YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
Intercultural Exchange Programs

WARNING INDICATORS IN THE SELECTION OF A HOST FAMILY

Families exhibiting several of these traits may not be appropriate hosts, may need additional references to be considered, or may need additional support during the exchange.

Family Relationships/Communication

- The family can't say what they mean to one another.
- Adults behave like children and/or children act like adults.
- There are indications that the marriage seems unstable.
- The parents seem to have difficulty setting limits for the children.
- The parents have no understanding of adolescent issues and are unwilling to learn.
- The family members seem to dislike or are uncomfortable with one another.
- The family seems humorless or takes minor matters very seriously.
- The family is inflexible or extremely detail-oriented.
- The family has experienced a trauma (e.g., death or serious illness in immediate family) within past twelve months.

Motivation for Hosting

- Family members cannot articulate their expectations or have very unrealistic expectations.
- One or more family members disagree with the decision to host a student.
- There appear to be hidden motives (e.g., babysitting, labor for family business).
- The family does not have adequate time for a student.

Community/School Connection

- The family shows no community involvement or school involvement.
- There are unresolved problems between the family and the school which have caused negative feelings.
- The home is extremely geographically isolated.
- They seem unable to provide contact with other young people.
- They are unwilling or unable to provide transportation or cannot arrange transportation with others.
- The family has financial problems.
- The family has very rigid or extreme religious or political views they expect the student to share or convert to.
- The family has a bad reputation or poor references.

Cross-Cultural Awareness

- The family shows no interest in other cultures.
- They seem intolerant of differences among themselves and in others.
- The family is closed to new ideas.

Organizational Commitment

- The family doesn't understand or appreciate the need for YFU guidelines.
- The family is unwilling to attend orientations.

Previous Hosting Experience (with YFU or others)

- The family has hosted before and there were problems or the experience was negative.
- The family has applied to host and was not accepted.