

### **1. Why are people often afraid to complete a Home Study?**

Often people are intimidated because they fear the Home Study process—they fear that they will be judged by some unrealistic or unknown standard.

The purpose of the Home Study is to allow the social worker the opportunity to get to know the family and to help prepare and educate the family about the adoption journey.

### **2. A Home Study focuses on educating a family about the options available to them, the requirements of various types of adoptions, and about the process.**

Regardless of the state in which you live, you can expect the following:

- a. Criminal history background check to check for arrests and convictions.
- b. Protective services check to make sure there is no history of child abuse and/or neglect or allegations of child abuse and/or neglect.
- c. Interviews with a social worker.
- d. Reference checks from neighbors, friends, and people who know the family who is seeking to adopt.
- e. Home Visits: They differ depending on the state in which you live. They allow the worker to assess the safety of the home and whether it has room to accommodate a growing child.

### **3. Home studies for intercountry adoptions will differ according to the guidelines of the sending country.**

### **4. What are some specific steps involved in a Home Study?**

- a. Family applies for adoption
- b. Family supplies basic information to the social worker
- c. Family supplies references
- d. Social worker checks family's references, criminal background, and does a protective services check
- e. Social worker interviews the family, together and individually
- f. Family completes paperwork
- g. Family receives adoption training and education
- h. Social worker conducts a home visit
- i. Social worker approves or does not approve the family for adoption
- j. If the family is approved, then the social worker submits a written report to appropriate authorities

# What to Expect from a Home Study

## 5. What questions should you consider before you choose an agency for your Home Study?

- a. What are the values of the agency?
- b. Does the agency provide adoption education?
- c. Is the agency child-focused first?
- d. Are they a not-for-profit agency?

## 6. What are some of the educational topics that an adoptive family should inquire about?

- a. The Hague Convention requirements
- b. Grief and loss
- c. Medical needs
- d. Parenting
- e. Becoming a multicultural family

## 7. How can the family access these educational opportunities?

- a. Internet?
- b. Weekly sessions at a local office?
- c. Weekend or 2-day seminar?
- d. Additional learning opportunities through books and videos?

## 8. Are home studies required for all adoptions?

Yes, some type of study or assessment is required. Some are more detailed than others, and different programs have differing requirements.

## 9. Why is a Home Study necessary?

A Home Study is necessary to protect children and to make sure that the family meets all of the requirements to adopt. It also provides education for families as they begin their adoption journey.

## 10. Does the Home Study play a different role in infant adoptions?

The Home Study may be available for an expectant parent to read if they are seriously considering the family, but often the study has the adopting family's identifying information removed.

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