



## **Family Services Survey F.A.Q.**

### **1. When will families be able to view photolisting profiles for children who are not yet legally free?**

Our website is in the process of being updated, and we hope to have it up and running later this year. The new site will make it possible for home studied families to view the profiles of all children who are registered with MARE. Additionally, families will be able to search children's profiles by age, sex, race, and other characteristics.

With this new system, families can also contact social workers directly to inquire about children they're interested in learning more about and have their home study sent for consideration.

### **2. Why aren't children's profiles more personal and detailed? Why do they contain negative information?**

MARE strives to recruit families for waiting children while also respecting and protecting the confidentiality of the children's personal details. Based on the information we are provided by a child's social worker, we try to provide a glimpse into his/her personality, interests, and criteria for a family that would make a good match.

Most waiting children have experienced trauma, abuse, and/or neglect. Due to their histories, they exhibit behaviors and delays that we often choose to include in their profiles. Our goal in doing so is to give an honest account of how a child is doing at this point in time and to help families self-select the level of need they can successfully handle.

### **3. Why are adoption parties scheduled for Sundays?**

We recognize that this presents a conflict for families who attend religious services. As a non-profit organization we rely on donated space and/or time from many of the venues and have to be flexible about when and where we can hold events.

That said, we will aim to offer more Saturday events in the future when possible.

**4. What is the difference between DCF and MARE?**

DCF (and its contracted agencies) handle applications, hold MAPP classes, home study and license families and make the decision about a child's placement in a family's home.

MARE is the bridge between the state's Department of Children & Families, private adoption agencies, and adults interested in adoption. We recruit, educate, support and advocate for families throughout the adoption process while targeting recruitment efforts to attract potential parents for specific waiting children. We are also the Commonwealth's central clearinghouse for adoption information and referral, and work to identify potential matches between children and families.

**5. Who can be a mentor or mentee in the Friend of the Family program?**

Thanks to renewed funding, this program was reactivated in July of 2014. If you are a former mentor family who has not been called in a while, please feel free to email [dianet@mareinc.org](mailto:dianet@mareinc.org) to let us know you are still interested and available.

If you are a prospective parent(s), you are considered a mentee. You can be at the very start of considering adoption and we will be glad to connect you with someone who can share their experience and answer your questions. The amount of contact you want or need from a mentor is completely up to you.

**It is not too late to share your thoughts and feedback with us:**

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eaipwuzui5sgdug9/a01ezi7mageif/greeting>