

Family Biography and Personal Experiences

Hearing a family's voice is an important part of the family profile process. This is your opportunity to share information about your life and your family in your own words. Please try to address each of the following points.

- Include in your statement something about yourself that may provide a better understanding about you as a person and parent.
- In your family statement, consider how family preparation has impacted your beliefs and attitudes about providing permanency for a child who has special needs.
- It is important for us to know about significant life events (positive and negative) and how they affected you.
- Children in the system have experienced tremendous loss. Include in your statement significant losses you have experienced. Losses could include but are not limited to: death of a loved one, loss of job, home, pet, relationship, culture, dreams or goals.
- How you have managed difficult times tells a lot about your coping skills. Those times can include such things as, marital difficulty, financial stress, family interference, school or work issues, among others.
- Think about the personal experiences that played a part in preparing you for parenthood and may assist you in providing permanency for a child with special needs.
- It is helpful to consider how family interactions will change with the addition of a child with special needs. That includes feelings of any children in your family and the attitudes of extended family members about your decision to provide permanency.
- Motivation for wanting to provide permanency for a child with special needs is an important factor and should be included in your family statement.