



HOME STUDY PLANNING: STEP BY STEP

Sometimes the home study process can seem overwhelming. The list of documents and requirements can seem exhausting to just look at! Breaking it down to these five steps will make it more manageable and keep you focused on getting through each step, one at a time.

1. **Secure your home study provider.**

Contact your coordinator and get the names of qualified home study providers in your state. Some times you may be working with an agency, other times an independent social worker. Due to differences in state requirements, there is really no one-sized-fits-all home study provider. Remember, you don't have to do the research. We've already done it for you!

2. **Complete the paperwork and compile the requested documents.**

Call your provider and request paperwork to get started. In addition to your autobiographical information, you will need to provide many documents (See [Home Study Requirement Checklist](#) for examples of required documents). Work diligently at completing all requests and compiling all documents so you can return everything to your provider in a timely manner.

3. **Consider your plan to parent, your motivation to adopt, and your adoption preferences.**

It is beneficial to view the home study as a chance to learn about adoption and prepare for parenting. You will likely need to take parenting classes and answer questions about why you want to adopt. As you go through the process, it is a wonderful opportunity to prepare to be parents through adoption.

4. **Prepare your home for your home study and for your child.**

Part of the home study is a home inspection. There will be recommendations (such as gating a pool and stairs) and requirements (such as smoke and carbon monoxide detectors). Your home doesn't have to be completely baby-proofed but this is a great time to prepare for that.

5. **Schedule the home visit and interviews.**

Once the paperwork has been turned in, you will need to schedule a time for the social worker to conduct a home visit and interviews with each of you. Take this opportunity to not just answer questions, but to also ask questions about what to expect in the process or adoption in general. After these are done, you will just wait for your social worker to write up the report, and you will be home study approved!