



Life Appreciation Events

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What is a Life Appreciation Event?

A life appreciation event is a guided journey of a child or children's life and their birth family. The meeting brings together those who have knowledge of the child/ren and their birth family to share this with the prospective adopters. The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Providing as much factual and anecdotal information as possible with the prospective adopters to create a holistic picture of the birth family. This will give a shared understanding and support better outcomes.
2. Collating a chronological contextualised life story of the child/ren and understanding the position of the birth family at this time
3. Develop a better understanding the child/ren's needs based upon their lived experience
4. To inform the adoption support plan
5. To ensure that the prospective adopters are as informed as possible to make the decision to progress to matching panel

Who are Life Appreciation Events for?

All children who have an identified match and are progressing towards matching panel will have a life appreciation day arranged for them. The only exception to this will be if a child/ren have lived with the prospective adopters through early permanence and it is considered all relevant

information has been shared. This decision will be made in consultation with the prospective adopters.

Who should Chair the meeting?

The meeting will ordinarily be chaired by the family finder but could also be chaired by the assessing social worker.

It is the responsibility of the chair person to ensure good preparation for the event. Their role will be to facilitate the sharing of information between attendees in a cohesive way to inform prospective adopters so they leave feeling they have comprehensive narrative of the child and their birth family.

Who should be invited?

The child/ren's social worker will provide a list of attendees to invite at the point that the decision is made to progress with a match. It is essential that this is provided straight away to give attendees as much time to arrange their attendance. The invite list should be carefully considered and will vary depending on the child/ren's specific circumstances. The following people are essential:

- Child's current social worker
- The prospective adopter/s
- Adoption Social worker
- Current foster carer and any respite carer
- Fostering social worker
- Other attendees may include:
- Previous foster carers
- Previous social workers
- Independent Reviewing Officer
- Teachers
- Nursery staff
- Health visitors
- Medical professionals
- Therapeutic workers
- Psychologist
- Family support workers

- Contact/family time workers
- CAFCASS
- Professionals involved with birth parents such as substance misuse workers with appropriate consent
- Any other significant person in the child's life

The essential attendees should remain throughout the course of the event with others joining at the appropriate point agree by the chair.

Planning the event.

The chair will:

- Send out invites as soon as the social worker provides the list of attendees including a leaflet about the purpose of life appreciation events. Where a response is not received, they should follow up within 5 working days
- They will book a suitable room and minute taker
- Prepare for the event creating a chronology to utilise on the day and any other tools they might wish to use such as a genogram or time line
- Seek photos to display on the day
- Arrange for refreshments to be made available on the day

After the event

The chair will:

- Request for people to have a photograph taken to be included in life story work
- They will ask each participant to complete the life appreciation memories form which will be included in life story work
- They will ensure that minutes are distributed to prospective adopters, the adoption social worker and saved onto ANE recording system, LCS prior to matching panel