

# APPENDICE T

CatholicCare

## OOHC PROCEDURE: LIFE STORY GUIDELINES FOR PROSPECTIVE FOSTER CARERS

Form number: OOHC.15/1

Issued: Jan 2015

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### Life Story Guidelines for Prospective Foster Carers

The following sections need to be completed. In addition to the stated categories, you may also wish to include other aspects. The Life Story should be between 8 to 10 pages and is the basis for the next stage of the process, the assessment, in particular the individual interviews. Please complete the Life Story individually.

1. **Places where you've lived:** - List them and how long at each location.
2. **Family Background:** - **Parents (include foster families), siblings and other significant relatives.** Describe them, their work, and your relationships, positive and negative memories, particular upheavals and discipline in own family. Your opinions on this discipline and feelings about growing up in your particular family situation?
3. **Schooling and Peer Group:** - What was your experience of school? Positive and negative memories? Performance and aptitude? Peer group involvement at school and any ongoing friendships?
4. **Employment History:** - List your current and previous employment. Career decisions you have made including successes and failures? Comment on current job security and any future career plans.
5. **Relationships:** - Describe your relationship history, past and present. What attracted you to your current partner? Strengths and weaknesses in self and partner? Division of roles in the relationship eg household tasks, budgeting. Comment on any major hurdles or crises in the relationship and how they were resolved? How do you resolve differences currently?
6. **Infertility:** - How important has this been in your relationship and for yourself? How has this affected your life? Where do you see yourself now in relation to infertility?
7. **Children:** - What experience do you have with children, past and present? Describe any close relationships with children. Describe your own children.
8. **Social Network:** - Describe your personal friendships. Comment on how you spent your leisure time including any interests and hobbies?
9. **Routines:** - Describe a typical day/week in your household. How do you envisage foster child/ children would fit into your established system?
10. **Expectations of Fostering:** - Personal / joint hopes as well as any difficulties envisaged? Why do you see yourself / partner as suitable?
11. **Personal Description:** - Describe your own view of self, attitude to self/others/world and personal value system. What experiences have you found difficult to resolve and things you have been disappointed about? What is the most positive aspect of your life now?

