

The Family Matching Process: Creating a Legacy of Love

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Family Questionnaire for Matching Complications

As a community, we would like to support the matching and Blessing of all Blessed Children, including our own. Every family faces its own unique challenges, and some candidates have particular situations that make the matching process more complicated. This simple questionnaire is designed to assist families with these concerns. This information can be given to your Matching Advisor, so they can help find the families that are interested in and open to a variety of possible matches... and the family and candidate that is best for yours. All responses will be kept absolutely confidential; advisors will present these situations anonymously in their search for potential candidates.

You can also use this form in developing your family matching plan, or as a tool between families to make it easier to present challenging or sensitive situations. The Blessed Family Ministry is developing several special ministries to bring families with particular complicated situations together. Feel free to contact your BFM representative.

Please fill out Section A, checking all those that apply to your candidate, and Section B, checking all those regarding candidates you would consider.

A. OUR CANDIDATE

- 1) Our candidate was Blessed Previously
- 2) Our candidate began conjugal life in a previous Blessing
- 3) Our candidate has had a relationship outside of the Blessing, and has completed the conditions to receive True Parents' Special Grace
- 4) Our candidate has had a relationship outside of the Blessing, but has not completed the conditions to receive True Parents' Special Grace
- 5) Our candidate has a physical health complication [diabetes, epilepsy, medication, etc.]
- 6) Our candidate has a psychological health complication [depression, bi-polar, ADHD, etc.]
- 7) Our candidate has a more serious special need [down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, etc.]
- 8) Our candidate may be unable to have children
- 9) Our candidate has a child / children
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- 10) Our child is extremely shy or socially awkward
- 11) Our child is seriously overweight
- 12) Other: _____

B. CANDIDATES WE WILL CONSIDER

- 1) We will consider a candidate who was Blessed Previously
- 2) We will consider a candidate who began conjugal life in a previous Blessing
- 3) We will consider a candidate who had a relationship outside of the Blessing, and has completed the conditions to receive True Parents' Special Grace
- 4) We will consider a candidate who was had a relationship outside of the Blessing, but has not completed the conditions to receive True Parents' Special Grace

- 5) ____ We will consider a candidate with a physical health complication [diabetes, epilepsy, medication, etc.]
- 6) ____ We will consider a candidate with a psychological health complication [depression, bi-polar, ADHD, etc.]
- 7) ____ We will consider a candidate with a more serious special need [down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, etc.]
- 8) ____ We will consider a candidate who may be unable to have children
- 9) ____ We will consider a candidate who has a child / children
- 10) ____ We will consider a candidate who is extremely shy or socially awkward
- 11) ____ We will consider a candidate who is overweight
- 12) ____ Other: _____

Parents' Name _____

Candidate's Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Candidate Gender: M / F Age: _____

Comment: _____

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Family Matching Plan Worksheet

It is suggested that the parents and the **applicant/candidate** each fill out this worksheet separately and then work together to create a single, unified plan. (An applicant for the matching becomes a candidate when they have finished their application and interview.) This whole process relies on the honesty and openness of each person.

1. Who will be a part of your matching team? What role will they each play? When and how will they be involved? (Below is a list of possible team members you may want to consider. Each person you choose to help in your process should be personally invited to help and given the parameters of their responsibility)
 - Candidate:
 - Parents:
 - Family:
 - Support committee:
 - Matching Advisor(s):
 - Advocates:
 - BFM Representative:
 - Local church leaders:
 - District Pastor and/or their interview representative:

2. What process will you use when you enter the matching discussions with another family? It is important that your family is in agreement how they want to proceed, and that both families also agree on the process to avoid miscommunication and misunderstanding.
 - Family Matching Handbook

- Some other plan you agree upon

We suggest both the parents and the applicant/candidate each fill out the Family Questionnaire for Matching Complications before completing 3-6.

3. What qualities are most important in the other person?
 - Character
 - Faith, values [committed Unificationist; not too “churchy;” etc.]
 - Future plans- personal and family
 - Life goals
4. What are the qualities you have that will help you be a good spouse? What do you need to work on to improve and prepare yourself?
5. What are your “deal breakers”? (Things you are not willing to accept or compromise on.)
6. What are some important questions that would be helpful for you to know about the other person in the beginning? (Parents and the candidate can each make a list, compare and agree on them- You can refer to Appendices 1 & 2 in the FMH for ideas.)
7. How will we find potential candidates?
 - Suggestions from the candidate
 - Suggestions from the parents
 - Parents Matching Convocation
 - Matchbook
 - International Website for BC Matching
 - Suggestions from family and friends
 - Suggestions from Matching Advisors, advocates and others
 - Blessing workshops, DP workshops, LLM, Sports Festival, galas, service projects, other church activities
8. Once there is a suggested candidate, what do we do?
 - Who does a suggestion go to first?
 - What do we do to investigate or screen a suggested candidate?
 - Parent and/or matching committee check, using their contacts and resources
 - Check with their local church leaders, advocates and Matching Advisors
 - Consult your list of important questions and deal breakers
 - What do you want to ask your parents or others **NOT** to do? [“Don’t hand me a bunch of pictures and ask my opinion;” “don’t make decisions about pursuing candidates without talking to me first;” etc.]
9. When and how does the candidate become involved?
 - ⇒ We suggest the candidate be consulted at any point with anonymous questions for clarification.
 - ⇒ We suggest timing be carefully considered. (Never introduce a suggestion during finals!) Waiting a little longer for the right time is always better.
 - ⇒ We suggest focusing on the internal first; give profile information first, then family information and pictures very last.
 - Does the candidate want to wait until the parents consider and can fully recommend a candidate to them before they become directly involved?
 - Does the candidate want to be consulted after initial screening but before extended talks between the parents? Before contacting parents?
 - Does the candidate want to actively look at a number of profiles and put them in order of preference?
 - Or some other agreed upon plan?

- 10.** When does a suggested candidate become a recommendation? When and how do the two candidates begin communicating with each other?
- ⇒ We suggest both are qualified candidates before communication begins. (They have completed the application process and completed their interviews.)
 - ⇒ We suggest the parents have completed the “Suggested Questions for Learning About a Matching Candidate” found in Appendix 1 of the Family Matching Handbook before they can recommend a candidate to their adult child.
 - ⇒ We suggest the parents continue to communicate with each other throughout the candidate communication phase.
- 11.** Meeting in person: In the planning stage it is likely you do not have an idea of who the other is or where they may live. It is good to have a general idea of how early in your communication time you want to meet in person. We recommend the first meeting be well-planned, and not too long or intense: perhaps for 2-3 days; perhaps with support.
- 12.** Communication and reporting: It is important that the candidate and parents continue to communicate throughout the process. Many families touch base each week to report to each other. Choose a time, duration and progress report that works for you.

We suggest the two candidate’s families openly share the process they have decided upon with each other and agree on how to handle any differences in their process and plans. This will help promote open communication and alleviate misunderstandings.

If a process between two families ends for whatever reason, there should be a clarification of the situation and, if possible, the reasons, so both families can have closure and can move on.