



### Multiple Children Risk Statement

The purpose of this statement is to document the risks explained to:

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ Family has been advised:

Initials:

\_\_\_\_\_ CHI rarely approves adoption of more than two children at one time; three children is approved only with reservation and four children is approved only with significant reservation.

\_\_\_\_\_ CHI believes clients seeking adoption have the right to make their own decisions with regard to family building, though it is CHI'S responsibility to ensure that each family is appropriately prepared and aware of adoption risks.

\_\_\_\_\_ The adoptive family has been informed of the symptoms of Reactive Attachment Disorder, and was reminded that a list of RAD symptoms can be found at the following websites:

- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/reactive-attachment-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20352939>
- <https://www.adoptivefamilies.com/adoption-process/reactive-attachment-disorder-rad/>
- <https://discoverymood.com/blog/reactive-attachment-disorder-adoption/>
- <https://consideringadoption.com/parenting-after-foster-care-adoption/rad-and-attachment/>

They are aware that RAD requires professional intervention.

Children's House International suggests all families interested in adopting multiple children read our blog post, **The Complex Journey of Adoption and Attachment Disorders:** <https://childrenshouseinternational.com/the-complex-journey-of-adoption-and-attachment-disorders/>

\_\_\_\_\_ The adoptive family has been informed that RAD is more likely in instances of older child adoption and post-institutionalized adoption.

\_\_\_\_\_ The adoptive family has been informed that every adopted child needs a significant (usually considered overwhelming and exhausting) amount of one-on-one attention from their adoptive parent to reach their potential of attachment and integration into the family. Time is a limited resource. Multiplying this by \_\_\_\_\_ is more stress than most adoptive parents are able to handle.

\_\_\_\_\_ The adoptive family has been informed that it is common for older siblings to "parent" the younger siblings; the adoptive parents will not automatically be considered "mom" and "dad".

\_\_\_\_\_ The adoptive family has been informed that adoption can give serious stress to a marriage. It is often said that a child has horns with one parent and a halo with the other. Children with attachment problems can be highly manipulative and "triangulate" the adoptive parents. **WHEN PROBLEMS ARE EXPRESSED BY ONE PARENT, THE OTHER PARENT MUST NOT MINIMIZE OR THINK THEY ARE OVERREACTING.**

\_\_\_\_\_ The adoptive family has been informed that although they cannot provide constant supervision to see there is no abuse among the children, that they must do their best to protect all the children in their home. Installing cameras in the house is a good idea, and setting an alarm at different times through the night to check on the children is wise.

\_\_\_\_\_ The adoptive family has been informed that they should speak with a few other families who have adopted large siblings groups at once, and specifically an adoptive family who has adopted children from the same country of origin.

\_\_\_\_\_ The adoptive family has been informed that the primary caregiver needs a mandatory, consistent, reliable, scheduled break from childcare responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ By choosing to proceed with a large number of children at once, you are essentially accepting an enormous amount of responsibility and work. Your marriage may not survive, your children may victimize others, they may be so afraid of peace that they create chaos in the home that you cannot tolerate, they may be aggressive and violent so as to protect their hearts from getting too close, they may be unwilling or unable to accept care, there may be sexual acting out, including an attempted seduction of the opposite (or even same) gender parents, and extended family and friends will likely have strong opinions that are not supportive of the adoptive parents. Divorce, disruption, significant financial stress from payment of therapies and out-of-home care, and sexual and physical abuse on younger children in the home (including biological siblings) is all possible.

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prospective Adoptive Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prospective Adoptive Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Full Name