



## **Welcome!**

Thank you for contacting Adopt International to assist you with your adoption plans. We are a non-profit, private agency licensed by the States of Hawaii and California. Adoption brings together adults wanting to become parents with a child in need of a loving home. We welcome you to our community, and we look forward to working with you.

## **Services**

Our agency assists families with both domestic and international adoptions. There are two ways in which we assist prospective adoptive parents. If a child has been identified, we can complete an Adoption Home Study, facilitate the adoption, and assist with immigration procedures if applicable. If a child has not been identified we can assist you in your search.

## **Adoption Home Study Process**

### Adoption Home Study

The Adoption Home Study is a gathering of information required by federal law for international adoptions. It can usually be completed in two sessions and is hopefully educational for the prospective parent/s. The discussions cover information, feelings, and ideas about the following:

1. Issues related to infertility and your decision to adopt
2. Individual histories (family, education, career)
3. History of your courtship and marriage
4. Experiences and philosophies relating to parenting

There is an individual session with each partner as well as one visit to the home. Additional visits and information may be required if there are children or other adults living in the home.

### Adoption Home Study Update

The Adoption Home Study Update process is a gathering of current information since you last completed your Home Study. It can usually be completed in one or two sessions. Hopefully the process is educational for the prospective parent/s. The discussions cover information, feelings, and ideas about the following:

1. Current changes in the family, addition of children
2. Individual histories (family, education, career) new information
3. Updating of documentation
4. Current medicals and fingerprints

If you have added a child into your home since the Home Study, conversations will focus on parenting and the addition of another child. If you are updating information only and no changes have occurred in your family, a home visit may not be necessary.

**Important: The Home Study is only valid for ONE YEAR. Please keep track of your expiration date. We recommend calling us to update your study approximately four months before it will expire.**

### **Cost**

Enclosed is a Hawaii Fee Agreement. Please consult your agency representative for fees that apply to your adoption.

### **How Long Does All This Take?**

If the prospective parent/s promptly complete and return all required documents the Adoption Home Study can be completed in six to eight weeks and the related immigration review should take approximately three to four months. Locating and adopting a child from another country might take another two to sixteen months.

Adopt International prides itself on the speed and efficiency with which it completes the Adoption Home Study and other aspects of the adoption procedure. We are available to help in emergency situations, and we are able to expedite Adoption Home Studies when necessary. Emergency phone numbers are available.

### **The Rewards of Perseverance**

What could be more rewarding for the inconvenience of collecting papers and going through an Adoption Home Study than the arrival into your life of an adorable little boy or girl? It is our experience that many clients, even in their wildest dreams, tend to underestimate the richness and love that lies ahead.

We look forward to helping you make this happen!

Sincerely,

The Adopt International Staff