

434 Fayetteville Street, Suite 2135
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Telephone (919) 839-8800
Facsimile (919) 839-8900
E-Mail: ach@achildshope.com
Birthmothers toll free
1-877-890-HOPE (4673)



Preplacement Assessment
A Child's Hope, LLC

Identifying Data:

Adoptive Father: Joseph Smith
Date of Birth: 7-23-63 Age: 39 (verified)
Occupation: Computer Consultant
Education: University, B.S.

Adoptive Mother: Mary Smith
Date of Birth: 12-25-67 Age: 34 (verified)
Occupation: Teacher
Education: University, BA

Address: 1234 Oak Street, Raleigh, NC 27609

Phones: 123-456-7890
His 098-765-4321
Hers 543-210-9876

Marriage Date: 2-14-96 (verified)

Previous Preplacement Assessments/ Dates of Contact:

This is the first preplacement assessment for Joe and Mary. Joint interviews were conducted on January 24, 2002, and individual interviews were held on February 7, 2002. On March 27, 2002 an interview was conducted in the home.

Description of Parents:

Joe stands 6'2" tall and weighs 175 pounds, has brown eyes, blond hair, and a fair complexion. He is a quiet and shy man. Mary stands 5'4" tall, weighs 135 pounds, and has blue eyes, blonde hair, and a fair complexion. She is soft spoken and enjoys children.

Background Information:

Adoptive Father

Joseph was the 2nd child born to John and Sue Smith in Raleigh, NC. They lived in an upper

middle class neighborhood and he attended private, church-run schools. His father was a self-employed carpenter. His mother was a homemaker. His father died in 1999. Joe remains closed to his mother, who lives in the same house he grew up in in Raleigh.

Joe was an indifferent student until he discovered computers. He likes to read. He loves to travel and has taken many vacations in Europe.

Joe graduated from High School in 1981 He earned his BS from the NC State University. He is currently self-employed as a computer consultant.

Joe has two siblings, twins, Buffy and Jody, age 42. He remains in close contact with them by telephone each week. They both are married and have children. They live in Raleigh and visit several times a month.

Adoptive Mother

Mary was born in Raleigh, NC to Ozzie and Harriett Brown. Her parents are both teachers. Mary graduated from high school in 1985 graduated in with a BA in English. She is currently employed at Old Stage Middle School in Raleigh.

Mary remains close to both her parents who divorced when she was 15. She has a brother, Michael who is in the U.S. Navy, age 33 and a sister, Erica, who is a stay at home mom living in Raleigh.

Mary describes her childhood as wonderful. She learned to read and enjoyed books at a young age. She too loves to travel, but states that she is more of an outdoor person than Joe. She likes to garden and take long walks through the neighborhood.

Compatibility and Marital Satisfaction:

Joe and Mary met while in college. They met on a blind date arranged by a mutual friend. It was love at first sight. They are best friends and resolve their conflicts easily. This is the first marriage for both Joe and Mary.

Emotional Stability:

Joe and Mary present themselves as emotionally stable and mature individuals. Neither one has a history of substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, or domestic violence in their backgrounds. They are financially stable and have positive relationships with friends and family members. Joe and Mary appear to be very committed to each other and communicate well; they have discussed the emotional and financial implications of the adoption process and raising a child and agree that they are prepared for these challenges.

Parenting Abilities:

Joe and Mary both have experience working with children. They are very disciplined and lead a structured lifestyle. Joe and Mary socialize with their peers and include the children in their activities.

Feelings About Children:

Joe and Mary both want children. Joe is sterile due to having contracted mumps as a young child. Mary knew this when they married and accepted it. Adoption has also been their plan for building a family.

Others In The Home:

Joe and Mary have no children or any others living in the home.

Financial Resources:

Gross Salary and Benefits	\$ 108,000.00
His	\$ 82,000.00
Hers	\$ 26,000.00

Assets

Checking Account	\$ 1,000.00
Savings Account	\$15,000.00
Home	\$150,000.00
Vehicles	\$ 7,000.00

Liabilities

<i>Home mortgage</i>	\$ 135,000.00
Monthly pymt. \$940.00	
Student Loans	\$ 15,000.00
Monthly pymt. \$360.00	
Auto Loan	\$ 7,000.00
Monthly pymt. \$310.00	

Retirement

State Employees Retirement	\$ 35,600.00
IRAs	\$ 43,900.00

Joe and Mary have sufficient income to meet their current expenses and debt. Neither has ever declared bankruptcy. They have a sufficient retirement plan and have met with a financial planner to increase their life insurance, investments and obtain a will.

Interests and Activities of the Family and Daily Routine:

Joe and Mary enjoy a relaxed lifestyle. They awake at 6:30 AM and Mary leaves for school at 7:30 a.m. Joe works out of a home office, but has hours out of the office doing on-site work for customers. They both try and get home by 6:30, and have dinner together. They spend quiet evenings, usually walking the dog and then reading until bedtime.

Child Care Plans:

Joe plans to work from home and curtail his time away from the office. He will take care of the child.

Religion:

Joe and Mary were both raised as Southern Baptists. They regularly attend a local church and are actively involved, both teaching children's Sunday school. They plan to raise their child to attend church, but allow him/her to decide which faith/denomination to follow when he/she matures.

Discipline:

Joe and Mary believe in a verbal correction, time out, loss of privilege, and changing the environment as the best ways to approach discipline. They do not believe in corporal punishment.

Attitude of Family Members Toward Adoption/Motivation and Readiness of Applicants:

Joe and Mary have the support of both of their families to adopt a child. They are supportive of a child of either sex or any race.

Joe and Mary have been counseled about the domestic adoption process, its costs and potential difficulties, and they report that they are emotional and financially prepared to deal with these challenges. They have been informed that the placement of an out-of-state child must be approved by the Interstate Compact Office before the child can cross state lines and go into the adoptive home. The option of international adoption has also been discussed with them. Joe and Mary are aware of the post-placement assessment requirements and are prepared to fully comply.

Type of Child Desired and Expectations of the Child:

Joe and Mary have requested to adopt an infant biracial child that is part African American. They live in a neighborhood that would welcome multicultural diversity. They desire to expose their child to education, the arts, and people.

Joe and Mary realize that each child is unique in personality and development. They would not have unrealistic expectations for their adopted child and would ensure that he or she is provided with optimal medical care. They are invested in providing the child with a loving, stimulating environment to foster healthy bonding, growth, and development.

Age of the Adopted Child in Relation to the Ages of the Applicants:

Joe and Mary have requested to adopt an infant and are age appropriate to do so.

Home, Community and Social Network:

Joe and Mary live in a 4 bedroom, 2 bath house in a new subdivision in North Raleigh. There is a screened back deck and a large, fenced back yard. They have an Irish Setter dog and she is up to date on immunizations and in good health. The neighborhood is filled with families and children. There are grocery stores, parks and restaurants within a short drive from their house.

Health:

Both Joe and Mary are in excellent physical and emotional health and free from communicable disease as reported by Dr. Spock for Mary and Dr. McDonald for Joe. Joe has an infertility diagnosis due to having mumps as a child.

References:

Four letters of reference are provided as endorsements for the adoption plan of Joe and Mary Smith.

The first letter comes from Janey Doe, an old college friend of Joe. She describes Joe and Mary as warm and nurturing. She adds that they are very responsible, socially conscious citizens and have a great sense of humor.

The second letter comes from Roberta Brown, an old high school friend of Mary. She states that the qualities that make Mary a good teacher will also make her a good parent. She describes Mary as bright, humorous, patient, kind, inventive and centered on good core values.

A third letter of reference comes from a colleague of Mary's, Lee Lawson. She has known Mary and Joe for four years both professionally and socially. She describes their marriage as close and loving. She states that they are good-natured, realistic, patient with each other, and that they work as a team. She strongly endorses Joe and Mary as parents.

A fourth letter of reference comes from Peter Paul, Joe's best friend. He and his wife asked Joe and Mary to be the Godparents to her son. He states that their ability to nurture a child transcends the border of race and color. He is very supportive of Joe and Mary in adoption of a biracial child.

Verifications:

Criminal record checks from the City-County Bureau of Investigation indicate that neither Joe nor Mary has any criminal record. During the course of the Preplacement Assessment, this social worker asked Joe and Mary individually if either of them had ever been denied approval as a prospective adoptive parent or been the subject of a negative Preplacement Assessment. Neither Joe nor Mary stated that they had been rejected as an adoptive parent or received an unfavorable Preplacement Assessment.

The State of North Carolina does not have a child abuse clearance system in place. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services does maintain a central registry of abuse, neglect, and dependency cases; however, under N.C.G.S. Section 7B-311 and N.C.A.C. 411.0102 the information contained within the central registry is confidential and cannot be accessed for adoption purposes. Accordingly, we are unable to fulfill your request for clearance.

The social worker also individually asked Joe and Mary Smith if they had any history of child abuse, sexual abuse, substance abuse, or domestic violence, as either a victim or perpetrator, even if it did not lead to an arrest or conviction. Joe and Mary replied that they have no such history.

Joe and Mary were each asked if either of them has ever been the respondent in a proceeding concerning a minor who was allegedly abused, dependent, neglected, abandoned, or delinquent, even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction. Joe and Mary each individually denied any such involvement and also reported that neither has been convicted of a crime.

Agency Evaluation and Recommendation:

Joseph and Mary Smith have been found to be physically emotionally, morally and financially fit to parent adopted children. They enjoy a stable marriage, hold responsible employment, and have a strong support network of friends and family who support their plan to adopt. They are recommended and approved for the adoption of one newborn infant or twins of a biracial background, healthy or with minor correctible medical conditions.

Completed and Approved By:

Laura A. Kladis, MSW
Adoption Counselor/Supervisor

A Child's Hope, LLC

May 26, 2012