

How to Make a Fabulous Family Profile for Domestic Adoption

There is not one uniform way to make a family profile. Each agency will have its own preferences and requirements. These are merely secondary suggestions will help you in the process of compiling information and photos to be used in your profile, as well as phrases/photos to include or to avoid.

Profile Construction:

- Depending on your agency's preferences, profiles can be hand-constructed from scrapbooking materials, or digitally created and printed from sites like Shutterfly.

Photos:

- Begin the album with a large picture of just the two of you, captioned by your first names. Save whole family pictures for the inside of the profile.
- A "Dear Birthmother" letter explaining your journey to adoption, your family, your careers, excitement about the baby, etc. -- usually comes right after the aforementioned picture.
- Gather photos that show wholesome family fun, sweet memories, and pictures of you with kids (even if you have to borrow someone else's kids for a photo shoot.)
 - Avoid photos that have any kind of identifying information (i.e. shirts with a company/church/town name on them, a picture of you in front of your house with surname or house numbers showing, car license plates, picture of your church with sign out front, etc.)
 - Avoid photos that might make a viewer uncomfortable (i.e. full body swimsuit pictures)
- On pages that show your home:
 - Try to include one shot of the front exterior of the home and a couple of interior shots of main living spaces. Don't include an entire tour of your home in photos, as this can appear showy.
 - Describe your neighborhood in the captions (demographics, sidewalks, play space, etc.)
 - Some birthmothers have expressed that seeing pictures of a decorated nursery in the profile makes them sad and turns them off to the profile.

Layout:

- Include 2-3 large-size pictures on each page rather than lots of small pictures per page. Keep the layout simple and easy to read.
- Important pages usually included in profile: Spouse pages with individual photos/captions listing hobbies and interests, narrative of what one spouse says about the other, pages about other children if any, extended family, home, community assets – ALL MUST BE NON-IDENTIFYING
- Phraseology:
 - Do not call pets your "kids, babies, or children" in the profile, can be offensive
 - Avoid the phrase "putting your baby up for adoption", use "making an adoption plan"
 - First names only! Avoid all hints of identifying information.
- Edit, edit, edit! Make sure many pairs of eyes are proofing your profile (within agency, other adoptive parents, etc.). Triple-check to delete ALL identifying information in your profile!!!