

Dear [*Child's Name*],

This is your life book, it was created for you to have and read throughout your life. This life book is here to give you information and answers to what likely will be questions you may have as you get older.

Prior to entering foster care, you lived with [*birth parents name*], your birth parents. On [*insert date entering care*], you were placed with [*foster family name*] your foster family. You came into care because of choices made by your birth parents which led to their inability to keep you safe.

While in foster care everyone has jobs to do. The child's job is to be a kid and enjoy each and everyday. The birth parents job is to solve their big problems, learn how to keep you safe, and visit you regularly. Your foster family's job is to keep you safe and give you the stability of a family and home life. Your Case Worker's job is to make sure you are safe. Your Guardian Ad Litem's job is to make sure your feelings are known and talk to the judge on your behalf. The Judge's job is to make sure everyone else is doing their job and to decide if your birth parents have learned how to keep you safe.

On [*insert date*], after being in foster care for [*enter length of time*] the judge decided that you would be [*adopted by/reunified with*] [*enter name*], because

Reunification: your birth parents were able to make the right choices and overcome their big problems to keep you safe.

Adoption: the choices and big problems your birth parents made which led to them not being able to keep you safe continued.

As you grow and are older, more will be discussed about your foster care placement history, your birth family, why you were in foster care, why you were adopted, and various other information. It is up to your adoptive parents and possibly therapist to decide which information will be shared at what points in your life. Some information may be too confusing to understand when you are young and may continue to be confusing to you as you are an adult.

Remember, that everyone's life is full of good, great, challenging, very challenging, and sometimes dull moments, but when you put it all together it is what makes you who you are.

You are an amazing, caring, sweet, intelligent person. You are only wished the very best in life.