

PRE-FINALIZATION ADOPTION SERVICES

Parental Considerations in Disruption

(Adapted from James, Arleta. 2009. *Brothers and Sisters in Adoption*. Perspectives Press)

When adoptive families are struggling with a decision whether to disrupt, it is a chaotic and unstable time. The following questions may assist them in determining if disruption, displacement, or dissolution is truly the right decision at this time.

- If my birth child was acting this way, would I move him or her? Why do I view the adoptee differently?
- Have we truly given this child enough time to adequately adjust and integrate into our family?
- Are we certain this isn't a temporary crisis?
- Are we moving the child because he or she isn't meeting our needs?
- Does we fully understand the child's trauma history and how it has impacted the child?
- Does we understand the meaning behind the child's behavior and how the behavior relates to the child's trauma history?
- Have we fully examined (hopefully with an objective adoption professional) our original and current expectations? Were they and are they realistic?
- Have we truly attempted to attach to this child, even if the child is rejecting?
- Have we sought every possible avenue of formal (therapeutic) and informal (peer) support?
- Have we made efforts to educate ourselves?
- Have we worked to implement a variety of parenting techniques?
- Are we blaming an agency for our troubled adoption, or are we accepting our role in our current situation?
- Have we given consideration to the aftermath—what will happen with each of us after the child leaves? How will the other children in the home be affected?