



DOMESTIC ADOPTION HOME STUDY

Applicant: Allison Beth Schultz
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Prepared by: Angela Waters is a staff person with Families First, Inc. and therefore authorized to conduct home studies for international and domestic adoptions. Angela Waters is licensed in the State of Georgia to practice social work and her license number is CSW006171 with an expiration date of September 30, 2020.

Families First, Incorporated is a non-profit agency licensed in the State of Georgia as a child-placing agency and able to do both domestic and international adoptions. The agency's license number is CPA001004 and remains in effect with no expiration date unless revoked or suspended by the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

SUMMARY OF AGENCY CONTACTS

September 1, 2018 Joint interview with Allison Schultz and Kevin Brown (partner) in the home; adoption orientation completed; home inspection completed.

March 6, 2019 Individual interview with Allison Schultz

March 14, 2019 Individual interview with Kevin Brown

July 2, 2019 **Joint interview for home study addendum**

July 14, 2020 **Joint video interview for home study update**

OVERVIEW OF THE FAMILY/MOTIVATION TO ADOPT

Allison has always wanted to be a mother all her life. She was previously married to her now ex-husband and became pregnant, but unfortunately suffered a miscarriage. Allison explained that her marriage was already in trouble at this point and after the miscarriage they decided to end their marriage. During this time, Allison was living in Sydney, Australia and she moved back to the United States, thinking she would meet someone and start her family. After years of not meeting anyone, she had an opportunity to move back to Sydney but she met Kevin right before she left. She ended up moving but she and Kevin continued their relationship long distance. In 2014, Allison moved back to the States to be with Kevin. In 2015, Allison and Kevin began trying for a family with in vitro fertilization because Kevin had a previous vasectomy. After several unsuccessful attempts with this, Allison was never able to conceive. Infertility was a discouraging and tough road to navigate however, Allison felt that she became stronger and her relationship with Kevin became closer. Infertility has taught them to be more resilient and to



celebrate what they do have. Throughout all of this, and even before trying to have a biological family, Allison and Kevin talked about adoption and had even attended several meetings while they were trying to conceive. In April of 2018, Allison and Kevin had their last attempt at IVF and it failed. In May, they reached out to Families First to begin their adoption process.

Allison understands that adoption is a permanent decision and she and Kevin are committed to raising their child as if he or she were born to them biologically. Allison understands that an adopted child will not resemble her physically and understands that her child will inherit traits and genetics from their birth family that will play an important role in their development. She will love and value her child for who they are as a unique individual and will celebrate both differences and commonalities between them.

Allison also understands that there are some differences in parenting an adopted child and parenting a biological child. Having several friends who have adopted and were adopted, she has been able to begin to understand some of the unique aspects of parenting an adopted child brings. Allison is aware that her child will most likely be curious about their background and she plans to be open and honest from the start with her child and give them age appropriate information. Allison understands that her child's birth family origin will play a part in her child's identity and it will be natural for them to have questions in order to put the pieces together. Allison also mentioned that at a certain age, her child may grieve the loss of not being raised by his or her birth family. She plans to be proactive in helping her child through this by being open and providing a safe, supportive place for her child to talk and ask questions whether this is through her or a professional counselor.

Allison is open to a child from 0-10 of any gender and any race or ethnicity. Allison understands that there will be challenges and issues in raising a child of a different culture. Allison has always been intrigued by other cultures. During her time in college, she sought out diverse courses, friends, and spent a lot of time traveling to different countries. During her travels, she discovered how wonderfully diverse the world is and she ended up forging a career out of exploring new cultures in travel and tourism as well as international education. Allison celebrates differences and strives to bring people together through love, respect and understanding. If placed with a child of a different culture or race, Allison will encourage questions and seek out resources, community groups, social activities, books, movies, and other families as a way to connect her child with his or her race, culture, and history. Allison has been very open with family and friends about adopting transcultural and they have all been supportive and enthusiastic. In fact, most of them have said that it makes sense, given her experience in traveling and connecting across the globe. Right now, Allison is preparing by reading books, joining support groups through families first and taking the Perspectives on Transracial adoption webinar as well as PACT workshops. Additionally, Allison feels that she has a very diverse friend group and support system that could help and connect with her child.

Pre-Service Training and Consultations

Attended Pre-Service Training: June 2018 (IMPACT)

ADOPTIVE MOTHER

Allison is a **51 year-old** Caucasian female who is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds. She has brown hair, brown eyes, and an olive complexion. Allison was born on July 8, 1969 in Columbus, Ohio (verified). She was open, genuine, and thoughtful during the home study process. Allison described herself as being a very compassionate and caring person. She is a "fixer" by nature and feels things very deeply for herself and others. Allison's personality is nurturing, energetic and loving. She has always been a peacemaker in her family and friend groups. She is outgoing and loves to learn and meet new people. Allison feels that others would describe her in the same way, especially those who are close to her. Allison has always been friendly and outgoing and tries to bring people together. Allison feels that her biggest strength is being able to relate to just about anyone she meets. She always seems to be able to find some common ground to be able to connect with others. She feels that because she truly enjoys people, others can sense that she is genuine. In her spare time, Allison enjoys reading, biking, hiking, swimming, yoga, and traveling. She frequently volunteers at the Latin American Association as an ESL tutor and really enjoys getting to know the people she helps. Allison's biggest personal achievements are going back to graduate school at age 40, moving back to the states after a long time living abroad, and rebuilding her life after her divorce. Allison's future goals include being a mother, getting married to her partner, Kevin, buying a house, and keeping a good work-life balance as they welcome a child into their home.

Allison is the oldest child born to Barbara and Frederick. Allison's parents were married until she was 11 years old, when they divorced. Allison describes her mother as a strong, stubborn, caring and smart as a whip. She is a social services staff developer and loves what she does. Barbara Askew is **73 years old** and lives in Shortsville, New York with her husband, Allison's stepfather. Allison describes her father as a very open minded and laid back, philosophical person. He is an avid reader and loves adventure and travel. He has a natural curiosity about the world and a great sense of humor. Frederick Schultz is **75 years old** and lives in Waynesboro, Virginia with his wife, Allison's stepmother. Frederick is a retired schoolteacher. Allison has always enjoyed a great relationship with all of her parents. She feels that despite their divorce, she has never felt anything but love and support from them. Allison feels that her parents are such different people and that their divorce was "for the best." After her parents divorced, she and her siblings split time between homes, which didn't seem like a big deal since her parents lived in close proximity to each other. She never experienced any violence or rage in the middle of their arguments but it was more of bickering back and forth between her parents. She describes her current relationship with her parents as "very close, open, honest, and supportive." Allison's mother, Barbara Askew, wrote a letter of support stating that for many years, Allison has wanted to become a mother and that she has always loved children. She states, "As heartbreaking as it was (infertility), Allison was always open to the idea of adoption. She often talked about it while she was growing up, so in some ways, I believe this is the path she was meant to be on."

Allison has one brother and one sister. Allison's brother, Jeff, is **48 years old** and single. He lives in Rochester, New York and is employed with the state, working in an accounting role. Allison describes Jeff as being very shy and quiet, but successful and loyal. He is a wonderful uncle to Allison's nieces and nephews. Allison's sister is Jennifer Moles. She is

46 years old, married, and has three children, ages **12, 10 and 8**. She and her family live in New York where she is a stay at home mother and her husband runs a business. Allison has a close relationship with her siblings. They talk on the phone frequently and see each other about 3-4 times a year. Both Allison's parents and siblings are all aware of the adoption process and are extremely supportive and excited for Allison to become a mother. Allison's sister, Jennifer Moles, wrote a letter of support for her adoption journey. She states that Allison always offers unconditional love and guidance when she needed it and that Allison is loving and maternal towards her three children (Allison's nieces and nephews). She also stated, "Allison is a mature, responsible adult who will handle the realities of parenthood extremely well. She has a stable lifestyle and will raise children in a positive and loving manner."

Allison describes her childhood as being great with a very loving and supportive family. She and her siblings fought like normal siblings do, but they still had a strong bond. Allison's fondest memories of her childhood include reading before bed, sitting at the dinner table as a family, and sharing what they were thankful for at Thanksgiving dinner. She hopes to pass these traditions on to her children. As a child, Allison was quite shy and spent a lot of time with her grandmother. In some ways, she feels like her grandmother encouraged her to come out of her shell. As a teenager, Allison describes herself as "calm." She didn't rebel or go to parties and did well in school and tried to be a model student. She was very diligent and conscious about how important school was and got good grades. Allison has always enjoyed school and learning. Her favorite subjects were English, history and foreign languages. In high school Allison participated in drama, chorus, band, soccer and ski club. She was also voted "Most Outgoing" in her senior year. Allison graduated from Red Jacket Central High School in 1987.

Allison and her siblings were primarily disciplined through the removal of privileges (usually watching TV) and being sent to their rooms. They were never spanked.

After graduating from high school, Allison attended SUNY Genesco. She graduated with a Bachelors degree in Communications in 1991. In college, Allison was in chorus and was an active member of her sorority. After college, Allison decided to do a work exchange program in the UK and did this for six months. While in the UK, Allison met several Australians, including her boyfriend. After her program ended, she moved back home and was a waitress while she and her boyfriend continued their long distance relationship and visited each other several times. In 1995, Allison decided to move to Australia to be with her boyfriend and was able to get a permanent resident visa because of her relationship. She got a job at a bank and then as a receptionist at a college, which she really enjoyed. In 1997, her relationship with her boyfriend ended but she decided to stay in Australia because she really loved her job with a travel agency, Flight Center. She worked there from 1996-1999 and then switched to another travel agency (Peregrine) from 2002 to 2010. In 2009 she transferred from Australia to Canada with the agency. From 2010-2012, Allison got her Masters degree at SUNY Buffalo while living at home. In 2015, she moved to Atlanta and worked at Mercer University in Admissions. **From December 2018 through October 2019, Allison worked with One Ocean Expeditions, a travel agency until they went out of business. In December of 2019, Allison got a job working for St. Kits Tourism Authority in sales and marketing. She works from home**

from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Allison is currently enjoying her job and loves the flexibility it offers in regards to working from home.

HEALTH OF ADOPTIVE MOTHER

Allison Schultz received a physical examination on **June 4, 2020** by **Dr. Wayne Williams, MD (verified)** and was found to be in good health and expected to have a normal life expectancy. A tuberculin skin test was completed on **June 4, 2020** and found to be negative. A drug screening was completed on **June 3, 2020** (verified) and the results were negative. Allison does not have any health issues and does not take any medications. She states she has always been a healthy individual by staying physically active and eating healthy. It is this social worker's assessment that Allison Schultz is physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and will provide a loving home for any child placed in her care.

BACKGROUND CHECKS OF ADOPTIVE MOTHER

The following questions were asked of Allison Schultz:

- Have you ever been arrested and fingerprinted, even if the record was sealed, pardoned or expunged, whether in the United States or Abroad? Allison Schultz responded, "No."
- Do you have a history as a perpetrator or victim of child abuse, sexual abuse or domestic violence, whether in the United States or abroad? Allison Schultz responded, "No."
- Have you ever received treatment for alcohol abuse? Allison Schultz responded, "No."
- Have you abused illegal controlled substances or prescription drugs? Allison Schultz, "No."
- Have you ever been denied as a prospective adoptive parent or been the subject of an unfavorable home study? Allison Schultz responded, "No."
- Have you ever begun a home study process in relation to an adoption or any form of foster or other custodial care of a child that was not completed? Allison Schultz responded, "No."
- Have you ever been denied visa clearance by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services? Allison Schultz responded, "No."

The following background checks were completed for Allison Schultz:

- A criminal records check was completed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on February 8, 2020 and no records were found.
- A criminal records check was completed by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) on February 15, 2020 and no records were found.
- A check of the child abuse registry for the state of Georgia was completed on February 11, 2020, with no results.
- A check of the child abuse registry for the state of New York was completed on March 5, 2019, with no results. Allie has not lived in this state since this check was run.
- A National Sex Offender Search completed on August 11, 2020 found no listing.
- The Georgia Department of Corrections and Georgia Parolee Database were checked on August 11, 2020 and no records were found.

- A 911 check for Allison's current and former addresses were completed with no results.

MARRIAGE

Allison is not currently married but is in a committed relationship with her partner of **six** years, Kevin Brown. Allison and Kevin both feel they will get married in the near future. Allison and Kevin met in 2014 at a winery. They struck up a conversation and hit it off immediately. They began dating however; Allison was already planning to move to Sydney for a short-term contract for her job. They continued their long distance relationship while Allison was in Sydney for seven months. Allison stated that when Kevin came to visit her, it cemented their relationship. During his visit, they talked about their long term goals and eventually settled on Allison moving to Atlanta in May of 2015 with Kevin, who had just started a job there. Allison feels that their commitment to each other and trust in one another is a big strength in their relationship. They have each other's back and their relationship is based on true love and trust. When making big decisions, they sit down and talk about them. They make time for each other and discuss the pros and cons and allow each other the chance to be heard. They strive to communicate as openly as possible with each other and are respectful in the way they communicate. The couple feels that their biggest challenge they have faced is trying to start a family. They tried several different methods to conceive that were not successful. They feel this was a learning experience for them both and realized that they were each other's best form of support. The couple feels this challenge has ultimately brought them closer together. From this writer's interaction with the couple, the love and care they share for each other is very apparent. They are light hearted in their interactions and are playful and kind to each other. Allison and Kevin seem genuinely happy together and both are equally invested in this adoption. Allison and Kevin believe that adding a child to their family will just bring them even closer together. They are excited to be able to share in the joy of raising a child together.

Both Allison and Kevin have been previously married. Allison was married on February 20, 2004 in Honolulu, Hawaii to Stuart Grant. They met when Allison was living in Australia and dated for seven years before getting married. In the beginning, Allison describes their relationship as a "full on romance." She did have some doubts before getting married but was so eager to have kids that she convinced herself this was right. After they married, they argued a lot about having kids and he would always have reasons why they shouldn't. Allison explained they had a lot of struggle in their marriage from the beginning. In 2005, Allison became pregnant but has a miscarriage at 10 weeks. This was a hard time for her and to cope, she threw herself more into her work. Her husband was also becoming distant and their marriage eventually broke down. They separated and Allison took a job in Canada. Their divorce was finalized on July 13, 2010 in Melbourne, Australia.

CHILDREN

Not applicable.

OTHERS IN THE HOME- Kevin Brown

Kevin was born on February 13, 1967 in Medina, New York (verified). He is a Caucasian male with dark brown hair and blue eyes. He is 6'2" tall and weighs 240 pounds. Kevin

describes himself as a personable individual that is happy-go-lucky and tries to see the good in all things. During the interview process, Kevin was easy to talk to and came off as very warm and genuine. Kevin works as a project manager with Sparks Exhibits and enjoys his job and the people he works with. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys camping, riding bicycles, technology, and was previously a volunteer firefighter and Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader when his sons were little. Kevin has been married before and has two grown children, Andrew (AJ) **(28)** and Jason **(25)**. Kevin's divorce was finalized in June of 2013 (verified). Kevin has a great relationship with his sons and enjoys talking with them on the phone a few times a week and visiting with them several times a year.

HEALTH OF KEVIN BROWN

Kevin received a physical examination on **February 14, 2020** from his doctor, Moji Ariyo at The Emory Clinic. He was found to be in good health and free from contagious diseases and expected to have a normal life expectancy. His TB results were negative on **February 14, 2020**. A drug screening was completed on **February 14, 2020** and the results were negative. Kevin is diagnosed with hypertension, which is controlled by medication (Lisinopril 10 mg once a day). It is this social worker's assessment that Kevin Brown is physically, mentally and emotionally healthy.

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR KEVIN BROWN

The following questions were asked of Kevin Brown:

- Have you ever been arrested; in the US or abroad, even if the record has been expunged, sealed, pardoned or the subject of any other amelioration? Kevin responded, "No."
- Have you ever been rejected as a prospective adoptive parent? Kevin responded, "No."
- Have you ever been the subject of an unfavorable adoption home study? Kevin responded, "No."
- Have you ever begun a home study process in relation to an adoption or any form of foster or other custodial care of a child that was not completed? Kevin responded, "No."
- Have you ever abused alcohol or used or abused controlled substances? Kevin responded, "No."
- Have you ever been the victim or perpetrator of domestic violence, sexual or child abuse? Kevin responded, "No."
- Have you ever been the perpetrator of a crime even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction? Kevin responded, "No."
- Have you ever been denied visa clearance by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services? Kevin responded, "No."

The following checks were conducted for Kevin Brown:

- Fingerprint clearances were obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on February 8, 2020 and showed no record of arrests.
- Fingerprint clearances were obtained from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) on February 15, 2020 and showed no history of arrests.
- The Child Abuse/Neglect Registry for Georgia was checked by Georgia Department of Human Services on February 11, 2020 and no records were found.

- A check of the child abuse registry for the state of New York was completed on March 5, 2019, with no results. Kevin has not lived in this state since this check was run.
- The Georgia Parolee Database and Georgia Department of Corrections were checked August 11, 2020 and no records were found.
- A National Sex Offender Search was completed on August 11, 2020 and no listing was noted.

PARENTING SKILLS AND VALUES

Allison has always pictured herself being a mother one day. She has always had a caregiver instinct since she was young and spent a lot of time babysitting in her teenage years and watching over her younger siblings. She loves interacting with children and has worked at preschools and childcare centers in the past while in-between jobs. Allison has also spent a considerable amount of time with her nieces and nephew from birth to school aged years when she lived at home while completing her Master's degree. Even though she lives in another state, she still enjoys seeing her nieces and nephew a few times a year and keeping up with them on the phone. Allison feels that she has a good understanding of the demands of parenthood and feels equipped to become one. Allison feels that some of her best qualities that would be important to have as a parent are that she is nurturing and supportive, open minded and respectful of others' wants and needs, and she has a huge heart. Allison also feels that she has a very strong protective instinct and knows she will be an excellent advocate of her child's needs. Allison also has a very fun and silly side to her and enjoys being goofy and laughing. Allison feels passionate about teaching her child how to be kind to everyone, being respectful and accepting of other people's differences, and hopes to teach them to be honest and genuine. She also hopes to teach them the value of hard work to achieve their goals and the importance of trying their best, even if it doesn't work out perfectly. Allison anticipates her biggest challenge in parenthood to be how to handle social media and technology. Another challenge she has seen with her friends' children is how they are involved in a lot of clubs and extracurricular activities. On top of that, their kids are always wanting the "latest and greatest" clothing or technology. Allison hopes to be able to provide her child with wonderful opportunities for those kinds of things while also making sure they understand that they cannot always have everything they want. Allison feels lucky to have the support of her partner, Kevin, close friends, and family members to help her in raising her child. Allison is open to seeking professional help if the need arises for either her child or her and her child together. She is open to ongoing training and learning about issues adopts and adoptive families may face.

Allison understands that each child is different in how they respond to discipline. She plans to provide age-appropriate discipline, which may consist of discussion, redirection, positive reinforcement, and removal of privileges as her child gets older. Allison feels that explanation and discussion about their behavior and why it was wrong is an extremely valuable tool in discipline and hopes to be able to use this as a teaching opportunity. Allison is aware of the DHR/DFCS discipline policy, which prohibits corporal punishment, and she plans to be compliant.

Allison Schultz and Kevin Brown reviewed and signed the Georgia Safety Agreement for Adoptive parents in regards to animal safety, gun safety, motor vehicle safety, supervision, water safety and discipline policy on December 18, 2018.

CHILDCARE PLANS

Allison works from home and has a very flexible work schedule in the hours that she can work. In the beginning, she plans to keep her child at home with her, as she will be able to work around her child's schedule. Kevin also has the option to work from home on most days. Allison's mother has voiced her offer to help out as well and can fly down whenever Allison needs some extra support or assistance with childcare. Allison has also researched several play groups and different child care programs that can offer a few hours of child care each day if needed.

RELIGION

Allison grew up in the Catholic church until her parents' divorce. At that time, her family all drifted away from the Church. As an adult, spirituality plays a much bigger role for Allison than religion does. She respects that people believe and follow different religious paths and ideas, but in her life, she feels the most connected to the overall idea of spirituality via tolerance, open-mindedness, and diversity. Allison is open to the idea of providing religious or spiritual training to her child and is a big believer in „Do unto others as you would have done unto you.“ She knows this is a common theme in many faiths. Allison would like to teach her child about all faiths so they have a fuller and more well rounded understanding of them all.

HOME

Allison's home was built in 1920 and is a one story bungalow with an unfinished basement. The home has approximately 1486 square feet of living space. There are two bedrooms and two bathrooms, a living room, office, kitchen and dining room. The master bedroom is spacious and has an attached full bathroom. Across the hall is the second bedroom, which will be their child's room. It currently has boxes in it, as Allison is still unpacking from her recent move. There is a spacious, unfenced yard in the back. The front yard does have a white picket fence surrounding it.

During the visit, the home was clean and no safety hazards were observed. There is not a swimming pool on the premise and there are no unvented fuel-fired heaters in the home. There are five smoke detectors located in each room and in the hallway in the home and a carbon monoxide detector in the living room near the hallway. There is a fire extinguisher in the kitchen underneath the sink. There are no firearms kept in the home. The city of East Point provides water and sewage as well as the disposal of trash and recycling. The home meets all the state requirements for an adoptive placement.

The couple has one pet dog, Spud, a male terrier mix who is two and a half years old. Spud is white and brown and the couple got him in December of 2019. Spud is up to date on his vaccinations (verified).

COMMUNITY

Allison Schultz lives in East Point, Georgia which is in Fulton County. Their neighborhood is called Frog Hollow and it is very diverse in age, family type, and race. According to the 2010 census, East Point is about 50 percent African American and 50 percent Caucasian. Allison has met many of her neighbors and has met older couples, families, and young couples. Everyone she has met is very friendly and welcoming. Allison and Kevin have joined the neighborhood association and have even had dinner with the mayor. They were also excited to meet another couple in the adoption process down the street. The home is zoned for Park Lane or Conley Hills Elementary, Woodland or Paul D. West Middle School, and Tri-High School. The nearest hospital is WellStar Atlanta Medical Center South, which is two miles away. The home is also located close to many places of worship including East Point Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Group Baptist Church, and Impact Church. Parks and recreation areas include Spring Street Park, Sumner Park, and Center Park. The home is located in close proximity to grocery stores and other retail shops like Target and Walmart. Downtown Atlanta is about 15 minutes away from the home. Daycare centers near the home include Childcare Network, Little Linguists International Preschool, and Dozier's Early Learning Center.

FINANCES

Allison reports that her current annual income is \$72,000. An employment verification statement was provided by Allison regarding her employer, St Kits' Tourism Bureau, where she has been employed since 2019 as a contractor.

Assets total \$255,000 and includes the market value of the home and \$15,000 in a checking account, Her liabilities include their mortgage (\$205,000) student loan debt (\$1,028), and credit cards (\$731).

A monthly budget worksheet prepared by Allison shows **\$4,713** in net monthly income. After expenses of **\$2,436**, she has approximately **\$2,277** in extra income. Her monthly expenses include auto insurance, medical insurance, student loan payments, credit card payments and other daily living expenses. Kevin Brown, her partner, pays the mortgage and they share in expenses. His annual income is \$75,000. Allison Schultz and Kevin Brown have a sufficient income to provide for the needs of one child in their home.

INSURANCE(S)

Medical insurance for the family is provided by Aetna. An adopted child can be added to the plan at the time of placement and the plan covers pre-existing conditions. Allison has a life insurance policy through The Standard of \$50,000. Automobile and Homeowners insurance are provided by State Farm.

GUARDIANSHIP PLAN

Allison Schultz does have a legal will. She has named her sister, Jennifer Moles and her husband, Andrew, the guardians of her child in the event of her death or incapacitation. The Moles reside at 4619 West Lake Road, Canandaigua, New York. Jennifer (46) is a stay at home mom; Andrew is self-employed. They have one son, Noah (**12**) and two daughters, Sydney (**10**) and Katie (**8**). Both are in good physical and emotional health.

They are financially stable with a sufficient income. Allison has discussed the guardianship plan with Jennifer and Andrew Moles and they are accepting of this responsibility. This appears to be a suitable guardianship plan.

REFERENCES

Barbara Bennett is a long-time friend of Allison for over 40 years. She states that Allison has a big heart and always puts her friends and family first. She admires Allison's knowledge of other cultures and people and her caring nature for people. Barbara's children refer to Allison as "Aunt Allison" and love to spend time with her. Allison is always engaged with her children and they notice it. Barbara knows that she has wanted to be a parent all of her life and that she has a lot of love to give any child.

Julie Bailey has been a friend and former roommate to Allison. They have known each other for 28 years and know each other really well. Julie feels that Allison is a role model when it comes to respecting an individual's differences. She bases all of her interactions on mutual respect and understanding and is good at communicating and listening to others because of her open-mindedness. Julie feels that Allison's capacity to love knows no limits and she shows a tremendous amount of compassion and understanding. Julie states that Allison is her kids' favorite adult. Allison beams when she is around them and takes great care to speak to them at each of their physical and developmental levels.

Marsha Graham has known Allison for six years. She feels that Allison embodies love in all forms. She recalls a story of Allison helping and standing by an international student from their college who was hospitalized and being a constant presence by his side and helping keep his parents informed. She feels that some of Allison's best qualities are that she is patient, yet firm, energetic, and caring. Marsha feels that Allison has a supportive, diverse network of family and friends that will help to serve as the village that raises this child.

Chevanne Delaney has been friends with Allison for six years. She states that Allison is one of the kindest and most compassionate people she knows. She states that there isn't a selfish bone in her body. She is empathetic and always professional and respectful. In dealing with others. Chevanne states that Allison is level-headed, listens well, and gives good advice. She believes Allison will raise a child with lots of love that will teach him or her right from wrong and has the values and upbringing necessary to raise a child to make good choices. She is firm but not rigid. Chevanne's teenage children love Allison and they respond very well to her.

LEGAL SITUATIONS

Allison Schultz has reviewed and considered the various legal situations. Allison will accept the following legal situations:

- Both birth parents signed surrenders.
- Birth mother surrendered; birth father's rights are terminated by a court order.

- Birth mother surrendered; birth father denied paternity.
- Birth mother surrendered; publication on named or unknown birth father.
- Birth mother surrendered and legal father's rights are in process of being terminated.

COMMUNICATION

Allison Schultz has considered the various forms of communication between the birth parents and herself. Allison will accept the following forms of communication:

- She would like a letter or picture from the birthparent(s) at the time of placement
- She would like additional letters or pictures from the birth parents/grandparents on a negotiated basis.
- She would like to use anonymous email or web-mail addresses as a way to keep in touch with birth parents.
- She will send letter(s) including a developmental update of the child to birthparent(s)/grandparent(s) on a negotiated basis.
- She will send picture(s) of the child to the birthparent(s)/grandparents(s) annually.
- She would like a meeting with the birthparent(s) before and after placement and surrender.
- She would like to exchange contact information with the birth parents (address, telephone number and email)
- She will keep the placing agency informed of her current address so that correspondence and information from the birthparent(s) may be sent.

CONDITIONS

Allison Schultz has considered the known conditions in the family's physical and/or mental health background and is not willing to accept the following: AIDS, alcoholism, Apnea/SIDS, anorexia/bulimia, blindness, cancer, Cerebral Palsy, Chron's Disease, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, drug usage during pregnancy, hard drug usage, epilepsy, hemophilia, kidney disease, leukemia, measles (during pregnancy), multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, mental retardation, sexually transmitted disease, sickle cell trait/disease, thyroid problem, ulcer, criminal background, incest, rape and mental illness. She is willing to accept the following conditions: allergies, arthritis, asthma, diabetes, soft drug usage, high blood pressure, learning disabilities, and background information unavailable.

Allison Schultz has considered the medical problems which may be present in the child. She is not willing to accept the following conditions which may be present in the child: AIDS, alcoholism, anorexia/bulimia, APGAR score below 5, apnea, non-correctable birth defect, blindness, brain damage, cancer, cerebral palsy, colostomy, congenital hip defect, cystic fibrosis, partial or total deafness, diabetes, Down syndrome, drug addiction, epilepsy, gastrostomy, major heart defect, hemophilia, hydrocephalus, hyperactivity, hypospadias, kidney disease/malfunction, learning disabilities, leukemia, mental retardation, muscular dystrophy, oxygen dependence, respiratory illness, sexually

transmitted disease, spina bifida, sickle cell trait/disease, thyroid problem, tracheostomy and partial vision defect. She is willing to discuss the following: allergies, arthritis, correctable birth defect, cleft palate, developmental delays, dietary disorder, heart murmur, hyperactivity, and premature/low birth weight.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Allison Schultz was a pleasure to work with throughout the home study process. She was thoughtful and inquisitive, asking appropriate questions. It is apparent that both Allison and Kevin have a lot of love to give each other and to a child. They both have very kind and nurturing personalities and any child would feel cared for, safe, and loved in their care. Allison has a good understanding of child development, parenting practices, and transracial adoption related issues. She is committed to providing a stable, permanent, loving home for an adopted child. Allison and Kevin are confident that they have the capacity to care for an adopted child in the same manner as a biological child. Allison is physically, emotionally, and mentally healthy, financially stable, and in a loving and committed relationship. Allison has a vast support system ranging from family to close friends that are all committed to helping Allison as she raises her child.

Therefore, it is our pleasure **to continue to recommend** and approve Allison Schultz as an adoptive parent for a child from birth to ten years of age from the United States. Allison is open to a child of either sex and any race/ethnicity, as well as twins and/or siblings.

Allison has met the requirements to adopt for the State of Georgia and Families First, Inc. She will comply with post-placement visits in accordance with the requirements of her child placing state.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Waters, LCSW
Home Study Writer

Reviewed and approved by:

Diane Hood, MS

Diane Hood, MS
International and Domestic Adoption Program Manager

8.13.2020

Date

State of Georgia
County of Clayton

Signed before me this 13th day of August, 2020, by Diane Hood of Families First, Incorporated, personally known to me.



Ruth A. Neill

Ruth A. Neill
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires: 2/22/2022