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Preferred Membership

Home Study Essentials



Your Adoption Home Study

The adoption home study is essentially an assessment of your readiness and eligibility to adopt. Being well-prepared can help adoptive families to overcome the stress involved with an adoption home study, eliminate delays, and reduce the time your home study takes. Preparation before the home study starts can make a big difference in how smooth the process goes and the home study completion timeline.

Step 1 The Documentation Phase

The first stage of the adoption home study is the documentation phase. Gathering documentation like birth certificate, driver's license, marriage certificate (if applicable), tax records, medical records, etc., is the time-consuming step of the whole home study, so gathering some paperwork in advance can expedite the process. Additionally, some state might also require to have the following:

- Proof of insurance
- Autobiographical questionnaires discussing your reasons for wanting to adopt
- Educational and employment records for adult household members
- Records of divorce (if applicable)
- Criminal background checks (state and federal levels)
- Sanitation and fire inspections of your home
- Mental and physical health reports and clearances
- Your latest tax return
- Friend, relative, employer, school and or pastor references depending on the adoption agency and state



Step 2

Interviews with Adoption Applicants and other Household members

When you have provided your adoption home study worker / social worker with everything they need to complete the documentation phase, it will be time for their home visit. On this day, each family member living in your home will sit down with the home study provider to discuss aspects of their lives, such as daily routines and personal feelings about adoption. Of course, the length of time this takes will depend on how large your family is, but the adoption home study interviews generally take between two and four hours. It helps your adoption home study worker / social worker know you and evaluate your adoption readiness.

Step 3

The Home Inspection



After everyone in the household has been interviewed by your adoption home study provider, they will do a home inspection to make sure the house is ready for the child. When you have wrapped up all phases of the adoption home study, your provider will send you a report detailing how each phase of the process went. You will need to sign off that all information is correct, and that's it! Your home study for adoption is complete. Remember, however, that if you make any significant changes, such as switching jobs or moving to another state, your home study must be updated before you can adopt a child.

Home Study Fees

- A Home Study cost depends on the type. E.g., an international home study often costs more than a domestic home study. The state you live in can also cause the home study fees to go up or down. It can be anywhere between \$900 to \$3,500.
- Application Fee- Due at time of application approval- \$500 - \$700 range
- Domestic Home Study Fee- Due at time of submission of home study documents- \$1,150 - \$2,500 range



Disclaimer

CAIRS Solutions provides this information as a courtesy and is in no way responsible for its content or accuracy because every adoption agency and or home study provider is different, and the process can be a bit different depending on the state. Not only does the home study fee varies, but also the quality of services provided.



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Greg Phelps
p: 317.652.7696
e: greg.phelps@cairsolutions.com

o: 3951 N Meridian St
Suite 220
Indianapolis, IN 46208-4070