



Home Study Checklist

Subject	Requirements/Explanation
Contacts	Home Visit with all family members present
	Individual Interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each prospective adoptive parent • Children (3+) in the home full or part time • Adults in the home full or part time • Children (12+) of applicants who live outside the home
	Joint Interview of all family members *Please include type (joint, indiv.) and date for EACH contact
Age	Verification required
Marital Status	Verification required. Include any previous marriages/divorces.
Background Info	Assess background information from a previous home study. If no other home studies have been completed, please state: The clients state they have never been the subject of an unfavorable home study.
Motivation	Discuss and assess the applicants' motivation for adoption
Fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss nature of infertility • Assess infertility resolution
Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss feelings about childhood • Discuss history of abuse or neglect and resolution of the experiences
Marital & Family Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss quality of marital and family relationships • Assess stability, strengths and problems in the marriage • Assess relationships between prospective adoptive parents and their biological children living in or outside the home
Support Systems	Discuss and assess the support systems available to the adoptive family and the support they may receive from these resources
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to support a child • Employment history • Income • Expenses • Verify income and insurance
Criminal	Required for anyone over 14 living in the home
History of Residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document a 10 year residence history • Include address, city, state and length of time at each address
Home	Describe home and safety issues
Languages	Document the language(s) spoken by each adoptive applicant
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical (if disabled, evaluate impact on ability to care for the child.) • Mental • Emotional (include substance abuse history !)
Religion	Evaluate the adoptive applicants on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their willingness to respect and encourage a child's religious affiliation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to provide with opportunity for religious and spiritual development • Document the health protection plan to give a child if religious beliefs prohibit certain medical treatment or state that their religious beliefs do not prohibit medical treatment.
Discipline	<p>Discuss and assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of child development and their child-care experience • Ways they were disciplined as children and reaction to the discipline they received • Discipline styles and techniques and ability to recognize the need to use different discipline methods to suit different children
Abuse/Neglect	<p>Discuss and assess the applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of child abuse & neglect • Ability to help these children
Adoptee/Separation & Loss	<p>Discuss and assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dynamics of separation and loss and the effects of these experiences on children • Their personal experiences with loss and their processing of those experiences • Their ability to help children through the grieving process
Birth Parents	<p>Discuss and assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity and reactions to birth parents • Sensitivity to and acceptance of a child's feelings about his parents and siblings and their ability to help the child deal with those feelings • Reactions to open adoption and future contact between the child and his biological family
Attitudes toward adoption	<p>Discuss and assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The attitudes of family members and other household members towards adoption • Their involvement in the care of the child
Expectations	<p>Discuss and assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their expectations of the child and the flexibility of those in relation to the child's actual needs and abilities • Their capacities to recognize and emphasize the strengths and achievements of the child