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What is an adoption profile?

A profile is a little booklet designed to give a glimpse into your life and personality, so that birth parents can envision you as the future parents of their child.

The birth parents will be looking at many profiles at once. You will want to show your unique personality so that you can stand out, but you only have a small space in which to make an impression.

My approach is to create profiles that appeal visually, using as many photos as possible to tell your story, and designing a beautiful cover to attract attention. I recommend that profiles be professionally printed 10-12 page booklets, usually 8.5x11" although custom sizes can be considered.

Where do we start?

Start by thinking about what you want your profile to look like. The cover design should fit your personality. Do you have any favorite verses or quotes? An image that catches your fancy? I will be happy to consult with you about the cover design and help you with ideas.

Next, you should gather your photos and text for the inside of the booklet.

How do we write the text?

Write a short paragraph for each section, to leave plenty of room for photos and titles. It may be difficult to get started, so try to imagine you're talking to a friend. Be yourself, write naturally and don't worry about sounding formal or correct. Get things down on paper and think about editing it later. Writing in first person ('we,' 'us') sounds more personal; make the words come from you.

Here are some categories to get you started. You don't have to answer every question (keep it brief, remember) but this may give you some ideas of what to write about.

- 1 Write a short welcome message.
- 2 Describe yourselves (2-4 paragraphs).
What are your personalities? Outgoing? Quiet? Adventurous? Practical? Dreamer?
How did you meet and fall in love?
What do you love about each other?
What do you do for a living? Why did you pick that profession? Do you enjoy it?
- 3 Describe your hobbies (1-2 paragraphs).
What do you do on vacation?
Do you like to travel?
Do you like the outdoors? Concerts? Ballgames?
Are you crafty? Do you like sports?
- 4 Describe your extended family (2-3 paragraphs).
Is your family big or small?
Do you have crazy reunions or do you see each other every day?
What do your family think about your decision to adopt? (Assuming they're excited and supportive, of course.)
- 5 Describe your home (1-2 paragraphs).
Do you have a nursery for the baby?
What is your neighborhood like?
What are some of the things you like about where you live? Is there a lot to do, or perhaps do you love it because it's quiet and peaceful?
Do you have pets?

Profile Quick Stats

Pages:	10-12
Photos per page:	2-4
Total number of photos:	25-40
Text per page:	1-2 short paragraphs
Time to complete profile:	4-6 weeks

6 Write your message to the birth parents.

This can be 1-3 paragraphs. It's appropriate to say a few words about the birth mother's sacrifice, your gratitude, and how much you look forward to having a baby. If you intend to keep in contact with the birth parents, you can mention that as well. Keep it simple and don't dwell too much on your past disappointments in trying to have a child. Make it a positive, hopeful, and loving statement, not a negative one.

What kind of photos should we send?

Get together as many photos as you can. Even if you don't end up using them all, you'll want to find all your favorite moments and happy pictures. I recommend finding 25-40 photos at least, but it helps to have plenty of choices. Please do not send more than 100 photos – it will take extra time for me to sort through that many, and I do not know which are your favorites. It's better for you to narrow the selection yourself.

You can send me either digital photos or prints. If you send digital photos, you may need to burn a CD, if the files are too large to send via email. I prefer that you send original digital files if possible, not resized or embedded in a Word document. If you send prints, I will scan them at the highest quality and return them to you.

Here are some suggestions for photos you might include:

- Wedding pictures
- Photos of you together and separately traveling or on vacation,

at the beach,
involved in hobbies,
at ball games or concerts,
with your friends,
having dinner,
relaxing at home

- Photos of family events and family gatherings
- Holiday photos of you and your family
- Formal family portraits
- Pictures of your home, the baby's nursery if you have it ready
- Photos of your pets

How will the profile be printed?

I will design the pages of the profile using your photos and your words, and with a coherent overall design that will match the look of the cover. I will send you PDFs for feedback and approval at each step, until you are happy with the profile.

I will prepare and send the files for printing for you to a professional printer. Booklets are printed on high quality paper with a heavy cardstock cover.

How long will this take?

The time spent on the design process depends on many factors, including the complexity of the cover design, whether you need me to scan and/or retouch photos, and how much revision and editing is necessary after I send you the initial design.

It is not unusual for the profile design to take several weeks, and you should allow at least a week to ten days for printing and shipping.

Quotations about Adoption and Family

A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on. – *Carl Sandburg*

Adoption is when a child grew in its mommy's heart instead of her tummy.

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them. – *Desmond Tutu*

An invisible red thread connects those who are destined to meet, regardless of time, place, or circumstance. The thread may stretch or tangle, but it will never break. – *An ancient Chinese belief*

Always remember, we looked far and wide, and then you found us!

Not flesh of my flesh nor bone of my bone, but still miraculously my own. Never forget for a single minute: You didn't grow under my heart, but in it. – *Fleur Conkling Heyliger*

Sometimes it's the smallish things that take up the most room in our hearts – *Winnie the Pooh*

The blessing of life... the miracle of love

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. – *1 Corinthians 13:13*