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The Beginning July to August, Year One

Foster care licensing, we came to learn, is quite an intensive process. Once the paperwork was complete, we learned that two licensing workers would visit us in our home. We prepared our home, ensuring that it was clean, safe, and child friendly, and waited to welcome our first worker, Judy. We were confident everything would be perfect upon her arrival. Her professional poise and gentle voice did not prepare us for her mission, to scare us speechless. In a quiet, gentle manner she began her inquiry.

“Do you have pets?”

“No.”

“Good, because these kids [speaking of foster kids] would kill them. Do you have any valuables?”

“No.”

“Good, because these kids will steal, ruin or destroy them.”

“Do you have furniture or possessions you highly value?”