



NANNY MAGAZINE

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AGENCY ADVICE

FROM LINDSEY BELL

I currently have a nanny job but I want to find something new. I don't want to give notice until I have something lined up, because I am afraid they may terminate me first. How do I handle this when an agency asks for my current employer as a reference?



Be as transparent as possible about your situation with your agency. It's completely acceptable to move on from your current family if it's not working out. However, it's important to discuss the situation in detail with your agency so they have a clear picture to share with the new family. Remaining honest and clear is always best. Remember that you are part of a team and you don't want your agency or family finding information that should have been shared in a professional manner. After communicating with your agency, they will understand and take the lead in explaining why you are not

able to provide a current reference to a new family. As long as you have other viable childcare references, that should be enough. In some cases, nannies will ask someone else who has seen their work with children to serve as a character reference. For example, an ideal character reference would be a teacher that has seen you work with the child. With this said, our agency will never ask the nanny to give notice to a current job if they do not have another job lined up. In general, agencies understand that most nannies cannot afford to be put in that position.

LINDSEY BELL

Lindsay Bell is the founder and owner of the New York-based Bell Family Company, a women-run company with an established reputation for quality, excellence, and care. Since 2009, the Bell Family Company has been helping families managing all things childcare. Prior to opening her first agency, Lindsay worked with the Radio City Rockettes where she most notably executed the production of the 75th Celebration Edition of the Radio City Spectacular Book and coordinated The Rockettes in The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, all while babysitting for a handful of families on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Lindsay is married and has two young sons. <https://www.bellfamilycompany.com/>