

PRE-FINALIZATION SERVICES

Sibling Considerations

Compiled and provided by Jayne Schooler for professional use

CONCERN	Unaware	Somewhat Aware	“On It”
Child’s birth order in the family may change ex: youngest to oldest; oldest to middle child.			
Birth Children may feel cheated out of the “better life” they imagine they would have had.			
Birth children are troubled by the grief, sadness and anger they see their parents experiencing when the family struggles.			
Birth Children may be told of all the wonderful things that will occur after the adoption and may not have realistic expectations.			
Children may feel they have become invisible to their parents after the arrival of a foster or adopted child.			
The family may implement new behavior management techniques and/or the house rules or rituals may be changed.			
Birth or other permanent children may have difficulty explaining to friends and schoolmates who this new child is and warding off intrusive questions			
ADULT CHILDREN			
Lose close relationship with parents due to responsibilities with new children			
Won’t have time for bio-grandchildren			
Whose responsible if parents die			
What about the inheritance?			



My Next Steps

1. What areas of concern have I identified? On a level of 1 to 5 (five being most critical), where would I place this concern?
2. For which child or children is this particularly relevant? Have I had any conversation with this child/children regarding this concern? Did I minimize it?
3. What questions do I need to ask to initiate conversation about this concern?
4. What will be my intentional plan to monitor this concern?