



**AN OPEN LETTER TO BIRTH PARENTS
FROM AN ADOPTIVE MOTHER
Please read before completing background form**

Dear Birth Parent:

Attached are some background forms which you have been asked to complete in regards to a possible adoption of your child. Before you begin, I would like to share with you my perspective as an adoptive parent of a wonderful son, whom my husband and I adopted when he was just a few days old. He is now 6.

While *not* every child who is adopted has problems, our son, from an early age exhibited some types of behavior which concerned us. According to the medical history given to us by his birth parents, there were no indications of any hereditary problems.

From an early age, I noticed developmental delays. While he has really good coordination and is extremely athletic, he was much slower developing in most other areas. He was very hyperactive and impulsive to the point that he did some very dangerous things. He knew right from wrong, but he could not think quickly enough of the consequences of his actions. He also had trouble controlling his temper and became frustrated very easily. We took him to a child psychologist who tested him in many areas of development. The diagnosis she gave us is ADHD or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder. He is doing better thanks to medication and we are continuing to educate ourselves about how we can help him achieve his full potential.

Unfortunately, because of an incomplete medical history, we are still not sure we have a correct diagnosis for our son. Had the medical history we received from his birth parents been more detailed, we could have saved our son considerable testing, stress, and frustration. Furthermore, we might have been able to provide more appropriate treatment, at an earlier age.

Please understand that we love our son and *would have adopted him in spite of what might have been disclosed in his medical histories*. As parents, it was very hard for us to see our son struggling and not be able to help him.

This brings me to my reason for writing this letter – specifically, I want to encourage birth parents to make every effort to provide detailed and accurate information. That may mean talking to relatives and asking some hard questions, but ultimately, it will be your child who benefits from the information.

Additionally, I realize that in some situations, you might not know all of your medical history before the adoption becomes final or you may discover additional medical information at a later time. In either case, I urge you to contact your attorney or the adoption agency with additional information as it becomes available. In fact, our son's birth mother recently discovered some medical conditions in her family of which she was not aware previously and contacted her attorney, who, in turn, immediately passed the information on to us. We were happy to hear from her and are thankful for this new information that should help us in our efforts to provide the best possible care for our son.

I hope that in sharing my experiences as an adoptive mother, you will not only realize what a difference it could make as your child is growing up, but also how much we, as adoptive parents, appreciate it.

On behalf of all adoptive parents, we thank you for trying to provide us with the background information that we need in order to be the best possible parents. Thank you, especially, for giving us the opportunity to realize our dream of being parents.

Sincerely,

An Adoptive Mother