



Family to Family Adoptions, Inc.

Home Study Requirements

The following is the requirements by Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services for all pre-adoptive home screenings:

1. Name, address, telephone number, e-mail of prospective parents
2. Number and dates of interview(s) with each individual member of the family
3. Marital status, if married, both parents must petition to adopt
4. Significant relationships of the prospective parents: Support system, document all marriages, divorces, deaths of former spouses, and significant relationships
5. History of prospective adoptive parent's citizenship and residence for last 10 years.
6. Prospective family's motivation for adoption: Evaluate why they want to adopt at this time.
7. Health status of both parents and anyone else living in the home. Texas standards require that they are in reasonably good health and do not have any communicable diseases. The only disease listed in standards is tuberculosis. This also includes their physical, mental and emotional status including substance abuse history
8. Any disabilities of the prospective adoptive parents
9. Quality of the prospective adoptive family's marital relationship. Assess the stability of the couple's relationship
10. If an older child is being adopted, you must explore the adoptive parent's attitude about the adoptive child's religion: There are no religious requirements; however, assess the adoptive family on willingness to respect and encourage the child's religious affiliation, if any; there willingness to provide a child opportunity for religious and spiritual development, if desired; and the health plan they plan to give the child if their religious beliefs prohibit certain medical treatment
11. Prospective adoptive parent's feelings about their childhood and parents. If there is abuse or neglect in their past history, evaluate their resolution of the experience
12. The prospective family's values, feelings, and practices in regard to child discipline and care. Evaluate their ability to recognize and respect differences in children and use discipline methods that suit the particular child being considered for placement, rather than relying on corporal punishment
13. For adoption of any child who is not a newborn: Explore feelings and understand of abuse and neglect and evaluate the prospective parent's ability to help the child deal with these experiences and the available community resources
14. Explore the adoptive family's sensitivity to and feelings about birth families. Educate them at the same time
15. Explore the adoptive family's understanding of abuse and neglect and its effects on children as well as separation and loss and how they plan to help their adopted child with those feelings
16. Document the extended family's attitude about adopted children and feelings about this adoption
17. Document the prospective parent's expectations of adoptive children for the immediate and distant future

18. Note any limits of the prospective parent's ability to provide a nurturing environment for the child
19. Document the financial status of the family: Family's ability to support a child and meet his basic material needs. Employment history, net worth, budget surplus monthly, and insurance coverage (both medical and life)
20. Document the results of the criminal history and child abuse check in your state. Include copies of both of these clearances with the home study
21. You must include fertility information: This does not have to be in depth; however the couple's fertility is only important in relation to unresolved feelings about their inability to accept or parent a child not born to them
22. Include a detailed description of the home, safety checks/concerns including pets, swimming pool, guns, etc. A sketch or copy of the floor plan of the home as well as photos of the front and back of the home should be attached.
23. You must include a telephone number for the prospective family to file a complaint about how the home study was conducted
24. If there was a previous home study done, you must get a copy of it and evaluate it for inconsistencies. This must be noted in the home study

POST PLACEMENT SUMMARY

Texas requires two post placement interviews to be done with all family members present. These should be done at two months and four to five months after placement. Follow up calls should be made to the adoptive family's home monthly beginning the first month after placement. Please provide documentation of these telephone calls via e-mail to Jennifer@fam2fam.org. Mail one original post-placement report to Family to Family Adoptions, Inc. 1000 Austin Street, Suite B, Richmond, TX 77469

Please include the following in the post placement report:

- Name of child
- Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of adoptive parents
- Child's date of birth
- Child's date of placement
- Interview date and who was present
- Current weight/ weight at placement
- Current height/ height at placement
- Diet:
- Sleep Pattern
- Immunizations
- Name of pediatrician
- Illnesses or problems
- Motor development
- Socio-emotional development (includes day care, education, relationship to family members, parents, bonding and attachment issues or lack of)
- Other
- Comments/Concerns/ Strategies for Meeting Child's Needs

WHEN POST PLACEMENT IS COMPLETED

Please update the original home study with all the clearances. Include the information from all post placement interviews and telephone calls. Make the Texas office two originals and mail them to us if the couple will be finalizing in Texas. If they will finalize in your home state, mail us one notarized copy.