



SAMPLE PROFILE REVIEW

Part of the success of Adoption For Life consulting is the profile review and suggestions. Below is a sample of what to expect to receive when your adoption profile and Dear Birth Mother letter is reviewed by our team:

Dear Annie and Alan,

I received and reviewed your profile. Your family looks so kind and active! And your son Johnny is a sweetie! You've done a great job capturing what your lives are like. I have a few suggestions for you after my review...

- Can you add more about your community and that you live in Northern California? I know you mentioned it was a gated community but if it includes a golf course, lake, ponds, ducks, preschool, etc. it would provide more information about where you live. The photo of your home is lovely but more information here would be reassuring.
- You may also want to include that one of the benefits of Northern California is being just a couple hours from the ocean and a couple hours from the mountains or Lake Tahoe.
- On that note, you can include also if there are other children in the community/neighborhood, if you have local friends with kids that you do playgroups with, etc.
- Talk more about what you do as a family, all three of you. Maybe mention holiday traditions.
- Annie: You mention you like to hike – where to? Alone or with family or friends? You also mention you stay home now with Johnny, will that continue? What do you two do during the day?
- Alan: Do you help with Johnny? (Of course I know you do, but include that!) What do you and Johnny specifically do together? What do you look forward to teaching him when he is a little older?
- If either of you have degrees (which I know you must based on your occupations), definitely mention them.
- You haven't included anything specific about your extended family other than your parents. I would encourage you to include brief information about any siblings you have and possible cousins for your kids to grow up with.
- One thing that seems to come across, perhaps a little too well, is that you are wealthy. I would encourage you to tone that aspect down. It can be a turnoff to birth parents. Focusing on what you can offer a child in terms of love, stability, and safety is more important than showing your cars and Annie's shopping bags. Similarly you can omit the information about being recognized for the large sums of money you have donated to political causes and purchasing a home for your brother as a



wedding gift. I understand that you both are very generous, but it seems like your profile is just a little too much about money.

- Your dogs are adorable! I would suggest finding a different word than “adopted” to explain how they came into your family, or just omit that and talk about your dogs as the pets they are. It is just a little awkward to talk about your adopted pets when you are looking to adopt a child.
- I think you can warm up the overall tone of your letter if you imagine you are writing to a friend you haven’t seen for a while. Some of your sentences like “Alan is a reliable provider for our family and is my rock,” sound more like fact. Try something like “I am so lucky to have Alan as a reliable provider for our family and as my rock, someone I know is always there for me.” See, I didn’t really change the words, just warmed it up instead of stating a fact.
- A few things you can add if you want to lengthen your profile (I do think it could be a little longer – it’s only 4 pages and I think you could go to 6 or 8 to share more with a birth mother), your religious beliefs if you have them, who does the cooking, what is important to you as a couple in terms of raising a family, more about extended family as I mentioned above (even pictures of your parents would be great), and what type of contact you are open to.
- One very important thing... I know Johnny was adopted. If you are open to similar level of contact for your next child, share the contact you have with his birth mother and that you are open to sharing that.
- I see that you put your attorney’s number on the profile as a contact. That’s great! But you may want to find out if he has an answering machine for after-hours contacts. If not, you may want to get a toll free number so you don’t miss any calls!
- Your photos seem rather small. I would suggest using fewer photos (3 per page) and making them bigger. Better quality and easier to see photos are better than overloading with quantity. Also, try to increase the number of photos with both of you, and decrease Johnny’s. I know he is so cute and easy to photograph, but this needs to be more about the two of you as parents rather than Johnny as a sibling.

I hope these things help you. I know it looks like a long list but it is really just a few tweaks or additions. If you need clarification or have questions, please just let me know.

Regards,
Shelly