The Application and Home Study Process

After reviewing the Information Packet you can either request a free Informational Meeting or proceed to completing an application. The application, including forms and payment are then submitted to the agency to initiate the next steps.

Once you have submitted the application and all of your background checks are in process, a Social Worker will call you to set up the Orientation Meeting.

At this initial meeting the Social Worker will provide an orientation to adoption and the home study process. Your Social Worker will answer additional questions you may have at that time about the process.

Several interviews will take place. The number of interviews depends on the type of adoption as well as the length of each meeting. Also the time frame of these interviews depends on the pace that you complete the pre-adoptive education curriculum.

Going through these interviews does not automatically mean that you will be approved to adopt. However, if a family is at a place where the Social Worker cannot recommend approval, then s/he may be able to work with the family on a strengthening plan, depending on the issues, if they want to keep proceeding towards adoption.

The Social Worker will then compile the information and write a draft Home Study report. The Home Study will recommend you for specific child characteristics. You will review the Home Study draft. This is to ensure that all of the information is accurate – as there will be a wealth of information collected.

THE HOME STUDY IS COMPLETE!!!!
Copies will be sent out to the necessary agencies (except for cases of an Independent adoption). For example in the case of international adoption, copies will be sent to your secondary agency, the State, Immigration (USCIS), as well as you for the dossier. When using a secondary Domestic agency, you must ensure they are a LICENSED agency or LICENSED adoption attorney. Obtain a copy of the license and provide it to your Social Worker.

The Home Study is then passed on to the Adoption Supervisor for final approval.