



RIPLEY CONSULTING

LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

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Confidential Psychological Report for Adoption  
Do not release without express written consent

Date of Report: April 20, 2021

Applicant's name: Jeff Name. (deidentified)

Applicant's place of birth: New York

Date of Birth: 1/28/1986

Dates of interview: April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (joint, in person); April 14, 2023 (individual, on zoom)

Profession: Computer Science

Basis of evaluation:

Joint interview (in person, 90 minutes)

Individual interviews (on zoom, 90 minutes total)

(Psychological Tests given will vary but listed here)

The applicant has sought a psychological evaluation as the basis for preparing for adoption of a child from a foreign country. In particular, it is expected that the child would be ranging in any age range and may have experienced some trauma. The evaluation is to determine psychological functioning for the purpose of entering a stressful family situation with adoption from another country who may have experienced mistreatment or trauma. The applicant, Jeff, was also personally interested in learning more about himself and preparing to be a good parent for adopted children.

Validity of testing

The results of the testing were considered to be valid and reliable measure of psychological functioning of Mr. Name. The results of the validity measures indicated no problems with validity, and that he was neither over-responding nor under-responding to the questions.

Personality Traits

Jeff is an optimistic, easy-going, friendly and outgoing man. He is well-intentioned, trustworthy and hopeful. He may sometimes be quite trusting of others but is aware and compensate for this positive personality trait when circumstances call for it. Jeff is emotionally stable and resilient, able to withstand considerable stress without engaging in dysfunction. He avoids the use of alcohol and does not use drugs.

He has positive emotions and is extremely low in antisocial behaviors (meaning he is very normal, non-aggressive). He has no aberrant experiences or any history of psychological disorder. The test results and the interviews indicated he has no psychological diagnoses and is functioning well as an individual psychologically.

#### Marital Adjustment

Jeff is very happy in his marriage. He readily was able to discuss his wife in terms of admiration and commitment to her. He was also able to talk about how they find ways to work through disagreements and areas of differences between them with maturity and open communication. He feels supported and loved by his wife. He has never considered divorce, no history of infidelity, and he reported there is no history of aggression or violence in the relationship. The couple has a strong joint identity as a couple through their faith and are highly supported by their families of origin, community volunteerism connections, and some close friends.

#### Life altering situations and Handling Losses

The couple have especially been influenced by The Connected Child information by Dr. Pervis. They have found this approach, which is supported by research and has good principles for parenting children with trauma histories, to be helpful to them. They have also attended classes in adoption through the local XXX organization, created some friendships with other adoptive parents, and have sought personal support from their families and friends. They have had additional life altering situations through fostering a number of children in the past years, one of whom they had been near to adopting but the process was stopped based on the father's wishes. This was emotionally difficult for the couple, but they were able to mourn the loss and have a sense of peace now about this difficult situation. They rely heavily on peer and expert support, as well as positive principles from their faith tradition and the strength of their marriage to traverse difficult circumstances.

The couple also lost a child to miscarriage in 2015, at 23 weeks gestation. They were able to have a meaningful and thoughtful conversation about this loss. They discussed the grief they felt at the time and how they worked to support each other through the first 6 months after the loss especially. They recovered fairly well from that loss after about 6 months and returned to typical psychological functioning within a year.

Part of the success of this couple is a very strong network of support. They both have families that are very supportive and excited about the adoption of children. The couple's parents and siblings are looking forward to the new family members. The husband's sister has foster parented and is a good support for the couple in shared experience. In addition, the couple has many friends who they have been close with for many years who are supportive and excited about adding more children to the friendship groups. Any children adopted into this family would inherit a strong extended family and friendships with other young families with children.

#### Motivation to adopt

The couple views themselves as adoptive parents already, and believe they have “more to give” to a child in their home. They feel that being adoptive parents is a part of their identity as a family and gives their lives purpose. They have sought adoptive options, even in difficult circumstances such as fostering children, and continue to seek adoption for their family despite negative outcomes of those situation. They are highly motivated.

#### Child raising principles.

The couple has relied heavily on The Connected Child principles from Dr Karyn Pervis. This approach to parenting is influenced by good research and principles of parenting. They are aware of biological and neurological impacts of trauma and adoption. They had plans for some withdrawal from life activities during the first weeks and months of adoption to allow for adjustment to new family and culture. They readily discussed how to integrate their new children into the existing family. They were aware of their strengths, with his wife providing much of the structure and tasks of parenting to ensure children are cared for while Jeff provides the play, mentoring, and emotional support. His wife is focused on parenting as her primary role in the family. However, Jeff works in the technology industry from home so he is heavily involved in parenting throughout the week as well. They both discussed their ability to be flexible when they need to play the other role of parenting, but that they know their personal strengths and rely on each other in parenting and child raising. They have fostered children in all age ranges, from infant through mid-adolescence.

#### Expectations of the couple

The couple had realistic expectations of adoption. They understood the constrictions on their lives that would come with adoption, especially children that may have been mistreated and have to adjust to a new culture. They have already made connections with multiple Spanish-speaking families. His wife speaks Spanish herself which will help with adjustment and Jeff is willing to learn Spanish. The couple sees their family as multi-cultural and are aware of biases and prejudices that exist in the United States. They had plans for protection and preparation of the children for thriving within the American culture including bringing in same-language and culture friends to assist them, celebrating cultural holidays and foods, and open communication in the family about culture.

#### Ability of the couple to bond with the adopt child/children.

The couple both have strong ability to bond with children, demonstrated in their relationship with each other and previous fostering experiences. They have a healthy bond with each other and with their families of origin. They both came from healthy families with intact marriages for both sets of grandparents, and feel supported by their families. Jeff’s sister is also a foster parent and this relationship provides additional support to the family.

#### Attitude toward the background of the child/children

The parents had a realistic but positive attitude towards the background of the child/children they are looking to adopt. They have good knowledge of XXX culture, and have personal friends who live in

XXX. They have traveled to XXX in the past. Their cultural knowledge and attitudes are positive. They have an understanding of traumatic or unstable childhoods that the children may bring with them. They talk about having a home that is a safe place for the children they adopt, while being realistic that there may be some very difficult circumstances in the future in adopting an older child from a foreign country as they mature into adulthood.

#### Myths and beliefs about adoption

This family is especially well-suited for adoption after having already successfully fostered children since 2014. They have a realistic picture of adoption in these circumstances.

#### Psychological Concept of Mental Stability

I believe that Jeff Name is psychologically suitable and capable of building a family through adoption, from any age range from infant to 18 years old, with or without special needs.

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Jennifer S. Ripley, Ph.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

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Date

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