

Choices Mental Health Counseling, PLLC

Thomas S. Rue, M.A., LMHC, CASAC

Licensed by the State of New York and Certified by the National Board for Certified Counselors
Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor, Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor
US DOT qualified Substance Abuse Professional, Internationally Certified by IC & RC
AMHCA Diplomate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling for Substance Abuse and Co-Occurring Disorders

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Preparations for Pre-Adoption Home Study

Congratulation on your desire to adopt. Thank you for asking me to assist you toward that goal by providing the Family Court with a pre-adoption home study, as required by Domestic Relations Law.

To assist with this, it would be helpful if you would prepare autobiographical statement(s) of the adult(s) who is/are seeking to adopt, preferably prior to my visit to your home. I will also ask you to provide certain documents, including as many of the following as you are able to assemble. If you do not have everything on the list, whatever you have will be fine, at least to start.

- Birth records and marriage certificate(s), including documentation of any prior marriages and how they were concluded, if applicable.
- If either adoptive parent has had other children, information concerning their births, whereabouts, legal status, custody, visitation, support, etc. (Include any children living or deceased, including stillbirths or miscarriages).
- Passports; (if not US-born, relevant immigration and naturalization certificates).
- Federal W2-Forms and 1099-Forms, or other documentation of income.
- Deed, lease, and certificate of occupancy of your residence, and a history of past residences.
- A summary of typical monthly household expenses (a close approximation will do).
- Professional resumes, *if available*, showing education and past/present employment, diplomas, awards, community service history, etc., for each of you.
- A recent report of history and physical exam from your primary care physicians describing any current or past medical conditions, current medications and reasons; as well (separately, I presume) as a report of surgical procedures from the urologist or other specialist(s) who procedure you mentioned, together with a medical assessment of your prognosis.
- If you have ever had any other medical or psychiatric/ emotional conditions requiring treatment by other physicians (describing any history of medication and/or other treatments), including any past treatment for alcoholism or other drug dependence at any time in your lives, describe the dates and nature of such treatment. (Please let me emphasize, such treatment history, if there is any, will not make a person ineligible to adopt, but it is important to review.)
- Two or three letters of references from close friends, coworkers, or perhaps ecclesiastical leaders who know you personally, describing how long they have known you and in what contexts, the sorts of activities you may have engaged in with them together, and a personal comment about their impression or feeling of your of your temperaments and suitability as parents.

Please have working smoke detectors and other safety equipment in the house, and be ready to discuss any plans you may have about childproofing your home and creating a room for the baby.


In the autobiographical statements, please include descriptions of your families of origin, where and the circumstances in which you each grew up, significant experiences that stand out in your memories from childhood, whether positive and negative, adolescence, young adulthood, higher education, how you met, present issues or feelings within your relationship, how you anticipate the presence of a child in your home might affect your life as a couple; moral and ethical values that you consider important; how you enjoy spending your spare time, and the place a child may have in taking part in these family activities; goals for the future; expressions of faith, hope, and gratitude; and anything else you might like to include.

Please do not go to extraordinary lengths to clean house. I would like to meet you as you typically live, dressed comfortably and will ask you to for a tour of your home.

If the above list of documents seems like too much, please just give it your best. When we talk I will fill in any blanks through speaking with you, and let you know what documents may still be needed.

With ever good wish, I look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Rue, MA, LMHC, CASAC
AMHCA Diplomate and Clinical Mental Health Specialist
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