



Recommended framework for psychological evaluation

- Used methods

A. Basic information about applicants and their families

- Personal information (i.e. name, age, family status)
- Personal and family anamnesis – psychosocial history

B. Personality predispositions for adoption – parenting skills assessment

1) Life story of applicants

- Applicants' description of their parents
- Significant persons in childhood
- Description and reflection on childhood and upbringing model experience
- Values acquired from primary family
- Strategies of dealing with stress, emotions and conflicts in primary family
- Social interactions in primary family
- Important life experiences (migration, loss of employment, illness, accident, suicide, death in family)
- Description of separation process (nest leaving)

2) Assessment of applicants' personality based on at least three different methods

- Clinical (observation, interview)
- Projective (e.g. ROR, Zulligers' test, TAT)
- Standardized personality questionnaire (e.g. MMPI-II, FPI)

Focused on:

- Elimination of psychopathology
- Coping strategies, reactions in critical or stressful situations



- Emotional capacity, ability of empathy
- Personality traits and characteristics (e.g. extroversion or introversion, emotional stability or unstableness, activity or passivity, domination or submission etc.)
- Evaluation of personality weaknesses, extremes in behavior
- Current psychological state

3) Relationship of applicants

- Development of relationship (beginnings and relationship process)
- Issue of involuntary childlessness (if applicable for the applicant)
- Communication and conflicts resolving (resolution)
- Division of roles in relationship – flexibility and responsibilities
- Concept of adjustment of family into the life after adoption

4) Parenting skills assessment

- Parenting skills of the applicant, attitudes and experience
- Opinion on child's history and his/her biological family
- Attitude toward seeking professional assistance, follow up education (training), contact with other adoptive families
- Readiness to cope with child's deprivation syndrome
- If needed, willingness to postpone child's enrollment to institutional education

5) Children in family

- Description of personality of children living with the family, willingness to accept sibling, special needs, health



C. Attitude of the applicant towards adoption

1) Motivation for adoption

- How long has the adoption been an issue for applicants
- Is the motivation of both applicants the same
- Elimination of dysfunctional motivation for adoption

2) Expectations of applicant towards the child

- Number of children to be placed with the family recommended by the psychologist. In the case of siblings being placed for adoption– matter of adopting siblings together or subsequently
- Sex
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Acceptable risks in child's case history
- Health –illnesses (special health needs) acceptable for applicant's capabilities
- Prognosis of development – educability and its limits
- Summary and conclusion
- Psychologist's opinion on overall suitability of applicants for adoption

