



Adoption Home Study Report
February 21, 2024

This home study was conducted by Adoption Makes Family, a non-profit, Licensed Child Placement Agency in the State of Maryland. The agency's License number is DHS300000209. This license authorizes this agency to provide adoption home study, and post placement services for domestic adoptions.

Adoptive Father: Carl Julian DeLorenzo
Born: March 18, 1978
Belleville, New Jersey
Employment: Howard County Government
Public Policy Director

Adoptive Father: Christopher Edmund Corder
Born: July 30, 1971
Pulaski, Kentucky
Employment: Fortrea
Project Manager

Address: 1457 Woodall Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

Phone: 443-255-1768 (Carl Cell)
615-347-4819 (Christopher Cell)

CONTACTS:

Carl and Christopher were interviewed individually and as a couple on February 15, 2024, at the offices of Adoption Makes Family, 10635 York Road, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030.

Carl and Christopher were interviewed individually and as a couple on October 3, 2022, at the offices of Adoption Makes Family, 10635 York Road, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030.

Carl and Christopher were interviewed individually and as a couple in their home on October 9, 2022.

Christopher and Michele Gunderson, the in-person references were interviewed on October 14, 2022, at the offices of Adoption Makes Family, 10635 York Road, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030.

A Licensed Non-Profit Adoption Agency

TYPE OF CHILD DESIRED:

Carl and Christopher requested this adoption home study to facilitate their approval to become adoptive parents. Carl and Christopher wish to adopt a child from the United States. Carl and Christopher are interested in adopting a female or male child from the Caucasian or Hispanic race, a combination of the Caucasian Hispanic race, or a combination of the Caucasian African American race. They are interested in adopting as healthy a child as possible. Carl and Christopher understand that there are no guarantees regarding the health of the child, and they understand that risk.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS:

Carl DeLorenzo is a Caucasian male with brown hair and brown eyes. He is five feet eight inches tall (5'8") and weighs one hundred thirty-eight pounds (138). He describes himself as organized, focused, sociable, ambitious, self-motivated, and logical.

Christopher Corder is a Caucasian male with brown hair and blue eyes. He is five feet ten inches tall (5'10") and weighs one hundred eighty-four pounds (184). He describes himself as laid back, gentle, kind, non-reactive, easy-going, and accommodating.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ADOPTIVE FATHER:

Carl Julian DeLorenzo was born March 18, 1978, in Belleville, New Jersey. He is the oldest of two children born to Carl and Annette DeLorenzo. Carl states he had a very stable and conservative childhood. There was structure and the family did everything together. As the older brother, Carl felt the expectation to be the more responsible sibling. Carl reports the summers in his hometown during his pre-adolescent years were the most positive events in his childhood. He recalls a community where children in the neighborhood spent days and nights together. Carl states it was a simplistic, predictable, and completely enjoyable lifestyle surrounded by a tight-knit group of people. Carl describes the most negative event from his childhood as moving from his hometown during his middle school years. He felt a sense of betrayal by his parents for not considering what was in his best interest. Looking back, Carl knows his parents made the right decision because of the positive outcomes that resulted from the move.

Carl's mother, Annette DeLorenzo, was born May 3, 1949, in Jersey City, New Jersey. She is a retired school nurse and resides in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. She is reported to be healthy. Carl reports that his mother epitomized the caretaker role. She was always the person he went to for comfort or to be consoled. Carl shares that his most meaningful memory from his childhood was the trip to Disneyworld with his mother, grandmother, and brother. They took a train from New Jersey to Orlando, and he remembers loving every minute of that trip. Carl also describes his maternal grandmother as a second mother. He states that both his parents worked full-time and she cared for him on a daily basis. Carl shares that she was the most comfortable and treasured person in his life until her passing when he was a young adult. Carl reports that he will absolutely model his parenting style after his mother. Mrs. DeLorenzo was reliable and dependent. She never let him miss a school or social event regardless of the demands on her schedule.

Carl's father, Carl DeLorenzo, was born September 9, 1949, in Jersey City, New Jersey. He is a retired history teacher and resides in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. He is currently in good health. Carl describes his father as being an extremely intelligent man, incredibly sociable, and a passionate educator. Carl remembers as a child his father was attentive to his needs and was protective of the family. He recalls the family doing everything together because his father always liked to have them in his sight. Carl shares that it was extremely difficult for his father to send him off to college in another state for these reasons, however he knew the tremendous opportunity Carl had to attend Johns Hopkins University. His most meaningful memories of his father were of him driving to Baltimore from New Jersey during Carl's college years. Carl remembers the surprise visits and going out to eat. Mr. DeLorenzo would include Carl's friends, which made the experience more enjoyable for Carl. Carl reports that even though his parents were teachers on a limited income, his father never let costs get in the way of providing for him and his brother, especially when it came to education.

Carl has one younger brother. Gerard DeLorenzo was born June 2, 1982, in Belleville, New Jersey. He currently lives in Durham, North Carolina and is married to Laura DeLorenzo. Gerard is a history teacher and Laura works as a Development Director at Duke University. Gerard and Laura have one child, Olenna, aged three years old. Carl reports that he is incredibly close with his brother and he is Olenna's godfather. Gerard and Laura are reported to be supportive of the adoption plan.

Carl DeLorenzo attended Roosevelt Elementary School in Kearny, New Jersey from 1983-1990. He went to Lincoln Middle School in Kearny, New Jersey from 1990-1991 and attended Millstone Middle School in Millstone, New Jersey from 1991-1992. Carl attended Allentown High School from 1992-1996 and graduated with a high school diploma. In 1996 Carl attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland where he graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. From 2009-2013 Carl attended University of Maryland, College Park and received a Master of Public Policy Degree.

In 2000, Carl began his employment, working as an Account Executive at Barnes & Noble. In 2001 he was offered a new opportunity as an Advance Representative for the New Jersey Governor's Office. In 2002, Carl was offered another new opportunity with the State of Maryland, Department of Budget and Management as a Budget Analyst. In 2007 he took a position with Sage Policy Group as a Chief Operating Officer. Carl was given a new opportunity in 2014 with the Howard County Government where he is presently employed as a Public Policy Director.

Carl DeLorenzo has been informed and understands that under penalty of perjury it is his duty to disclose all information under 8 DFT 204.311(d). The prospective adoptive parent is aware of his duty of candor and must provide true and complete information to the home study preparer. That he will disclose any arrest, conviction, or other adverse criminal history in the United States or abroad, even if the record has been expunged, sealed, pardoned, or the subject of any amelioration. This duty of candor is an ongoing duty and Carl DeLorenzo must notify the home study preparer of any new event or information that might warrant submission of an amended or updated home study and the duty to disclose is ongoing until a child is placed in the adoptive home. The home study preparer must be notified by the applicant of any new event or information that might warrant submission of an amended or updated home study.

In response to a direct question from this worker, Carl DeLorenzo states he has disclosed all physical, mental or emotional health problems to the home study preparer. In response to direct questioning, Carl DeLorenzo stated that he has never been the subject of an unfavorable adoption home study, nor has he ever been rejected as a prospective adoptive parent.

The home study preparer also advised Carl DeLorenzo, and he expressed his understanding of 8 CFR 204.311© (13) and (14) and

204.311(j) concerning history of substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence. In particular, Carl understands that a single incident of sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence is sufficient to constitute a "history."

Carl is emotionally stable, physically healthy and psychologically healthy. He will be an excellent adoptive father.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ADOPTIVE FATHER #2:

Christopher Edmund Corder was born July 30, 1971, in Pulaski, Kentucky. He is the oldest of three children born to Ella and Kenneth Corder. Christopher reports that his parents were always there for him and made sure he had a childhood filled with abundant experiences. They emphasized that he is a solid person by developing his ethical standards and sense of self. Christopher states that his parents reinforced a love of family, community and country. They focused on making their children self-sufficient and level-headed as they grew into adults. Christopher shares many positive events from his childhood. Growing up in a nice neighborhood and interacting with his childhood friends were always special times to him. He also recalls family road trips and summers visiting relatives throughout the country, and wonderful church events and functions. The most negative event occurred when Christopher was a teenager. He reports that his mother was involved in a serious car accident and was hospitalized for some time. She endured surgery with a long recovery. Christopher remembers it being hard on the family as they had to get through events and adjust to the interruptions in their life.

Christopher's mother, Ella Corder, was born November 27, 1955, in Somerset, Kentucky. She is currently living in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. Mrs. Corder is a retired salesperson and is reported to be in good health. Christopher describes his mother as being loving and kind. She is always attentive to the concerns of the immediate and extended families. Mrs. Corder is reported to have a sense of humor and makes everyone laugh in difficult situations. Christopher has fond memories of his mother during family trips and vacations. He cherishes how well his mother took care of his grandmother during her convalescent years. Christopher believes his mother has always tried to maintain a sense of family and is present in body and mind when she is needed the most. He reports that his mother always tried to create a loving home from which he could find his base and strength. Christopher states that his mother always emphasized

chasing dreams and making him realize, while there are challenges in life, anything is possible.

Christopher's father, Kenneth Corder, was born February 13, 1953, in Somerset, Kentucky. He currently resides in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. Mr. Corder is a retired civil engineer and is in good health. Christopher describes his father as being a pillar of stability and patience. Mr. Corder was always there to lend a helping hand when Christopher needed it. His fondest memories were the summers he worked with his father. He learned a great deal that involved intense work, but at the same time it was a very enjoyable time that made him feel like a capable person. Christopher states that his father's sense of purpose and responsibility created a compass that he plans to use to guide his own parenting. Mr. Corder is reported to have always presented his best so that Christopher would have something to strive towards. Christopher reports that his father wanted him to enjoy life and have a sense of every moment however it was possible to attain it. He believes he will inspire those things in his child as well.

Christopher's sister, Carmen Corder was born on February 22, 1974, in Somerset, Kentucky. She currently resides in Oakridge, Tennessee and works as a Dental Assistant. Christopher's brother, Zach Corder was born July 14, 1987, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Zach is married to Julia Corder and they reside in Oakridge, Tennessee. Zach works in Information Technology and he and Julia have two children, Will, age three and Calvin, age one month. Carmen and Zach are reported to be supportive of their brother's adoption plan.

Christopher attended TNT Elementary School in Tazwell, Tennessee from 1976-1980 and Ellen Meyers Elementary School in Harrogate, Tennessee from 1980-1983. He then attended Livesay Middle School in Harrogate, Tennessee from 1983-1985. Christopher attended High Valley High School in Speedwell, Tennessee from 1985-1989, where he graduated with a high school diploma. From 1989-1994 Christopher attended college at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

In 1986, Christopher started employment at Battles Food Center where he worked as a Grocery Clerk until 1989. From 1990-1994 he worked as a Phlebotomist at Pineville Hospital. In the years 1994-2003, Christopher worked as a Medical Technologist at Morristown Hospital, Baptist Hospital, Adventist Bio-Services and Esoteric Oncology. Then in 2003, Christopher began a

position at Covance as a Project Manager where he is presently employed.

Christopher Corder has been informed and understands that under penalty of perjury it is his duty to disclose all information under 8 DFT 204.311(d). The prospective adoptive parent is aware of his duty of candor and must provide true and complete information to the home study preparer. That he will disclose any arrest, conviction, or other adverse criminal history in the United States or abroad, even if the record has been expunged, sealed, pardoned, or the subject of any amelioration. This duty of candor is an ongoing duty and Christopher Corder must notify the home study preparer of any new event or information that might warrant submission of an amended or updated home study and the duty to disclose is ongoing until a child is placed in the adoptive home. The home study preparer must be notified by the applicant of any new event or information that might warrant submission of an amended or updated home study.

In response to a direct question from this worker, Christopher Corder states he has disclosed all physical, mental, or emotional health problems to the home study preparer. In response to direct questioning, Christopher Corder stated that he has never been the subject of an unfavorable adoption home study, nor has he ever been rejected as a prospective adoptive parent.

The home study preparer also advised Christopher Corder, and he expressed his understanding of 8 CFR 204.311© (13) and (14) and 204.311(j) concerning history of substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence. Christopher Corder understands that a single incident of sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence is sufficient to constitute a "history."

Christopher is emotionally stable, physically healthy, and psychologically healthy. He will be an excellent adoptive mother.

ATTITUDE TOWARD ADOPTION AND PARENTING:

Biological conception is not an option for Carl and Christopher. They believe that as long as they work together to nurture and build trust, they will be shaping the biology of the child.

Carl and Christopher believe in the open adoption philosophy. They would like to work proactively with the birth mother to develop a communication plan that works with their family. Carl

and Christopher would like their child to be informed about aspects of their birth parents and adoption at appropriate times throughout their development. If there were to be a desire to meet the birthmother/parents they would make that happen in an appropriate setting. The couple reports there will be no stigma or shame associated with their journey towards arriving with them.

Carl and Christopher expect to provide constant and uninterrupted nurturing immediately at birth. They plan to focus on giving their time and energy to meeting the baby's needs. They will make sure that their child feels their trust, is always safe, and well cared for. Carl and Christopher want to create a stable home environment and plan to value education, healthy attachment to friends, family, and themselves.

Carl and Christopher plan to make their child the center of their universe but not create a mentality where the child is the center of everyone else's universe. They do not plan to spoil their child but want to provide the child with every opportunity to set them up for success and happiness. They want to give their child ultimate security so that the child will feel like they can trust them with any fear, issue, or question. The couple also wants their family and friends to be present in the child's life so that the child will have a large safety net of support and observe as many different ways of life as possible.

Carl and Christopher expect their marriage to change in the sense that they will no longer be able to focus primarily on each other. They also believe it will reveal additional ways that they are different from what they had not realized before.

Carl and Christopher report that their motivation for adoption is because they have so much love to give. Their families have filled them with happy memories and experiences. The couple believes they are at a place in their life where they no longer want to only treat themselves well but where they want to give forward all that they have received from their families. They are looking forward to fulfilling the next chapter of their lives, nurturing and raising someone who might otherwise not have had the most ideal upbringing.

Carl and Christopher are excited to create new experiences and adventures with their child. Family vacations, weekend trips, schooling activities and various youth-related milestones are just some things they are looking forward to. They want to be fully involved in all aspects of their child's activities and

will invest their time, energy, and resources in as many of their child's passions and interests as possible.

Preparation with Carl and Christopher during the home study process included discussion of the costs, processing difficulties, delays, and impediments to finalization associated with domestic adoption. Carl and Christopher have been counseled on the domestic adoption process, the general characteristics and needs of children awaiting adoption, and the conditions that affect children. Carl and Christopher understand that the child might develop an undiagnosed health problem, and should they adopt an older child, the child might experience attachment or emotional problems because of separation from familiar surroundings, institutionalization, or trauma. They assume the risks of domestic adoption and the full responsibility for medical, financial, and emotional needs of the child after placement.

The couple has successfully completed adoption education courses, totaling 10 hours of training.

Carl and Christopher express their willingness and intended cooperation with any program involving sending letters and pictures to their adopted child's biological parents.

CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY:

Carl and Christopher do not have biological or adopted children.

PARENTING ABILITIES:

Carl reports having one niece and Christopher has two nephews. They share that approximately eighty percent of their friends have children ranging from age newborns to young adults. Carl and Christopher state that they have participated in many of their upbringings as family friends. The couple has played various roles such as "fun uncles," mentors, support systems for their parents and childcare whenever needed. Carl and Christopher maintain that they embrace these roles.

COMPATIBILITY AND MARRIAGE SATISFACTION:

Carl and Christopher met online in 2018. The couple were in a relationship for three and one-half years before marrying. Carl and Christopher were married July 17, 2021 (verified) in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Carl states that when he first met Christopher, he immediately felt his kindness and was at ease in his company. He reports that he does not like conflict, pretention, or overly involved personalities. Carl believes there is a simplicity to Christopher's life that is reassuring and peaceful. Today, Carl reports that Christopher provides him with a sense of security and support in a way that makes him feel complete trust and comfort. He knows that Christopher will always be by his side no matter what situation comes their way.

Christopher reports that when he first met Carl, he felt comfortable with him because of his sweet demeanor. He believes himself to be a gentle person and Carl made him feel completely comfortable as they were exploring a relationship together. Carl's openness to learning about Christopher and focusing on the things they enjoyed made it incredibly easy for him to be in Carl's company and open up without worry of being criticized or looked down upon. Today, Christopher is attracted to Carl's sense of optimism and curiosity about their future. He states that Carl gives him the confidence to believe that as long as they make decisions together, they will have a great likelihood of bringing them fulfillment and satisfaction.

They like being together is enjoying each other's company. They do not have to partake in grand experiences to have fun together. Carl and Christopher report spending time at home cooking, relaxing, watching movies, and talking. They believe their relationship is built around being together as much as possible and sharing their time with each other, family, and friends. Their favorite thing they have done together is raise their dog. It has created a shared sense of bonding and responsibility that they believe has brought them closer.

Carl reports that the relationship has made him more patient, and less driven by what he should or need to accomplish. He states that he is more content with what he has. He is realizing that he does not need as much out of life as he thought he did. Christopher believes the relationship has made him feel that it is okay to want more out of life and achieve it. He feels he is less timid about new experiences and more willing to embrace uncertainty in the face of possibility.

If there were to be a disagreement, Carl, and Christopher share that they talk through the issue immediately. They report that they do not argue. They persist through the discussion until they arrive at a place where both feel heard, supported, and have reached an agreeable resolution.

HEALTH:

Carl DeLorenzo was examined on May 30, 2023, by Gary Kazlow, MD. Dr. Kazlow is located at 8176 Lark Brown Road, Suite 102, Elkridge, Maryland 21075. His phone number is 443-661-4163. Carl was found to be in good health, with no disabling conditions or communicable diseases. He is expected to live out normal life expectancies.

Christopher Corder was examined on July 31, 2023, by Lindsey MacNeil, CRNP. Ms. MacNeil is located at 1420 Key Highway, Baltimore, Maryland 21230. Her phone number is 410-230-7800. Christopher was found to be in good health, with no disabling conditions or communicable diseases. He is expected to live out normal life expectancies.

The DeLorenzo Corder family is covered by health insurance through their jobs, which will cover their adoptive child.

MULTICULTURAL UNDERSTANDING:

Carl and Christopher are open to adopting a child from any of the following races: Caucasian; Hispanic; combination of Caucasian Hispanic; or combination of Caucasian African American. Both are Caucasian and Carl is of the Mediterranean-Italian descent that can also be traced to South America. Carl and Christopher plan to ensure that their child is fully immersed in the experiences that trace to their nationality and culture. The couple also believes it is important to be exposed to other cultures, races, and nationalities that are different from theirs. They report that this is reflected through their diverse set of friendships.

RELIGION:

Carl explained that he was raised Roman Catholic. He reports that he made all of his sacraments through confirmation. Carl's religious upbringing was treated similarly to attending school. Today, religion plays an important role in his family at-large. He reports that he still attends church somewhat regularly.

Christopher reports he was raised in the Baptist faith. Religion played a significant role for his family and himself. They attended church regularly and their teachings formed the basis of their value system. Christopher reports that his religious upbringing continues to shape his values and goals. He attends

church semi-regularly and continues to have a strong interest in biblical teachings and exploring how his beliefs shape his life circumstances.

Christopher and Carl expect they will make it a priority for their child to have some formalized involvement in religion until they are old enough to make their own decisions about the role religion will play in their life.

DISCIPLINE:

Carl and Christopher do not believe in being overly strict but do anticipate that they will be very protective and cautious in the interest of the child's safety and wellbeing. They plan to establish clear rules and expectations and will use reformative measures to indicate dissatisfaction and instill change. They have signed an agreement which states they will not use corporal punishment.

CHILD CARE PLANS:

Carl and Christopher are planning to either have one parent serve as a stay-at-home parent or use a private childcare provider, either home-based or a center.

FINANCES:

Carl and Christopher report a combined annual income of approximately \$324,000. Their total monthly expenses is \$8,000 a month and their total monthly income is \$14,000. Their home located at 1457 Woodall Street is valued at \$330,000 with a \$120,000 outstanding mortgage. They own another property located in Nashville, Tennessee which is valued at \$375,000 with an outstanding mortgage of \$80,000. Carl and Christopher have checking and savings accounts totaling approximately \$240,000. Carl has a life insurance policy in the amount of \$350,000 naming his brother as the beneficiary. Christopher also has a life insurance policy in the amount of \$290,000 naming his brother and sister as the beneficiaries. The family has Aetna and Cigna medical insurance which will cover their adoptive child.

Christopher and Carl state that they have never experienced a conflict around money. They both live below their means and share similar philosophies about not carrying credit and spending at agreeable levels for both household and quality of life expenses. They also prioritize building up savings and

investment income. Carl and Christopher have never declared bankruptcy in the past. The couple is very financially stable.

Carl and Christopher understand that their adopted child is entitled to all the rights of inheritance that a biological child would be afforded.

INTERESTS, HOBBIES AND DAILY ROUTINES:

In his spare time, Carl enjoys tennis, movies, reading, theater, museums, and spending time with family and friends.

Christopher enjoys exercising, board games, traveling, attending church, working on cars, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.

Carl and Christopher's daily schedule includes working Monday-Friday 9-5. Carl has a hybrid work schedule and Christopher works entirely remotely. Both report that their employers offer approximately six months of paternity leave. There is a possibility that one may become a stay-at-home parent once paternity leave ends, though that has not been finalized yet.

GUARDIANSHIP PLAN:

In the event of their untimely death, Carl and Christopher have designated Carl's brother and sister-in-law, Gerard and Laura DeLorenzo as their child's legal guardians. Gerard and Laura have agreed to be named as legal guardians. Gerard is a high school history teacher and Laura works as a Development Director for Duke University. Gerard and Laura have one child, Olenna, aged three years old. Gerard and Laura both are in excellent health and are financially stable.

Gerard and Laura DeLorenzo
4 Drucilla Court
Durham, North Carolina 27705
973-303-6203

HOME AND COMMUNITY:

Carl and Christopher live in a two-story brick rowhome located in Baltimore, Maryland. Their home has two bedrooms and two and one-half baths. Carl and Christopher own one dog, a Chihuahua named Paco. They have provided the necessary paperwork displaying license and proof of vaccinations. The home is near schools, grocery stores, hospitals and medical facilities. The

home has been inspected by DeLorenzo-Corder Home Inspections, a Maryland State licensed home inspector and the Maryland State Fire Marshal. All chemicals are out of reach of young children.

The DeLorenzo family does not own any firearms.

The home is well suited to welcome an adopted child.

DOCUMENTS:

The following supporting documentation has been obtained by this agency to supplement this home study update report and is currently on file with Adoption Makes Family, Inc.:

- 1) State of Maryland Child Abuse Registry Clearances for both Christopher and Carl and Tennessee Child Abuse Clearance for Christopher.
- 2) Physicians' reports for Carl and Christopher
- 3) Federal Income Tax Return for 2021 and 2022
- 4) Employment verifications for Carl and Christopher
- 5) Child Support Verification
- 6) FBI and Maryland State Criminal background check for Carl DeLorenzo (received May 10, 2022; reference number 235515007346), and Christopher Corder (received May 10, 2023; reference number 235522023962).
- 7) Subsidy Agreement
- 8) Marriage License
- 9) Birth Certificates for Carl and Christopher
- 10) Maryland State Fire Inspection
- 11) Licensed Home Inspection

Verifications:

Recent police clearances from the FBI and the State of Maryland Police Department were received for Carl DeLorenzo on May 10, 2023, reference number 235515007346 and indicate that Carl is not the subject of any criminal charges (verified).

Recent police clearances from the FBI and the State of Maryland Police Department were received for Christopher Corder on May 10, 2023, reference number 235522023962 and indicate that Christopher is not the subject of any criminal charges (verified).

Baltimore City Department of Social Services shows no child abuse or neglect cases involving Carl or Christopher.

Carl states he has never been rejected as a prospective adoptive parent, nor has he been the subject of an unfavorable home study. Upon direct questioning, Carl denied any history of substance abuse, alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, criminal activity, or domestic violence.

Carl states he had ever been the respondent in a domestic violence proceeding concerning a minor who was allegedly abused, dependent, neglected, abandoned, or delinquent. He answered "no." He states he had never been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation. He answered "no."

Christopher states he has never been rejected as a prospective adoptive parent, nor has he been the subject of an unfavorable home study. Upon direct questioning, Christopher denied any history of substance abuse, alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, criminal activity, or domestic violence.

Christopher says he had never been the respondent in a domestic violence proceeding concerning a minor who was allegedly abused, dependent, neglected, abandoned, or delinquent. He answered "no." He says he had never been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation. He answered "no."

REFERENCES:

Carl and Christopher have submitted three letters of reference in support of their adoption plan.

Melissa A. Cullen
1550 Oakshire Lane
Manasquan, New Jersey 08736
732-742-1588

Melissa Cullen has reconfirmed her previous recommendation. She shares that she has known Carl for thirty years. They are childhood friends who remained friends throughout high school, participating in various clubs and activities together. She states that their families know each other well and have attended weddings, sacraments and other special events together over the last three decades. Ms. Cullen reports that she had the pleasure of meeting Christopher three years ago. She instantly saw why Carl was so drawn to him. Christopher's infectious personality and warm, caring spirit were evident in their first meeting. Carl and Christopher are reported to be well-known to Ms. Cullen's three children. They interact with the children, always asking them about school and their activities. She

describes the couple as easy-going, family-oriented, and extremely educated. They make a solid effort to stay connected to family and friends despite their successful careers and busy lives. Ms. Cullen knows that both have a deep sense of spirituality and both possess solid morals. She looks forward to seeing Carl and Christopher's family grow and highly encourages any birth family to consider them.

Christopher and Michele Gunderson
2212 Monkton Road
Monkton, Maryland 21111
443-564-9503 (Christopher)
443-824-0199 (Michele)

Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson have reconfirmed their previous recommendation. They report that Carl has been a close friend for almost thirty years and they have enjoyed getting to know Christopher over the past few years. They report that from the first time they saw Carl and Christopher together, it was obvious how well matched they were for each other. The Gunderson's report that Carl and Christopher make each other laugh, are empathetic to each other's aspirations and are good communicators. Ever since the Gunderson's became parents eighteen years ago, Carl has taken great interest in each of their child's lives. He is the godfather to their second daughter. The Gunderson's believe Carl and Christopher will provide a loving, supportive home for a child. As they started talking more about becoming a family and adopting a child, the Gunderson's could feel their excitement. They believe that Carl and Christopher are successful in their careers, have great love for each other, are surrounded by supportive friends and family, and are eager to devote themselves to raising their child in a loving and safe home.

John Tidwell
7441 Highway 70 S
Nashville, Tennessee 37221
615-943-2040

John Tidwell has reconfirmed his previous recommendation. He reports that he has known Carl and Christopher for over five years. They attend church together and have developed a close friendship. He shares that they have dinner together on a regular basis. Mr. Tidwell describes the couple as being outstanding young men. He states that Carl and Christopher are levelheaded, responsible, good communicators, well-mannered and patient. Mr. Tidwell reports that there have been conversations

regarding adoption and the couple is excited to do so. He has observed them around his own children and grandchildren. Mr. Tidwell states that any child would be blessed to have such a loving couple to provide them with guidance and a very stable and loving home.

POST PLACEMENT SERVICES:

Carl and Christopher understand that under Maryland law three post placement visits are required and must be completed by Adoption Makes Family. Adoption Makes Family, Inc. agrees to provide ongoing support and referrals to Carl and Christopher should they require it. Adoption Makes Family, Inc. agrees to provide post placement supervision including visits with a licensed social worker, referrals to appropriate resources, and any written reports that may be required. Post placement services are at an additional fee.

Carl and Christopher understand and agree to participate in any program involving sending letters and pictures to birth parents as agreed upon in their adoption plan.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Carl and Christopher are a loving, stable and financially secure couple that is well prepared for the addition of a child into their home. Their decision to adopt has been well thought out and is supported by their vast network of family and friends. On behalf of Adoption Makes Family, Inc., I believe that any child they adopt will be provided with a lifetime of unconditional love and support. Carl and Christopher are approved to adopt one child of either gender, up to twelve months of age who is Caucasian or Hispanic or a combination of the two races or a combination of Caucasian African American.


Carl and Christopher understand that a home study is valid for one year from the date indicated herein (February 21, 2024). Some documents referred to herein may have an expiration date prior to the expiration of this home study and may be required to be updated prior to the renewal of this home study. It is the responsibility of the prospective adoptive parents to maintain an active, current home study and if the home study is likely to expire prior to the adoption of a child, the parents must act to update their home study.

I, Dean R. Kirschner, PhD, LCSW-C, declare that I am the author of this report and that all information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, under penalty of

perjury. I, personally, with the professional diligence reasonably necessary to protect the best interests of any child whom the applicants might adopt, conducted the home study, including personal interviews, home visits, and all other aspects of the investigation needed to prepare the home study. The factual statements in the home study are true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. The applicants have been advised of the duty of candor concerning the disclosure of new events or information, which may require submission of an update or amended home study. This home study is for the sole purpose of a single domestic adoption.

The home study preparer, Dean R. Kirschner, is a licensed social worker under the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, holding the licensure of Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical, license number 07844. The Home study preparer is licensed and authorized to conduct home studies by the State of Maryland. According to the Maryland Department of Human Resources Regulation, Title .07, Subtitle .05, Section .01.14(C) (4): "A child placement worker shall: a) have a master's degree from an accredited school of social work, and be State licensed as a graduate social worker, or b) be state licensed as a social work associate and supervised by a State licensed graduate or certified social worker. "The home study preparer is a contractor for Adoption Makes Family, a child-placing agency licensed by the State of Maryland (Department of Human Resources License DHS300000209, valid through November 1, 2025). Statutory authority: Sections 5-507, 5-508, 5-509, and 5-526 of the Family Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. This home study was performed in accordance with 8 CFR 204.311 and is a true and accurate copy of the home study provided to the Prospective Adoptive Parents.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dean R. Kirschner", enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Dean R. Kirschner, Ph.D., LCSW-C