

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOME STUDY PROCESS

Home Studies are often conducted in one meeting lasting between three and five hours and, therefore, potentially occurring over a mealtime. If you are married, both spouses must be there for the duration of the visit. If you have children or other adults living in your home, they should be present for at least part of the visit.

The majority of the Home Study is an interview format, conducted jointly with all applicants present. However, the Home Study Worker will want to meet with each applicant individually for a brief period of time. Our Home Study covers a range of topics including your adoption expectations, family history, decision to adopt, attitudes and experiences towards adoption, child rearing experiences, attitudes towards discipline, and personal values. We will be interested in where you were raised, your educational and employment history, your courtship, marriage and any previous marriages, your perceptions of yourself, your hobbies, any religious affiliations, and your home and community. We will also ask basic questions about your finances and any history of criminal arrests/convictions, child abuse, substance abuse, or domestic violence. In addition to the Interview format, your worker will conduct a tour of your home to confirm that it meets the minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes (regardless of whether you are obtaining a Foster Family Home License).

Prospective adoptive parents can expect to receive a draft of their Home Study within six (6) weeks of their Home Study visit. Upon Home Study draft review, additional interviews or documentation may be required before the Home Study can be finalized. It is ACI's desire to conduct the Home Study interviews in an effort to ensure that you and your home will provide a suitable environment for a child. Please be aware that it is the responsibility of your Home Study worker to conduct a thorough and responsible inquiry about you, your home life, and your environment to ensure the safety of any child who may be placed in your home.

WAITING CHILD SERVICES PROGRAM: During the same time period as ACI is conducting your Home Study, you and ACI will work on completing the necessary steps to obtain your Foster Family Home License. This includes completing the required forms and paperwork as well as the required trainings.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS: You will also be working towards collecting information for USCIS and your dossier. A rough draft of your Home Study will be sent to you for the sole purpose of verifying accuracy, and will be sent to your placing agency to ensure that the Home Study meets that agency's requirements. After your clearances have been verified and your training requirements completed, ACI will finalize the Home Study report, have it notarized, and send it directly to you. This will enable you to obtain any required authentications and then send it to your placing agency and USCIS.

We at ACI look forward to working with you.