

**A Family For Every Child**  
**Matching Assistance**




*"We should not be asking who this child belongs to,  
but who belongs to this child."*

## **The Home Study**

A home study, conducted by an adoption agency, is a series of meetings between a social worker and prospective adoptive family (or individual) that provide an opportunity to learn more about the adoption process and to prepare for adoption. The home study process varies from agency to agency. Some conduct individual and joint interviews with a couple seeking to adopt, or individual interviews with a single person who wants to adopt. A few agencies ask applicants for written information about themselves and their life experiences.

In general, the group sessions (usually 6-8) cover topics such as parenting skills, the pros and cons of adoption, ways to introduce extended family to adoption, and ways to help the child adjust to his or her new family. Part of the home study includes at least one home visit by an agency worker. This helps the worker determine if the home will be a safe, nurturing environment for the child and also gives the family an opportunity to discuss its concerns and needs with the worker. Families say they find the home study process beneficial. It allows them to consider deeply their personal feelings about adoption and to explore their readiness for a child.

Your completed adoption home study file will contain forms & written (typed or printed) material:

- Application to Care for a Child in SOSCF Custody
- Family Financial Report
- Medical Report A
- History Form
- Personal Questionnaire
- Consent for Criminal Records & Fingerprint Check
- Adoptive Family Information and Placement Preference (to be completed with the adoption worker)
- Safety Checklist Requirements (to be completed with the adoption worker)
- Medical Report B (completed by Health care Provider). Provide physicians with the enclosed SCF Business Reply envelopes.

### **Documents:**

- Marriage Certificate (for couples)
- Divorce Decrees (if applicable)

- Death Certificate (if applicable)

**Additional:**

- Four letters of reference [(only one can be from a family member) these will be sent out by the office upon receipt of your application]
- Family picture book (optional)
  - Family photo (6 color Xerox copies) (optional)
  - Five-minute video presentation of your family (optional)

**Training**

Many agencies require trainings for prospective adoptive parents prior to or during the home study process. These trainings help prospective parents better understand the needs of children waiting for families and help families decide what type of child or children they could parent most effectively.