



## Fact Sheet N° 23

### Adoption

#### THE EVALUATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY AND THE SUITABILITY OF PROSPECTIVE ADOPTERS: THE REPORT

*A report on the adopter applicants must be prepared on the basis of the information previously collected (See information Fact Sheet N°23). It is an essential document that makes matching possible in the best interests of a particular child, although it is also in the interest of the adopter applicants themselves. This report is sent to the bodies responsible for matching and for the adoption decision with a view to helping them to carry out their task in the best interests of the child and the family that will adopt him.*

**This report should be the fullest possible portrait of the prospective adoptive parents and their environment.**

The need for it and its content are stipulated in article 15 of The Hague Convention, which requires the following information: Identity of the applicants, Legal capacity and suitability for adoption, Personal and family situation, Medical information, Social environment, Motives that inspire them, Ability to undertake an inter-country adoption, Children they would be in a condition to take into care.

**The report will include, to the extent possible:**

- The reasons why the persons have been considered suitable to be entrusted with a child in adoption: evaluation of the capacity of the applicants to care in a lasting manner for a child who may possibly not correspond to the image they have of him. When it is matter of eligibility for inter-country adoption, the motives that justify it will take into account specific needs, like the need

to be able to face up to difficulties arising from the child's characteristics (racial, ethnic and cultural differences, traumas linked to his abandonment and a possible prolonged period in an institution, health problems ...).

- A synthesis of the psychosocial information gathered during the evaluation of the suitability of the applicants and their environment. The information should be sufficiently detailed to facilitate a matching in the best interests of the child.
- The administrative and legal file relating to their identity, civil status, eligibility.
- A few photos of the family.
- A description with comments on the applicant's expectations of adoption.
- An assessment of the strengths of the adoptive family and its environment that will assure the child a satisfactory affective, moral, educative and material setting and facilitate the child's integration; an evaluation of the limitations that could arise to compromise them in

case of a domestic and/or inter-country adoption. Inter-country adoption requires more skills taking into account its more complex character.

- Guidelines for the type of child that the applicants seem able to care for (behaviour, character, age, particularities, capacity to assume responsibility for siblings, etc.).

- Whatever other information that can help in determining a matching in the best interest of the child and the family that will adopt him.

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### **For more information:**

SCHOOLER Jayne 'The whole adoption book - realistic advice for building a healthy adoptive family'; Piñon Press, P.O. Box 35007, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935, USA; 1993, 217pp.

JAIN CAMPION Mukti 'Who's Fit to Be a Parent?'; Routledge, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE, United Kingdom; 1995, 308pp.

**We are interested in your opinion!** To tell us your experiences, ask us your questions about the themes addressed in this file, or to send us your suggestions for changes, don't hesitate to write to us at [irc-cir@iss-ssi.org](mailto:irc-cir@iss-ssi.org). We also invite you to share this file with other interested persons in your country. Thanks in advance!

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