



# Assessor Training

Post-Training  
Skill-Building  
Assignment #9

## Gathering and Documenting Background Information

### FROM THE FIELD

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*Results from several studies concur that failure to provide families with adequate information about the child's background, health and medical history, the events that have predisposed the child to emotional and behavioral problems, and the child's usual methods of coping, may be the strongest service-associated predictor of adoption disruption.*

Rycus, Freundlich,  
Hughes, Keefer, Oakes,  
"Confronting Barriers to  
Adoption Success",  
Family Court Review,  
April 2006.

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Completing this assignment will help you:

- Sensitively elicit and record pertinent information about the child social and medical history;
- Identify "missing" information and develop strategies for gathering information;
- Effectively communicate information to prospective caregivers.

### INSTRUCTIONS (USE THE ATTACHED WORKSHEET TO RECORD YOUR WORK)

1. Select a child awaiting an adoptive placement.
2. Review the completed JFS 01616, documenting the child's birth family history and the child's special needs.
3. Determine what information is missing from the record and develop a plan to find and document that information on the JFS 01616. (Refer to *Gathering & Documenting Background Information Handout #6.*)
4. Provide feedback on the assignment by completing an online survey at:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=365843881460>

**INSTRUCTIONS (CONTINUED)**

4. Review the completed form with your supervisor. Explore gaps in available information, and discuss ways to fill those gaps. (Refer to *Gathering & Documenting Background Information* handout #8.)
5. Read *Providing Background Information to Adoptive Parents: A Bulletin for Professionals* at [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f\\_backgroundbulletin.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_backgroundbulletin.cfm)
6. Develop a plan with your supervisor to communicate essential information to prospective foster and adoptive parents and to the child. What tools will you use?

## Worksheet

### GATHERING AND DOCUMENTING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

First name of child awaiting an adoptive placement: \_\_\_\_\_



After reviewing the child’s JFS 01616, I determined the following information was missing from the record:

My supervisor and I identified the following gaps in my information and ways to fill those gaps:

Gaps	Ways to Fill Gaps

After reading *Providing Background Information to Adoptive Parents: A Bulletin for Professionals*, I developed the following plan to communicate essential information to prospective foster and adoptive parents and to the child: What tools will I use?

Action	Tools

### EVALUATION

OCWTP needs your feedback concerning this assignment. Please go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=365843881460> to complete a short online survey. Thank you for your help!