



HOME STUDY SERVICES PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

The Home Study Services Program Participation Agreement ("Agreement") set forth herein is between _____ ("Participants") and Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center ("Agency").

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the responsibilities and obligations of the parties participating in the Agency's Home Study Services Program ("HSS Program"). In the HSS Program, the Agency works with Illinois residents who require a Home Study prepared by an Illinois licensed Child Welfare Agency in order to begin the adoption process. Participants in the HSS Program may request to have a Domestic and/or International Home Study prepared by the Agency.

Please note: Agency's Home Study Services Program for International Adoption does not include Primary Provider Services. Any Participant pursuing International Adoption must identify and retain a Primary Provider to oversee their International Adoption prior to signing this agreement.

Each Participant is assigned a Home Study Worker who will be available to support Participants throughout the Home Study, training and post-placement/adoption processes.

Participants of the HSS Program are expected to maintain a cooperative relationship with the Agency, as well as with any other agencies or birth parents with whom they work.

Participants understand that they will need to hire legal counsel to address any legal questions that may arise during the adoption process as well as for the actual adoption proceedings. Participants are responsible for their attorney's legal fees.

Agency shall not require Participants to sign any document that purports to waive claims against an agency for intentional or reckless acts or omissions or for gross negligence.

AGENCY SERVICES AVAILABLE TO HSS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

- Pre-adoption counseling and support
- Information and adoption resources
- Agency-provided training
- Information regarding adoptive parents' rights and responsibilities in Illinois (domestic)
- 24-hour availability of staff in adoption emergency situations
- Coordination with Participants' placing agency to ensure that all requirements of the placing agency and/or country/state are satisfied
- Distribution of documents to Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, agencies or attorneys with whom the Participants are working
- Post-placement/adoption visits and reports and a court report when necessary

HSS PROGRAM UNDERSTANDINGS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ Participants understand that Agency has a strict policy prohibiting its employees and agents from giving money or other considerations, directly or indirectly, to a child's parent(s), other individual(s), or any entity as payment for the child or as an inducement to release the child. If permitted or required by the child's country of origin (applicable to international adoption cases)

Agency may remit reasonable payments for activities related to the adoption proceedings, pre-birth and birth medical costs, the care of the child, the care of the birth mother while pregnant and immediately following birth of the child, or the provisions of child welfare and child protection services generally. Permitted or required contributions shall not be remitted as payment for the child or as an inducement to release a child for adoption.

- ✓ Participants agree to provide truthful and complete information during all interviews, meetings and interactions with the Agency. Failure to disclose information or provide complete information may be cause for the Agency to discontinue services to Participants. Furthermore, Participants agree to provide Agency, on an on-going basis, with all information requested, including but not limited to, any history of current or previous arrests and/or convictions (**even if Participants have been told that certain information was expunged from their records**), and any legal, financial, medical, physical, mental health, alcohol or substance issues. Participants also agree to notify the Agency of any change of information initially provided, including but not limited to the aforementioned topics.
- ✓ Participants understand that any change of information, including but not limited to a change of residence or household composition may necessitate a Home Study update or new Home Study, for which the family will be charged the respective fee. Furthermore, Participants will be required to have their Home Study updated on an annual basis for which they will be charged a Home Study update fee.
- ✓ Participants understand that all adoption programs have the potential for significant emotional disappointment and that there is no guarantee that Participants' adoption efforts will result in an adoptive placement. Participants should only consider adoption with an understanding of and willingness to assume these risks.
- ✓ Participants agree that when they match through an outside resource, receive a referral, or become pregnant, they will inform the Agency of the change in their status as soon as possible. In addition, they agree to notify their placing agency or attorney of such a change in their status.
- ✓ Participants understand that for six months after giving birth or becoming adoptive parents, they will not be able to have their Home Study updated to begin another adoption. After six months, Participants who have had a biological child may ask to update their Home Study and return to the HSS Program. Participants who have successfully completed an adoption and who wish to begin another adoption must submit another Home Study Application with appropriate fees.
- ✓ Participants understand that the Agency reserves the right to suspend or discontinue services to Participants at its discretion at any time. Reasons for the Agency to discontinue services include but are not limited to: lying about or failing to fully disclose information requested, illegal exchange of money between Participants and birth parents, undisclosed agreements or understandings between Participants and birth parents, antagonistic behavior on the part of Participants, failure to maintain communication, or any other concern where, in the opinion of the Agency, it would not be advisable or in a child's best interest for the Agency to continue to assist with the implementation of an adoption plan. In any such situations non-refundable fees previously paid will not be returned.
- ✓ Participants understand that under Illinois adoption law, if their child's adoption has not been initiated or finalized in another state or country, they will need to hire an attorney in Illinois. During this time, while the Participants are responsible for the child, the Agency continues to have a responsibility to supervise the placement of the child in Participants' home. During the pendency of this adoption, the Participants understand and agree that they will make themselves and the child available to the Agency and its representatives for interviews and observations. Participants are aware that while up to five (5) Post-Placement/Adoption Reports

are included in their Home Study fees, they will be charged by Agency for additional visits. Participants are aware that they will be charged additional fees for Post Reports if they are seeking to adopt more than one child at a time.

- ✓ Participants understand that if their child’s adoption has been initiated or finalized in another state or country, Agency still has a responsibility to supervise the placement of the child in Participant’s home according to the adoption laws of that state or country. During the pendency of this adoption, the Participants understand and agree that they will make themselves and the child available to the Agency at intervals specified by that state or country. Participants are aware that while up to five (5) Post-Placement/Adoption Reports are included in their Home Study fees, they will be charged by Agency for additional visits. Participants are aware that they will be charged additional fees for Post Reports if they are seeking to adopt more than one child at a time.
- ✓ Participants understand that their primary Agency contact is their Home Study Worker. In an emergency, the Agency’s Executive Director can be reached 24 hours a day through the Agency’s main telephone line.

FEES

Fees associated with the HSS Program can be found on the Agency website (<https://www.adoptioncenterofillinois.org/adopting-a-child/documents-and-fees/>). Fees are reviewed annually and may be changed at the discretion of the Agency’s Board of Directors. Participants are responsible for obtaining legal counsel at their own expense. Participants are also responsible for expenses including but not limited to the following:

Home Study Only (HSO) Program		
Service	Amount	Due
<p>Phase I: Comprehensive Home Study Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Application Interview • Orientation • Home Study¹ • Adoption Education/Training (classes offered at our agency) • Up to 5 Post-Placement/Adoption Visits for one child • Court report • ICPC (Interstate Placement of Children) for Domestic <p>¹All domestic home studies must be updated annually for a \$700 fee until placement occurs. All International home studies must be updated when prospective adoptive parents I800A/I600A will be expiring (if prospective adoptive parents have not filed an I800/I600 for a specific child).</p>	<p>\$4,400</p> <p>\$4,100 for returning ACI applicants</p>	<p>Upon submission of Agency Application</p>
<p>Home Study Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required when a prospective adoptive parent moves to a new address or if there is the addition of a household member, including the birth of a biological child. • Domestic home studies must be updated annually until placement occurs • International home studies must be updated when prospective adoptive parents I800A/I600A will be expiring (if prospective adoptive parents have not filed an I800/I600 for a specific child) • Home Study is converted from one format to another (i.e. Domestic to International, China to Ethiopia, Domestic to Waiting Child Services) 	<p>\$700</p>	<p>Upon submission of completed Updated paperwork</p>
<p>Posts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase I fee includes up to five (5) post-placement/adoption visits for one child; 	<p>\$350</p>	<p>Upon placement if more than 5 posts</p>

<p>each additional post will need to be billed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost for each additional child per visit, if posts are conducted concurrently 	\$100	are required and/or adoption of more than 1 child
<p>Mileage: If Participant resides more than 100 miles round trip from either our office (60660) or our downstate workers they will be assessed a mileage charge for each mile beyond 100 miles traveled for any agency related home visit (Home Study, post, etc.). This fee is based on the IRS proposed rates.</p>	58.5 cents per mile	Prior to each home visit
<p>Expedited Fee (For emergencies only): Agency can expedite the Home Study process and visit to your home. However, criminal clearances, references, medical releases, etc. may delay completion of the final Home Study, as our agency cannot expedite these items.</p>	\$800	Upon submission of Agency Application

Third Party Fees to Complete Home Study (Estimated fees that are not paid to Agency)		
Service	Amount	Due
Illinois State and FBI Fingerprinting	\$57.45 each	At Fingerprinting Site
State Child Abuse Checks	\$0-\$30 each <i>Varies by State</i>	Submission of Child Abuse Checks
Documents: (copies of birth certificates, marriage license, divorce decree, employment verifications, etc.)	Varies	Request for Document from Issuing Entity
Medical Exam	Co-pay	At Medical Visit

If adopting internationally, Participants will be responsible for payment of additional costs, expenses and fees payable predominately to the Primary Provider (PP). The below are estimates and the PP will be responsible for providing Participants estimates for the following fees including, but not limited to:

Third Party Fees for International Adoption – Home Study Only <i>For Participants NOT Using Agency as a Primary Provider</i>	
Passport (For applicants without current US passport)	\$110 per person
<p>USCIS application</p> <p>All U.S. families must receive approval from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) before bringing a child to the U.S. for adoption. USCIS requires families to pay an application and fingerprinting fee.</p>	\$775 application, plus \$85 fingerprinting fee per adult in household
<p>Pre-adoption Medical Review of Child Referral</p> <p>Review of child referral with a pediatrician experienced in international adoption to discuss potential diagnoses and outcomes as well as identify resources needed to meet the child's needs.</p>	\$250 - \$800 (costs vary by reviewer)
<p>Document Translation/Interpretation Services</p> <p>Costs for obtaining, translating, or copying records or documents required to complete the adoption, costs for the child's court documents, passport, adoption certificate and other</p>	\$50-60 per hour 10-25 cents/word

