestyle, relationships, child-rearing ideas, and religious affiliation are the first steps in that process. There are no right or wrong answers. If there are questions you would rather discuss in person, please indicate this in the space provided.  Your LD licensor/home study worker will review this information before starting your home study and will use it as a basis for discussion during the interview process. Please be descriptive in your answers.  If you would like to complete the form electronically, you may download the form from:  <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/fsa/forms?field_number_value=&title=&=Apply> Input the form number 15-276 to download this form. You can e-mail a signed copy of the document to your licensor/home study worker and/or provide them with a hard copy.  Each applicant/caregiver needs to complete this form. If you have difficulty answering any part of this questionnaire or need additional assistance, please discuss this with your licensor/home study worker. | | |
| **Reason for Applying** | | |
| 1. Why do you want to be a foster parent or unlicensed caregiver for children in out-of-home care? | | |
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| **A. Applicant Background** | | |
| **Family Facts:**   1. Where were you born and raised? 2. Please specify the name(s) and relationship(s) of the individual(s) who raised you: 3. Describe your relationship with your parents / caregivers while growing up and your current relationship. | | |
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| 1. Please list the name(s), age(s) and location(s) of all your siblings. What was your relationship with your sibling(s) growing up and what does your relationship and contact look like now? | | |
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| 5. What contact will the children placed in your home have with your sibling(s)? Are there any concerns? | | |
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| 6. Describe your childhood and what it was like living in your home. | | |
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| 7. Describe your personality, as you see yourself. | | |
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| 8. Describe how your family and friends see you. | | |
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| **Education:**  1. What is the highest grade you completed?  2. List the degrees / certificates with the dates that you have earned and from what school / institution (including GED or high school diploma). | | |
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| 3. What expectations regarding education do you have for the children in your home? | | |
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| **Employment History / Military Service:**   1. Have you served in the military?  Yes  No   From  To:  Branch of Armed Forces  Rank  Type of Discharge   1. Please describe your work history starting with your current job. | | |
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| 3. Please list the days and hours of your normal work week.    4. Describe how the placement of a child in your home may impact your work schedule. | | |
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| 5. What are your plans for child care? | | |
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| 6. Children in out of home care likely have medical appointments, visits and staffing. Describe how you will handle these demands on your time. | | |
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| **Values, Goals, Interests, and Activities:**  1. Describe your values. | | |
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| 2. Describe your personal and family goals. | | |
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| 3. What are your interests and/or hobbies? | | |
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| **Cultural Heritage**  1. How do you value culture in your own family? A person’s cultural background includes such things as family traditions, customs, religion, ethnicity, and lifestyle. | | |
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| 2. Describe how you would help a child preserve and appreciate his/her heritage. | | |
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| 3. What is your primary language?  Do you speak any other language(s) fluently?  Yes  No  If so, what language(s)? | | |
| **B. Relationships** | | |
| **Spouse / Partner:**  1. Describe your significant relationships and your marital / civil union / domestic partnership history. Include dates of marriages, divorces / annulments / dissolutions and reasons the relationship ended, if applicable. | | |
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| 2. If not married, please describe any relationship that might impact you caring for children. | | |
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| 3. Describe your partner. | | |
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| 4. How are decisions made and differences resolved with your partner? | | |
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| 5. How would you feel, and what would you do, if the child placed in your care becomes a disruptive influence on your relationship? | | |
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| **Children:** (If you don’t have children, skip to next section)  1. Describe all of your children (minor and adult), including their age and geographical location. | | |
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| 2. If your children have special needs or diagnosis, how are their needs met? | | |
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| 3. How might the placement of a new child(ren) in your home affect your own child(ren)? | | |
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| 4. If you have children under the age of 18 that do not live with you, describe the circumstances, how often you see them and your financial responsibility for those children. | | |
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| 5. Have any of your children ever been involved with the court system? If yes, briefly describe. | | |
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| **Others in Your Home or on Your Property:**  1. Identify and provide a brief description of any people living in your home or on your property. Describe how they may interact with any child placed with you. | | |
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| Will they:  Provide any care of the child(ren)?  Yes  No  Transport child(ren)?  Yes  No  Provide any supervision of the child(ren)?  Yes  No  Have unsupervised contact with a child(ren)?  Yes  No | | |
| **C. Parenting and Experience with Children** | | |
| **Discipline:**  1. How were you disciplined as a child? | | |
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| 2. Please describe your current discipline practices and beliefs (children in out-of-home care may not be physically disciplined). | | |
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| **Experience and Training:**  1. Describe your experience with children other than your own. Do you have any experience working with children with special needs? | | |
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| 2. Are you willing to participate in training?  Yes  No. If so, what topics would you like training on? | | |
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| **Attitudes on Parenting:**  1. What behaviors and qualities do you enjoy most in children? | | |
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| 2. What behaviors or qualities do you find the most challenging in children? Describe what situations you find most challenging as a parent. Describe how you handled these situations. | | |
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| 3. What challenges do you anticipate in parenting a child placed in your care? | | |
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| 4. Describe the child you see yourself parenting including age, sex / gender, language, health, development, etc. | | |
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| 5. Describe how you would parent and provide care to a child with a different race, culture, or sexual orientation than yourself? | | |
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| 6. Describe how you share parenting responsibilities within your family. | | |
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| 7. Describe a time in your life when you lost someone important and how you dealt with this loss. How does this loss relate to how a child placed in out of home care may feel? | | |
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| 8. What is your understanding of the trauma or loss that a child may experience when placed in out-of-home care. | | |
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| 9. Would you be willing to participate in counseling with a child placed in your home?  Yes  No | | |
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| **Family Activities / Rules:**  1. What does your family do for fun? How will you incorporate the child in out of home care into your regular family activities? | | |
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| 2. What are your family rules (allowances, privacy, bedtime, curfew, etc.)? | | |
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| **D. Religious / Spiritual Affiliation and Practices** | | |
| 1. Describe your religious/spiritual affiliation and practices if any. | | |
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| 2. What are your expectations about the practice of religion/spirituality for children placed in your home? | | |
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| **E. Medical / Psychosocial** | | |
| 1. Have you or any family member ever used illegal drugs or abused legal drugs?  Yes  No  If yes, check which member:  Self  Father  Grandmother  Nephew(s)  Spouse or Partner  Stepmother  Grandfather  Cousin(s)  Son(s)  Stepfather  Aunt(s)  In-law(s)  Daughter(s)  Brother(s)  Uncle(s)  Other:  Mother  Sister(s)  Niece(s)  2. Regardless of how long ago, have you or anyone in your family experienced any of the following:  Yes  No Physical health problems  Yes  No Mental health problems and/or treatment  Yes  No Drug or alcohol abuse and/or treatment  Yes  No Domestic Violence  Yes  No Counseling; individual and/or other (family, group, etc.)  Yes  No Military combat  Yes  No Miscarriage or infertility  Yes Other, please describe:  **Explain any “yes” answer, including diagnosis, dates, treatment outcome, and/or law enforcement involvement.** | | |
| 3. Have you or any member of your family been involved with Child Protective Services (CPS)?  Yes  No  If yes, please explain: | | |
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| 4. Is smoking allowed in your home or car?  Yes  No | | |
| **F. Home and Neighborhood** | | |
| 1. How long have you lived in your current home/neighborhood?  2. Are you on public or a private water system?  3. Are there any potential hazards in your home or on your property?  4. List all household pets or other animals on the property.  5. Are these pets or animals safe to be around children?  Yes  No. If not, what is the plan to keep children safe around these pets or animals? | | |
| **G. Support System** | | |
| 1. Who do you use for support? Describe a time when your support system was there to help you. | | |
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| 2. Will any members of your support system have access to a child placed in your home? If yes, please describe. | | |
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| **H. Family Financial** | | |
| 1. Do you feel that you can take care of another child without additional financial support? If not, what financial support do you need? | | |
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| 2. Are you receiving any other forms of financial assistance?  Yes  No  If yes, please explain: | | |
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| **I. Potential for Permanency** | | |
| **NOTE: LD completes Unified Home Studies on all applicants. These home studies approve a family for both placement and adoption.**  1. Describe how you will support and participate in a child’s safe reunification with his/her parents or guardians. | | |
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| 2. Please describe your understanding of permanency for a child in out of home care (return home, adoption, guardianship, long term foster care). | | |
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| 3. How will you support a child’s permanent plan when you don’t agree with it? | | |
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| 4. Please describe what the concept of adoption / guardianship/long term foster care as “a lifelong developmental process and commitment” means to you. | | |
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| 5. Describe how you think a child may have feelings of identity confusion and loss regarding separation from the birth parents and how the child may exhibit this emotion or behavior. Please describe how you will help a child deal with identity confusion and loss. | | |
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| 6. Describe the importance of sibling connections to a child placed in out of home care. | | |
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| 7. If the child placed in your home cannot return home, would you consider being a permanent placement resource? Please explain why or why not. | | |
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| 8. Would you consider being a placement resource to the child’s siblings who are not placed in your home? | | |
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| 9. Would you consider an open communication agreement for a child you may adopt, have guardianship of or complete a long term foster care agreement with their birth parents and/or known siblings?  Yes  No  Please explain why or why not. | | |
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| 10. Please describe how you plan to disclose adoption/guardianship/foster care to a child. | | |
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| 11. Please describe how you will handle a child’s questions about birth parents and relatives. | | |
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| 12. Please describe how a child’s racial, ethnic, and cultural heritage may affect your family and the child. | | |
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| 13. Please describe your plan in event you were unable to continue to care for the children placed in your home. | | |
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| **J. Child Specific**  **Please complete this section when an identified child is placed or intended to be placed in your home.** | | |
| 1. Please describe the specific child for whom you are applying to be a placement resource. | | |
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| 1. Please describe your understanding of the child’s specific history and current needs. | | |
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| 1. Please describe the supports you might need if the child is placed in your home. | | |
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| 1. Please describe your understanding of the reason the child entered out-of-home placement. | | |
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| **K. What other information would you like to share with us?** | | |
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| SIGNATURE | | DATE |