



Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in Adoptions Together. Our mission is to build healthy families and to keep them strong.

Founded in 1990, Adoptions Together is a non-profit child placement agency, licensed in Maryland, Washington D.C. and Virginia. We welcome every child in need of a family regardless of race, health or special need, and are honored to have helped nearly 2,500 children join loving adoptive families.

We offer the following programs:

♥ **Domestic Infant Adoption:** We bring together birth and adoptive parents and design personalized adoption plans to meet the needs of all involved.

♥ **AdoptionWorks:** We identify children who are waiting in State foster care for a permanent family and match them with prospective parents. Many of the children in need of families are African American, members of a sibling group and over the age of six.

♥ **International Adoption:** We work hard to find permanent homes for infants, toddlers and older children who are growing up in orphanages in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

♥ **Home Study and Post Placement:** Our team of qualified professionals provides a complete array of home study services including pre-adoption preparation, assessment and post placement support.

♥ **Center for Adoptive Families:** Our mission of bringing children and families together is equaled only by our commitment to keep these families strong. We offer individual and family counseling, support groups, community and professional education, parenting workshops and summer camps.

If you are seriously considering adoption, we hope you will consider Adoptions Together. We wish you the best on your adoption journey.

Warm regards,

Janice Goldwater, LCSW-C
Founder and Executive Director

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www.adoptionstogether.org

Home Study Information Packet

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Center for Adoptive Families

Pre & Post Adoption
Counseling and Education

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Dear Home Study Plus Family,

Thank you so much for choosing to complete your home study with Adoptions Together (AT). We appreciate your confidence in us. We pledge to provide professional and timely services to you.

We believe that each family who adopts deserves professional, ethical and sensitive treatment during the home study experience. We also believe that each child who is adopted needs to be with a permanent family that will provide the best possible parenting, no matter what challenges the child may present with. A family that uses AT placement services participates in seminars that prepare them to adopt. Families who only complete a home study with AT deserve the same high quality educational and support services.

FOR INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES: New U.S. rules about international adoption require that families complete ten (10) hours of training. The [Center for Adoptive Families](#) (CAF), a program of Adoptions Together, offers seminars for families who will be adopting internationally. If it is not possible to complete training before the home study is completed, please provide your social worker with a receipt for training registration.

- **International Parent Preparation 1** - This half-day seminar explores the socio-cultural realities of adopting a child from another country, practical strategies for your household both before and after your child arrives, and the essential building blocks of healthy attachment.
- **International Parent Preparation 2:**(region specific)- This full-day seminar will provide detailed information about issues common to children living in orphanages or foster homes in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin American.
- **Transracial Adoption Seminars** - these seminars educate prospective adoptive parents about the important issues involved in transracial adoption. Children adopted from Asia, India, Latin America and the Middle East also face the same racial dilemmas within their Anglo families, as do children with African heritage.
- **Parenting the Later Placed Child Seminar** - This half-day seminar focuses on techniques and strategies.
- **Relatives Raising Relatives Seminar** - This half-day seminar focuses on the benefits and challenges of kinship care.

Your social worker will provide more details during your first visit. If you have any questions about the training requirements, please feel free to contact us at 301-422-5110 or caf@adoptionstogether.org for information about registering for the seminars or your home study social worker.



Center for Adoptive Families

Pre & Post Adoption
Counseling and Education

FOR DOMESTIC CLIENTS: You will be required to complete eight (8) hours of pre-adoptive training. The [Center for Adoptive Families](#) (CAF) offers several seminars for families adopting domestically.

- **Parent Preparation Seminar I** (Pre-Adoption) – this five and a half hour seminar provides adopting parents with information about adoption and infant care: coping with the wait; setting up support for the baby’s arrival; relationship with the birth parents; bonding, attachment and entitlement; marital stress during the transition to parenthood; and preparing siblings for the baby.
- **Parent Preparation Seminar 2** (Post-Adopt) – this two and a half hour seminar focuses on the adjustment to parenthood and infant care. Topics include parents’ adjustment; reactions of family, friends and strangers, especially in transracial adoption; importance of support (especially for single parents); attachment, bonding and entitlement; helping a baby learn to self-calm, child care issues; and safety proofing the home. Since this seminar is for after you adopt, please show proof of registration to your social worker during the home study.
- **Conspicuous Parenting Seminars** - these seminars educate prospective adoptive parents about the important issues involved in transracial adoption. Children adopted from Asia, India, Latin America and the Middle East also face the same racial dilemmas within their Anglo families, as do children with African heritage.

Your social worker will provide more details during your first visit.

If you have any questions about the home study or training requirements, please feel free to contact us at 301-422-5110 or caf@Adoptionstogether.org for information about registration for the seminars or your home study social worker.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HOME STUDIES

1. What is a home study and why do I need one?

Home studies have two main purposes. First, they help to prepare prospective adoptive and foster parents for the tasks of raising a child who was not born into their family. Secondly, they provide assurance to individuals who are responsible for placing a child for adoption or foster care that the family is properly equipped to take care of a child. A home study consists of a series of interviews with a social worker, the collection of documents about the family, and a written narrative report.

Home studies are required in most states and, if you are adopting internationally, by the United States Citizen Immigration Service (USCIS) and the country where the child resides.

The law prohibits unmarried couples from adopting in Virginia. Therefore, AT is not permitted to conduct home studies for unmarried couples in Virginia.

2. After I send my application to Adoptions Together (AT), when will my home study begin?

The Home Study Coordinator (HSC) will assign a social worker to you as soon as possible. You can expect to hear from the social worker within a week of when your application is received.

3. How long does the home study process take?

During your first home study meeting, your social worker will explain the home study process in detail and answer your questions about any special circumstances in your family that may exist. Your social worker will tell you about the documents that must be collected before the home study can proceed and provide detailed instructions about how the documents should be completed.

Once you have collected all of your documents, you will send them to the HSC with the balance of the home study fee. If you are a couple, the social worker usually conducts three more interviews. If you are single, the social worker usually meets with you two more times. In most circumstances, we will complete the home study within 90 days from the date that we receive your documents.

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4. *How complicated is the process of gathering all the documents?*

Don't worry; it is not that complicated. Your social worker will explain in detail about all the documents you need for the home study, and you will receive a written instruction sheet. The HSC is also available to answer your questions.

5. *What if I want the home study completed more quickly?*

In limited circumstances, typically when the child you plan to adopt is about to be born, a home study can be completed in 30 days. Expedited home studies require prior approval of Adoptions Together's Clinical Director.

6. *What if the social worker and I do not "hit it off"?*

It is important for you to feel comfortable with your social worker. Our social workers are highly trained in the unique issues faced by adoptive and foster families. We expect them to guide you through the home study process in a respectful manner. Most folks who have been through a home study report that the process is a lot easier than they anticipated, and actually helps them clarify their thoughts and feelings about adoption and raising a child. If, however, you believe that your social worker is not a good fit for you, you should discuss your concerns with our Clinical Director.

7. *What happens if I become pregnant during the home study or before a child is placed in my home?*

Every once in a while an applicant becomes pregnant during the home study or while waiting for a placement. In this happens, completion of a home study is delayed until at least six months after the baby is born. The transition to parenthood is often a very challenging time and dealing with an adoption at the same time is difficult for parents and children.

8. *What happens if I move during the home study or before a child is placed in my home?*

If you move, a social worker will visit you in your new home and prepare an addendum to your home study. Also, some additional documents about your new home will have to be submitted. If you move within Maryland, Virginia or the District of Columbia, Adoptions Together will update your home study. If you move outside of these states, an agency licensed in the state that you move to can update your home study.

9. *Can I be approved to adopt if I have a criminal history?*

It is difficult to provide a general answer to this question because the laws and regulations about approval of adoptive parents who have been arrested or convicted of a crime vary greatly from state to state. The answer to this question depends upon where you live, the seriousness of the crime and when it occurred. Each case is considered on an individual basis. Most families are pleased to learn that "youthful indiscretions" will not exclude them from becoming adoptive or foster parents.

It is very important to be truthful with your social worker and to disclose all relevant information about any criminal history that you may have. The information that you provide to us will be fairly and fully considered with respect to the requirements of the state where you reside.

10. *I have a chronic medical condition. Will this be a problem?*

All home study applicants must have a recent medical examination and report from their physician. If you currently under treatment for a chronic medical condition, or if you have had a serious medical condition in the past, your social worker will contact your physician to determine whether your medical condition significantly interferes with your ability to provide a healthy, stable home for a child. In most circumstances, individuals who have chronic medical conditions can be approved to adopt.

11. *If I have had counseling, can I still be approved?*

Adoptions Together views counseling or therapy as a positive approach to coping with life's problems. If you are currently in counseling or have a recent or extensive counseling history, your social worker will contact your therapist for more information about your ability to provide a safe, healthy home for a child. In most circumstances, people who have participated in counseling can be approved to adopt.

12. *I'm not rich. Can I still be approved to adopt?*

You certainly don't have to be wealthy to be approved to adopt or provide foster care for a child. All that's necessary is for you to have sufficient financial resources to provide adequate care for a child.

13. *What if my home study is denied?*

It is unusual for a home study to be denied. If your social worker has concerns about whether you are able to provide an appropriate home for an adopted or foster child, he or she consults with the Adoptions Together clinical team. The team carefully adheres to the mandatory requirements of the state where you reside. In many situations, applicants are asked to participate in counseling or to have additional assessments completed before a final decision about the home study is made. If your home study is denied, your social worker will explain the reasons for the denial in person and will follow up the discussion with a letter that outlines your rights to ask the agency to reconsider its decision.

14. *Can I read my home study?*

Absolutely. You are encouraged to read your home study report and to let us know if we made any factual errors.

15. *What if I am uncertain about the placement agency I want to use or whether I want to adopt domestically or internationally?*

You can discuss your questions about placement agencies, as well as the risks and benefits of domestic and international adoption, with your social worker. There are specific things that the home study report must contain depending upon the type of adoption you chose, so by the end of the home study interviews it is important for you to know what type of adoption you plan to pursue. If your plans change after the home study report is completed, it can usually be amended with just a little additional work.

16. *Does it matter if I have other children?*

If you already have children, your social worker will need to contact them. If they do not live in your home full-time, arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis. Adult children of Virginia residents who live within 50 miles will need to be interviewed in person. If more than 50 miles, the social worker will contact them by telephone. Of course, interviews are always conducted with sensitivity and respect, and in an appropriate manner for the child's age.

17. *There are other adults who live in my home. Does this make a difference?*

Each adult who lives in your home must be interviewed and certain documents about them must be completed. If there are renters in your home who live in separate quarters with a separate entrance, usually they do not have to be included in the home study.

18. *I've heard that references need to be interviewed. Whom should I ask to be my references?*

At least three references are required for each home study. At least one reference must be interviewed in person. It is best to ask three friends who have known you for three years or more. We do not recommend that you ask a relative, clergy person, your therapist or a work subordinate. If you have a child who attends school, one of your references should be a teacher, counselor or school official who knows your child as well.

19. *How long is a home study good for?*

Home studies and some of the supporting documents need to be updated annually. We encourage you to contact us before your home study expires, so that we can make timely arrangements to complete the update so that your home study will remain current.

20. *If I am adopting internationally from another agency, will the home study from Adoptions Together be sufficient for my agency?*

Generally, yes, although some agencies have special requirements. If your agency requires any additional information, please let your social worker know.

Before the home study is conducted, families should verify that they meet the basic requirements of the country from which they wish to adopt by checking the country requirements on the State Department Web Site http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/country/country_369.html. If the country is not listed on the State Department website, you should check with your placement agency or attorney to ensure that you meet the requirements of the country for international adoption. Families are encouraged to discuss these requirements with their home study social worker during the first home study visit.

21. *What is the best way to “get through” a home study?*

Be flexible and honest. Keep your sense of humor. Relax. Enjoy the moment. These are the same skills that will make you a good parent!

22. *How can I get more information about getting my home study done at Adoptions Together?*

If you have access to the Internet, it is best to contact us by email. If you cannot email us, please feel free to call between 9 and 5 on Monday through Friday. Below you will find a list of email addresses and telephone numbers for our home study staff:

- **Grace Marshburn** Home Study Coordinator for Maryland and DC residents
gmarshburn@adoptionstogether.org
Direct Dial: (410) 402-1106
- **Jessica Sullivan**, Home Study Coordinator for Virginia
jsullivan@adoptionstogether.org
(703) 689-0404
- **Erica Moltz**, Assessment Director
emoltz@adoptionstogether.org
Direct Dial: (301) 422-5101

For more information about Adoptions Together's placement programs and other services, please call our offices:

- Silver Spring, MD: (301) 439-2900
- Baltimore, MD: (410) 869-0620
- Herndon, VA: (703) 689-0404

Financing Your Adoption

While adoption services can be expensive, financial programs and resources may be available to help you with these costs. At Adoptions Together, we may be able to help you locate the financial resources you may need. Whether you are eligible for adoption tax benefits, adoption assistance programs from your employer, or the adoption subsidy program, we can direct you to the information you need. You might want to begin your research with an excellent resource guide from the National Endowment for Financial Education, [How to Make Adoption An Affordable Option](#). This booklet can be downloaded from the internet at www.nefe.org

Federal Tax Credit

You may be able to reduce the cost of your adoption by applying for an adoption tax credit on your federal tax return. For adoptions finalized starting in tax year 2002, the credit is up to \$10,000 per adoption. (Prior to 2002, the tax credit was \$5,000 per adoption or \$6,000 for the adoption of a child with special needs.) The \$10,000 credit also applies to international adoptions after finalization. The tax credit limit is for expenses associated with each adopted child, rather than an annual limit. The tax credit benefits moderate-income families most; it phases out for high-income families. The phase-out starts for families whose adjusted gross income exceeds \$150,000. The tax credit is eliminated entirely once adjusted gross income reaches \$190,000.

The federal adoption tax credit is more beneficial than a simple tax deduction. Under the tax credit, adoption expenses may be deducted from your overall federal tax liability. For example, if your federal tax obligation is \$4,000 and you have \$3,000 in adoption expenses, your tax liability is reduced to \$1,000.

What this means in real dollars is that you will receive a refund of \$3000, if your tax liability has been withheld from your paycheck, or you will owe \$3000 less to the IRS if you are self-employed. Additionally, if your tax bill is smaller than the amount of your expenses, you can carry forward the unused portion of your adoption tax credit for the next several years. Qualified adoption expenses may include adoption fees, attorney fees, travel costs, including necessary transportation, meals, and lodging. If you are receiving reimbursement for the allowed adoption expenses from another source, such as the Adoption Subsidy program, or from an employee benefits program, there are limitations on the use of the tax credit. To learn more about the Federal Adoption Tax Credit, you should consult your tax professional and [IRS Publication 968](#). To access the IRS web site for information on the tax credit, see www.irs.gov/taxtopics

This site is helpful for understanding the benefits of the tax credit.

<http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org/courses/taxcredit.cfm>

Employee Benefit Programs

Perhaps your employer is among the roughly 25% of companies in the United States that offer some form of adoption benefits to their employees. Typical benefits may include reimbursements of adoption expenses; paid leave in addition to vacation time, sick leave, or personal days; and unpaid leave. Reimbursement amounts can run from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Adoptions Together maintains a list of employers that offer adoption assistance. To find out whether your employer offers adoption benefits, contact the human resources office where you work.

Even if your company does not now offer adoption benefits, you may be able to persuade your employer to do so. Studies have shown that adoption benefits are among the most cost-effective advantages an employer can offer. The National Adoption Clearinghouse can help you and your employer to establish an adoption benefits program. You can contact NAIC at 888-251-0075 or <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/parents/prospective/funding/index.cfm>.

Military Benefits for Adoption

The military will reimburse active-duty personnel for most one-time adoption costs up to \$2,000 per child, whether adopting a Domestic healthy infant or older child, or a child from abroad. (Travel costs, foreign or domestic, are not covered.) There is a maximum reimbursement of \$5,000 in a given year, even if both parents are in the military.

Reimbursement is made only after the adoption is finalized and only if the adoption was provided through a state adoption agency or a *not-for-profit* private agency. Adoption and placement fees that may be reimbursed include:

- Fees for birth parent counseling
- Legal fees and court costs
- Medical expenses - hospital expenses of the biological mother and newborn infant.

The military's Exceptional Family Member Program is designed to ensure that the adoptive families of children with special needs are assigned to duty stations where the child's needs may be met. In some instances, a military family caring for an adopted disabled child may receive monthly assistance up to \$1000 under the military's Program for Persons with Disabilities.

While the military has long provided health care for adopted children, as part of the health benefits provided by the Federal government to military personnel and their dependents, it is now available for adopted children as soon as they are placed in your home, rather than having to wait until the adoption is finalized. Moreover, military health care does not require a waiting period for pre-existing conditions.

Military personnel may make use of leave programs similar to those offered by civilian employers. Reimbursements and benefits apply whether the adopting parent is single or married and whether the adoption is completed in the US or overseas.

NOTE: *Independent adoptions, or adoptions provided through a For-profit adoption agency, do not qualify for military reimbursements.*

For more information about adoption for military families, call the Adoption Exchange Association at 1-303-333-0845. Or visit the web at www.nmfa.org.

Credit Cards and Frequent Flyer Miles

Families adopting through the International Adoption Program typically travel overseas to complete their adoptions. You can use frequent flyer miles to reduce the cost of airfare significantly. Many credit card companies offer frequent flyer miles as incentives. Check with your individual credit card issuers to see if this benefit is available to you.

Adoption Loan Information

Please contact the National Adoption Foundation to explore grants and loans specifically for adoption www.nafadopt.org

Adoption Subsidy Program

Families who adopt children with special medical, emotional, and/or developmental needs; older children; or members of a sibling group may be eligible for an adoption subsidy from federal and state governments. This financial assistance is available to ensure that families who adopt these children have the necessary services and financial resources to meet their children's ongoing needs.

Subsidies fall into three categories:

1. **Monthly Financial Assistance.** This type of subsidy is designed to remove financial barriers for families who adopt children with special needs. Nearly all children in public foster care who are waiting to be adopted are eligible for this type of assistance. Subsidies are awarded on a case-by-case basis and vary depending on the needs of the child. Annual reviews of subsidies are conducted to ensure that the child still qualifies for assistance. Eligibility for the subsidy is based solely on the needs of the child; the adoptive parents' financial resources do not determine whether a child is eligible for a subsidy.
2. **Medical Assistance.** Children in subsidized adoptions are also eligible for a medical subsidy through a new Medicaid-managed care program.
3. **One-Time Subsidy.** This nonrecurring payment, which may be offered in addition to the monthly financial subsidy, is designed to cover specific expenses or special services related to the adoption of a particular child or children. Reimbursable expenses may include adoption placement fees, court costs, attorney's fees, required health and psychological examinations, transportation, and reasonable costs of lodging and food for the child and/or the adoptive parents when necessary to complete the placement or adoption process.

To be eligible for any subsidy, a child must first meet **both** of the following two requirements:

- A local department of social services or a private agency in Maryland must hold guardianship of the child
- The child could not be placed for adoption without a subsidy

To be eligible for any subsidy, a child must also meet one of the following requirements:

- The child must be six or older, but has not reached the age of 18 years
- The child must be a member of a minority group
- The child must have a physical or mental handicap and/or be emotionally disturbed
- The child must be a member of a sibling group which is to be placed together

If you are interested in adopting a child who may be eligible for an adoption subsidy, we will assist you in applying for a subsidy for your child.



ADOPTIONS TOGETHER HOME STUDY PLUS SERVICES

<p>(1) Initial Home Study (For Infant and International Programs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$450 due with application • \$1,000 due when paperwork completed 	<p>\$ 1,450 (\$200 additional supplement for Hague country)</p>
<p>(2) AdoptionWorks Home Study:</p>	<p>\$700</p>
<p>(3) 30-day Expedited Home Study: <i>(Permitted only when a specific child has been identified for adoption and placement is imminent, or with the approval of Adoptions Together Clinical Director)</i></p>	<p>\$ 2,300</p>
<p>(4) Adoption Together Placement Clients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Update of Domestic and International Program Clients • Subsequent Placement Home Study 	<p>\$250 \$900</p>
<p>(5) Home Study Plus Client Fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Update of Domestic Adoptions Together Home Study • Annual Update of International Adoptions Together Home Study • Expedited Annual Update • Subsequent Placement/Adoptions Together Home Study • Interim Update of Adoptions Together Home Study 	<p>\$500 - 700 \$500 - 700 To be determined \$900 \$200</p>
<p>(6) Home Study Conversions (from Other Agencies to Adoptions Together):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Non-Adoptions Together Home Study • Update of Home Study from another Agency • Subsequent Placement/ Non-Adoptions Together Study 	<p>\$115 To be determined \$1,150</p>
<p>(7) Changes to Adoptions Together Home Study:</p>	<p>\$50 - \$300</p>
<p>(8) Post Placement Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Post Placement Supervision <i>(Includes 3 visits and reports)</i> • Additional Post Placement Supervision per report • Post Placement Supervision Report and Tracking • Expedited Post Placement Supervision per report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>(Charged when report is required with less than 30 days notice)</i> • Post Placement Supervisory Telephone Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>(When required by court or placing agency)</i> • Post Placement Supervisory Telephone Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>(When required by court or placing agency)</i> • Post Placement Supervision Report for additional child 	<p>\$1,050 \$350 \$370 per report \$475 \$50 (No Report) \$100 (with Report) \$50 - \$175</p>
<p>(9) Court Finalization Reports <i>(Not required in all states)</i></p>	<p>\$550 (One Report) \$275 (For Each Additional Child)</p>
<p>(10) Mileage Fee Roundtrip <i>(Charged to applicants who live more than 50 miles from Baltimore, Silver Spring or Herndon offices)</i></p>	<p>\$120</p>
<p>(11) Home Study Plus Document Preparation Fee</p>	<p>\$50</p>
<p>(12) Tracking Home Study and Clearance Update Requirements for Home Study Plus Clients</p>	<p>\$100 annual fee</p>
<p>(13) Administrative Fee for Processing Refunds</p>	<p>\$25</p>
<p>(14) Returned check fee</p>	<p>\$35</p>

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CENTER FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

The **Center for Adoptive Families (CAF)** provides specialized support, education, and training to families and professionals across the country. Families built through adoption, kinship, and foster care often face challenges during their lifetime, and need expert assistance to provide a healthy home for their children. Since 1992, CAF has been providing quality counseling services, support groups, and professional trainings at the local and national levels. CAF staff consists of master's-level mental health professionals, educational specialists, and certified mediators with expertise in adoption issues. We offer services in various locations throughout Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC, as well as professional trainings nationwide. For detailed information, please visit our website at www.centerforadoptivefamilies.org

Contact: 301-422-5110 or caf@adoptionstogether.org

Individual, couples, and family counseling

- ♥ General adoption issues
- ♥ Attachment difficulties
- ♥ Depression/anxiety
- ♥ Infertility
- ♥ Behavior challenges
- ♥ Birthparent counseling
- ♥ Search and reunion

Educational Counseling

Private sessions provide families with expert advice around common adoption issues, such as:

- ♥ How to Talk to Your Children About Adoption
- ♥ Accessing Appropriate School Services
- ♥ Transracial Adoption

Adoption Preparation Seminars

- ♥ The ABC's of Adoption Seminar (for prospective adoptive parents)
- ♥ Domestic adoption
- ♥ International adoption
- ♥ Finalizing/re-finalizing adoption

Support and Education Groups

- ♥ Kids Connection - just for children, ages 7 to 12
- ♥ Project Succeed - for parents
- ♥ Super-Parenting - for parents of challenging children

Professional Development

Since 1993, CAF has trained human services and medical professionals, across the country, on clinical and adoption-related issues. We offer services in various locations throughout Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC, as well as professional trainings nationwide.

Training and seminar topics include:

- ♥ General adoption issues
- ♥ Attachment disorder and clinical issues
- ♥ International adoption issues
- ♥ Adoption and the older child
- ♥ Transracial placement considerations
- ♥ Therapeutic parenting
- ♥ School programs for educators
- ♥ Post-adoption program development

Mediation Services

Our expert mediation services help clarify and negotiate mutual benefits and responsibilities for open adoption. Our certified mediators have completed specialized training in adoption to assist adoptive parents and birth parents in relationships that enrich and support their child's well being.

APPLICATION



Date Submitted: _____

HOME STUDY PLUS SERVICES

(You are requesting a home study plus services with Adoptions Together and either have selected another agency for placement and/or are undecided at this time.)

- Domestic Infant
- International* (Country _____)
_____ Placing agency if known

**Adoptions Together will no longer be providing Home Study Plus Services to families adopting from Russia and Azerbaijan..*

HOME STUDY & PLACEMENT WITH *ADOPTIONS TOGETHER*

- AdoptionWorks
- Domestic Infant
- International - _____ Country

PLACEMENT ONLY (HOME STUDY COMPLETED BY OTHER AGENCY)

- International - Submit this completed application with the home study.
- Domestic Infant - Submit this completed application with the home study.

**The law prohibits unmarried couples from adopting in Virginia. Therefore, AT is not permitted to conduct home studies for unmarried couples.*

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ADOPTIONS TOGETHER?

- Website
- Yellow Pages
- Advertisement _____
- Brochure/Flyer
- Referral by friends/family members
Who? _____
- Other _____

10230 New Hampshire Avenue
Suite 200
Silver Spring, MD 20903
(301) 439-2900
Fax (301) 439-9334

5750 Executive Drive
Suite 107
Baltimore, MD 21228
(410) 869-0620
Fax (410) 869-8419

900 Varnum Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 526-4802
Fax (202) 526-4803

419 7th Street N.W.
Suite 201
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 628-7420

481A Carlisle Drive
Herndon, VA 20170
(703) 689-0404
Fax (703) 689-9488

Please note: If additional space is needed to answer any question(s), refer to the last page of this application. A blank lined sheet has been provided for you.

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (use APPLICANT 2 for 2nd member of couple)

APPLICANT 1		APPLICANT 2	
First Name:		First Name:	
Last Name:		Last Name:	
Date of Birth: (m/d/y)		Date of Birth: (m/d/y)	
Age:		Age:	
Soc. Sec. #		Soc. Sec. #	
Street Address:		Street Address:	
City:		City:	
State, Zip:		State, Zip:	
US Citizen:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	US Citizen:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
County of Residence:		County of Residence:	
Length of Residence:		Length of Residence:	
E-Mail:		E-Mail:	
Home Phone:		Home Phone:	
Work Phone:		Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:		Cell Phone:	
Previous Street Address:		Previous Street Address:	
City:		City:	
State, Zip:		State, Zip:	

DIVORCED: Please list prior marriages

DIVORCED: Please list prior marriages

Date:		Date:	
Date:		Date:	
Date:		Date:	

ARE YOU (APPLICANT 1 & 2) CURRENTLY MARRIED TO EACH OTHER? YES NO

Date of Marriage:		Place of Marriage:	
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II. EMPLOYMENT (USE APPLICANT 2 FOR 2ND MEMBER OF COUPLE)

APPLICANT 1		APPLICANT 2	
Employer:		Employer:	
Street Address:		Street Address:	
City:		City:	
State, Zip:		State, Zip:	
How Long Employed:		How Long Employed:	
Position Held:		Position Held:	
Annual Salary:		Annual Salary:	
Other Income:		Other Income:	

III. EDUCATION (use APPLICANT 2 for 2nd member of couple)

APPLICANT 1		APPLICANT 2	
Highest Degree:		Highest Degree:	
Year Obtained:		Year Obtained:	
Institution:		Institution:	
High School:		High School:	

IV. CHILDREN LIVING IN THE HOME

Full Name:			D.O.B:	/	/
Adopted?	Finalized?	Adopted Child's Birth Country:			
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	Date and Place of Finalization:			
Full Name:			D.O.B:	/	/
Adopted?	Finalized?	Adopted Child's Birth Country:			
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	Date and Place of Finalization:			
Full Name:			D.O.B:	/	/
Adopted?	Finalized?	Adopted Child's Birth Country:			
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	Date and Place of Finalization:			

V. CHILDREN LIVING OUT OF THE HOME

Full Name:			D.O.B:	/	/
Adopted?	Finalized?	Adopted Child's Birth Country:			
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES →	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES →	Date & Place of Finalization:			
Current Address:					
	Street	City	State	Zip	
CURRENT PHONE:	()				
Full Name:			D.O.B:	/	/
Adopted?	Finalized?	Adopted Child's Birth Country:			
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES →	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES →	Date & Place of Finalization:			
Current Address:					
	Street	City	State	Zip	
CURRENT PHONE:	()				
Full Name:			D.O.B:	/	/
Adopted?	Finalized?	Adopted Child's Birth Country:			
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES →	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES →	Date & Place of Finalization:			
Current Address:					
	Street	City	State	Zip	
CURRENT PHONE:	()				

VI. OTHER ADULTS (over age 18) LIVING IN THE HOME

Name:		Relationship:	
Name:		Relationship:	

VII. EXTENDED FAMILY INFORMATION *(use APPLICANT 2 for 2nd member of couple)*

APPLICANT 1		APPLICANT 2	
Mother:		Mother:	
D.O.B. (m/d/y):		D.O.B. (m/d/y):	
Marital Status:		Marital Status:	
Address:		Address:	

Occupation:		Occupation:	
Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Father:		Father:	
D.O.B. (m/d/y):		D.O.B. (m/d/y):	
Marital Status:		Marital Status:	
Address:		Address:	
Occupation:		Occupation:	
Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Sibling:		Sibling:	
D.O.B. (m/d/y):		D.O.B. (m/d/y):	
Marital Status:		Marital Status:	
Address:		Address:	
Occupation:		Occupation:	
Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Sibling:		Sibling:	
D.O.B. (m/d/y):		D.O.B. (m/d/y):	
Marital Status:		Marital Status:	
Address:		Address:	
Occupation:		Occupation:	
Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Sibling:		Sibling:	
D.O.B. (m/d/y):		D.O.B. (m/d/y):	
Marital Status:		Marital Status:	
Address:		Address:	
Occupation:		Occupation:	
Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Deceased?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

VIII. PERSONAL INFORMATION (use APPLICANT 2 for 2nd member of couple)

APPLICANT 1				APPLICANT 2			
Height:		Weight:		Height:		Weight:	
Hair Color:		Eye Color:		Hair Color:		Eye Color:	
Race:				Race:			

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN:		HAVE YOU EVER BEEN:	
Arrested: (even if expunged OR occurred before 18 yrs. old)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Arrested: (even if expunged OR occurred before 18 yrs. old)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Convicted of a Crime:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Convicted of a Crime:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
In Jail or Prison:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	In Jail or Prison:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

The subject of a Child abuse or Neglect Investigation (even if it did not result in arrest or conviction.)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	The Subject of a Child Abuse or Neglect Investigation (even if it did not result in arrest or conviction.)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
If YES to any of the above, please explain:		If YES to any of the above, please explain:	
Are you under any legal obligation to pay Child Support?		Are you under any legal obligation to pay Child Support?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If YES, are your payments up to date?		If YES, are your payments up to date?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?		Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If YES, please explain:		If YES, please explain:	

IX. PERSONAL HEALTH (use APPLICANT 2 for 2nd member of couple)

APPLICANT 1		APPLICANT 2	
<i>Information on Physician who will complete the Medical Exam for the Home Study.</i>		<i>Information on Physician who will complete the Medical Exam for the Home Study.</i>	
Name:		Name:	
Street Address:		Street Address:	
City:		City:	
State, Zip:		State, Zip:	
Are you currently being treated by a Physician?		Are you currently being treated by a Physician?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If YES, please describe the conditions:		If YES, please describe the conditions:	
Describe any chronic medical conditions:		Describe any chronic medical conditions:	

Please describe all hospitalizations within the last five years:		Please describe all hospitalizations within the last five years:	
Have you ever sought treatment from a mental health professional?		Have you ever sought treatment from a mental health professional?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

If <i>YES</i> , please explain the circumstances, including dates:	If <i>YES</i> please explain the circumstances including dates:
Have you ever participated in a drug or alcohol treatment rehabilitation program?	Have you ever participated in a drug or alcohol treatment rehabilitation program?
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
If <i>YES</i> , please explain:	If <i>YES</i> please explain:

Health Insurance		Health Insurance	
Name of Insurer:		Name of Insurer:	
Policy Number:		Policy Number:	
Effective Date:		Effective Date:	
Life Insurance		Life Insurance	
Kind:		Kind:	
Amount:		Amount:	
Beneficiary:		Beneficiary:	

X. REFERENCES

T Note that all references will be contacted by phone and one will be interviewed in person.

Please list three people who know you well (excluding relatives or clergy)

Name:			
Address:			
Phone:		E-Mail:	

Name:			
Address:			
Phone:		E-Mail:	

Name:			
Address:			
Phone:		E-Mail:	

If you have a child or children living in your home who is attending school, please list below a reference who is a teacher, administrator, or counselor employed by one of the schools attended by one of your children.

Name:			
Address:			
Phone:		E-mail:	

XI. ADOPTION PLANS

Why are you considering adoption at this time?

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Please Describe the Type of Child or Children you would like to adopt:

Sex:		Age:	Project INU Applicants- Please refer to attached supplement
Race:		Other:	

Have you selected a legal guardian for the child you wish to adopt? YES NO

If YES, please provide the following information:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	

Have you attended any adoption related workshops/classes? YES NO

If YES, please list:

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Have you ever worked with another agency? YES NO

If YES, please provide the following information on the agency(ies):

AGENCY 1.

Name:	
Address:	
Service Used:	
Outcome:	

AGENCY 2.

Name:	
Address:	
Service Used:	
Outcome:	

Are you currently working with another agency? YES NO

If YES, please provide the following information on the agency:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	

Please note: A release form must be signed to give Adoptions Together permission to contact all other adoption agencies that you have worked with. The form will be provided to you after your application is received.

XII. HOME STUDY

Would you like Adoptions Together to complete your Home Study?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Have you ever been denied a Home Study?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If YES, please explain:			
<i>If another agency is providing your Home Study, please provide the following information:</i>			
Agency Name:			
Agency Director:			
Agency Address:			
Agency Phone:			
Social Worker's name:		Phone:	
HAS THE HOME STUDY BEEN COMPLETED?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Date Completed:	

Please have a copy of your home study sent to Adoptions Together upon completion.

If Adoptions Together is providing your Home Study:

PLEASE PROVIDE US DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME FROM OUR OFFICE NEAREST YOU:

DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME FROM OUR <i>SILVER SPRING OFFICE</i> (NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE.- NEAR THE WHITE OAK EXIT OFF 495 - WASHINGTON BELTWAY)	

DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME FROM OUR <i>BALTIMORE OFFICE</i> (NEAR INTERSECTION OF RT 40 & INGLESIDE AVE. - NEAR EXIT 15A OFF 695 - BALTIMORE BELTWAY)	

DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME FROM OUR <i>HERNDON, VA OFFICE</i> (481A CARLISLE DRIVE, HERNDON, VA 20170)	

XIII. FEDEX OR UPS ACCOUNT # _____

Adoptions Together IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO DENY THIS APPLICATION IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN IT IS KNOWN TO BE FALSE OR MISLEADING BY THE APPLICANT.

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone who submits a home study application to Adoptions Together will be required to participate in training before his/her home study is approved.

For Domestic Clients: You will be required to complete 8 hours of pre-adoptive training. Your social worker will provide details during your first visit.

For International Clients: New US rules about international adoption require that families complete 10 hours of training and 5 hours for a subsequent placement. Your social worker will provide details during your first visit.

Before the home study is conducted, families should verify that they meet the basic requirements of the country from which they wish to adopt by checking the country requirements on the State Department Web Site http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/country/country_369.html . If the country is not listed on the State Department website, you should check with your placement agency or attorney to ensure that you meet the requirements of the country for international adoption. Families are encouraged to discuss these requirements with their home study social worker during the first home study visit.

I/WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE READ THE STATEMENT ABOVE AND HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND COMPLETE.

SIGNED:

Applicant 1: _____ Date: _____

Applicant 2: _____ Date: _____

**** Please note: If you are a resident of Washington, DC and/or if you are applying to the Adoptions Together International Program, please attach a photograph of each applicant. You may submit a joint photograph if you are applying as a couple. There are no size requirements.

INCLUDE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ADOPTIONS TOGETHER FOR SERVICES REQUESTED:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HOME STUDY SERVICES APPLICATION FEE | \$450 (INITIAL PAYMENT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EXPEDITED HOME STUDY FEE | \$2,300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SUBSEQUENT PLACEMENT OF AT HOME STUDY FEE | \$900 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SUBSEQUENT PLACEMENT OF NON-AT HOME STUDY FEE | \$1,150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ANNUAL UPDATE OF AT HOME STUDY FEE | \$500 |

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

fee

DATE RECEIVED

HOME STUDY - INITIAL PAYMENT WITH APPLICATION	\$450	___ / ___ / ___
EXPEDITED HOME STUDY FEE	\$2,300	___ / ___ / ___
SUBSEQUENT PLACEMENT OF AT HOME STUDY FEE	\$900	___ / ___ / ___
SUBSEQUENT PLACEMENT OF NON-AT HOME STUDY FEE	\$1,150	___ / ___ / ___
ANNUAL UPDATE OF AT HOME STUDY FEE	\$500	___ / ___ / ___

2009 INFORMATION MEETINGS

Please RSVP...seating may be limited.

Domestic Infant, AdoptionWorks, and International Programs

7:00-9:00 PM

Silver Spring

Baltimore

May 19, 2009
July 21, 2009
September 15, 2009
November 17, 2009

June 16, 2009
August 18, 2009
October 20, 2009
December 15, 2009

Domestic Infant, AdoptionWorks, and International Programs

7:00-9:00 PM

Virginia

(Held at the Reston Community Center)

May 7, 2009
June 4, 2009
July 2, 2009
August 6, 2009
September 3, 2009
October 1, 2009
November 5, 2009
December 3, 2009



DIRECTIONS TO OUR BALTIMORE OFFICE

5750 Executive Drive, Suite 107

410-869-0620

- Take 695 (*Baltimore Beltway*) to Route 40 East @ Exit #15-A
- Stay in exit lane and turn RIGHT at second light onto Ingleside Ave.
- Drive 2 blocks to sign: BELTWAY WEST CORPORATE CENTER
- Turn RIGHT into Executive Drive
- Bear Left down hill and park. Our door faces the parking lot: Suite 107

DIRECTIONS TO OUR SILVER SPRING OFFICE

10230 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 200

301-439-2900

- Take 495 (*Washington Beltway*) and
- Exit @ White Oak onto New Hampshire Avenue North
- At the 2nd light, turn LEFT onto Powder Mill Road
- Take first RIGHT into the large parking lot of our building
- Park in front of building and enter through double glass doors
- If doors are locked, dial pound sign and 200 (#200) on keypad found to the right of the doors
- When you hear the "buzz", enter doors - suite 200 is at top of stair

IF TRAVELING SOUTH ON NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE:

- Stay in the right lane traveling south on New Hampshire Ave
- Just before freeway signs, you will see: RE/MAX Realtor Sign at the corner entrance of parking lot for 10230 New Hampshire Avenue
- Turn RIGHT into parking lot at RE/MAX sign
- Park in front of building and enter through double glass doors
- If doors are locked, dial pound sign and 200 (#200) on keypad found to the right of the doors
- When you hear the "buzz", enter doors - suite 200 is at top of stairs



DIRECTIONS TO RCC Hunters Woods
Reston Community Center Hunters Woods
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191

**Please use only the directions on this page;
directions from Mapquest/Google Maps may be
inaccurate**

From Route 495 via Dulles Toll Road (Route 267):

Take Exit 12 to South Reston Parkway
Go south on Reston Parkway
Left on South Lakes Drive
Right on to Colts Neck Road
Go 1/8 mile to the Hunters Wood Village Center entrance on left

From Route 495 via Leesburg Pike (Route 7) going West:

Left on Baron Cameron Ave (Route 606)
Left on Reston Parkway
Left on South Lakes Drive
Right on Colts Neck Road
Go 1/8 mile. The entrance to the Hunters Woods Village Center on left

From Centreville via Route 28

Go North on Route 28
Take Dulles Toll Rd East
Take Exit 12 onto Reston Parkway.
Right on Reston Parkway
Left on South Lakes Drive
Right on Colts Neck Rd
Go 1/8 mile and turn left into Hunters Woods Village Center

From Centreville via Route 50

Go North on Route 28
Exit Route 50 East
Left on Centreville Road
Right on Franklin Farm Road
Left on Fairfax County Parkway
Right onto Sunrise Valley Drive
Right on Colts Neck Road
Go approximately ¼ mile to the Hunters Woods Village Center on the left



Contact Us

We are eager to assist you and answer all your questions about the information in this packet.

Please contact:

Grace Marshburn (MD and DC)

410-402-1106

gmarshburn@adoptionstogether.org

Jessica Sullivan (VA)

703-689-0404

jsullivan@adoptionstogether.org