

Adoption Agency Selection Checklist (2006)

| Date: _____ Page ____ of ____ pages | <i>Agency 1</i> | <i>Agency 2</i> | <i>Agency 3</i> | <i>Agency 4</i> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <p>After studying the www.openadoption.org web pages to understand the issues involved, this form can be used to compare four agencies. It is printed from http://www.openadoption.org/checklst.htm. The more "Yes" answers to the questions that follow the better an agency is. Few agencies will get "Yes" answers to all 16 questions, and some questions are more important.</p> | | | | |
| 1. Do the agency web site & advertisements make it clear that the agency only does fully open, fully identified adoptions? | | | | |
| 2. Is this agency easy to drive to from your home? | | | | |
| 3. Do you have a friend who knows or has used this agency and gives it a very high recommendation? | | | | |
| 4. Are there other agencies in your local yellow pages who have much larger yellow page ads under the adoption heading? | | | | |
| 5. Is the agency a church affiliated agency or is it over 30 years old? | | | | |
| <p>Most of the above questions can be answered from agency web sites, yellow pages, and other advertisements without calling the agency. The questions below will probably require a call to the agency, but count it as extra good if positive answers can be found in agency advertisements. Count it as negative if there is any hesitation by agency staff on the phone in answering these questions.</p> | | | | |
| 6. Does the agency encourage maternity client to parent and offer free support and guidance in parenting? | | | | |
| 7. Did agency staff make it clear that they prefer to do fully open adoptions and rarely, if at all, will they serve an adopting family wanting less than a fully open adoption? | | | | |
| 8. Did agency staff accurately define open adoption as involving no secrets between birth and adopting families and ongoing, direct, in person contact between them? | | | | |
| 9. Does the agency strongly recommend, or even require, several counseling sessions by their staff before a maternity client starts considering the selection of a family for their child? | | | | |
| 10. Does the agency encourage matching between birth and adopting families who live close enough to each other for easy visits? | | | | |
| 11. Does the agency have fully identified resumes by families adopting, with full names and addresses as well as local phone numbers on them, freely available for the selection process? | | | | |
| 12. Does the agency always allow maternity clients selecting a family for their child to be able study every waiting family available in the agency for their child, and almost never limits maternity clients to selecting from a few waiting families chosen by agency staff? | | | | |
| 13. Does the agency provide a copy of their fee agreement for adopting parents with a clearly stated refund policy along with a clarification that donations cannot be accepted during the adoption process? | | | | |
| 14. Does the original adopting parent fee include money for all maternity client expenses anticipated with only the agency paying all such expenses, even if they go above that set amount? | | | | |
| 15. Is agency a member of the Child Welfare League of America? | | | | |
| 16. Is the race of the child expected one of the last questions asked? | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Total Number of "Yes" answers, summary: Email bbetzen@openadoption.org with any questions or comments.</p> | | | | |