

# Post-placement Interview - Carer

## SECTION A: Carer Interview Guide

### A. Introduction Narrative

*Explain the purpose of the interview in your own words. Use this as a guide:*

It has been TIMEFRAME since ORGANIZATION transitioned away from running Children's Homes and found caring families for the children who were in care.

We are interested to meet with some of the carers and children/young people and listen to what you have to say about your experience. We hope to learn some lessons that will help other families and children in the future. As we are 'staff' and not 'carers' we cannot fully understand what your journey has been like so we are grateful if you can help us.

Also everyone's story and journey is different and unique so we want to hear about your story. We value what you have done and what you can help us learn.

So, take a moment to think back to your life TIMEFRAME ago before CHILD came to live with you. Think about what motivated your desire to care for your/a relative's/an unrelated child.

As you think about your journey over that TIMEFRAME period, we would like you to reflect on the experience by answering some simple questions.

It's important that you know there are no right or wrong answers and we can only learn if you can trust us by providing honest feedback. Even if it is critical of the agency, we really want to hear and learn. Also, there is no judgement if some things have been difficult – this is life for all of us and it is natural. It is only by sharing that we can improve and help you and others. For example, if you don't tell your doctor what health problems you are having, how can she help in the right way?

Please know that what you share will remain confidential unless it involves harm of a child or intent to harm someone.

## B. Key Questions

Use engaging body language and voice. Be curious. Try to prompt, encourage and extend where appropriate for example, can you tell us more about that? If unclear, say, 'Can you repeat that?' or 'What do you mean by that?'

1. What have been the highlights for you as a carer over this TIMEFRAME period?  
*For example, what has made you feel happy about being a carer? What good things have happened during this time? What things are going well?*
2. We know some things may have been challenging, just like life for any family. What has been challenging or difficult?
3. Did the challenges change at different times? For example, right after placement or a certain amount of time after placement.
4. How has your level of stress changed? How do you manage stress?
5. How has having another child live with you impacted your family?
  - *Your spouse*
  - *Your other children*
  - *Do you all 'feel like a family'?*
  - *What have you done to build connection?*
6. Has being a carer been similar or different to what you expected? In what ways?
7. What do you think this journey has been like for \_\_\_\_\_ (the child)?
  - *What are the good things they have experienced?*
  - *Where do you see progress?*
  - *What challenges have they experienced?*
  - *Do you think the child feels a part of the family? How do you know?*
8. Are there things that ORGANIZATION could have done differently to better prepare or support you more over the TIMEFRAME?
9. What support from ORGANIZATION has been the most helpful for you and/or your family?
10. If you were going to give advice to other people who are thinking about becoming a carer for a child what would you say?
11. What advice would you give to an organization that is thinking about transitioning to a foster care or family-based care program?

## **SECTION B: Record of Interview**

Name of Carer:

Date:

Interviewers:

Note the interviewee's countenance:

*Write responses as accurately as possible; you may also record the conversation but ask permission first.*

Number responses to questions 1 – 11 but allow flexibility for open responses.  
Ensure pages are numbered and **keep originals in a confidential location.**