

AAI Home Study Checklist

Subject	Requirements/Explanation	Completed or N/A
Contacts	Home Visit with all family members living in the home present.	
	Individual Interviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each prospective adoptive parent • Children (3+) in the home full- or part-time • Adults in the home full- or part-time • Children (12+) of applicants who live outside the home 	
	Joint Interview of all family members *Please include type (joint, individual) and date for EACH contact.	
Age	Must be 21 years of age or older. Verification required.	
Marital Status	Verification required. Include any previous marriages/divorces.	
Citizenship Status	Document citizenship status.	
Background Info	Assess background information from a previous home study. If no other home studies have been completed, please state: The clients state they have never been the subject of an unfavorable home study.	
Motivation	Discuss and assess the applicants' motivation for adoption.	
Fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss nature of infertility and assess infertility resolution and their ability to accept and parent a child not born to them. 	
Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss feelings about childhood. • Discuss history of abuse or neglect and resolution of the experiences. 	
Marital & Family Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss quality of marital and family relationships. • Assess stability, strengths and problems in the marriage. • Assess relationships between prospective adoptive parents and their biological children living in or outside the home. 	
Support Systems	Discuss and assess the support systems available to the adoptive family and the support they may receive from these resources.	
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to support a child • Income, expenses and employment history • Verify income and insurance 	
Criminal	Required for anyone over 14 living in the home	
History of Residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document a 10-year residence history • Include address, city, state and length of time at each address 	
Home	Describe home and safety issues.	
Languages	Document the language(s) spoken by each adoptive applicant.	
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, mental and emotional (include substance abuse history) • Document any disability, their adjustment to the disability, and 	

	any limits that it imposes on their ability to care for a child.	
Religion	Evaluate the adoptive applicants on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their willingness to respect and encourage a child's religious affiliation and provide with opportunity for religious and spiritual development. • Document the health protection plan to give a child if religious beliefs prohibit certain medical treatment or state that their religious beliefs do not prohibit medical treatment. 	
Discipline	Discuss and assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of child development and their childcare experience. • Ways they were disciplined as children and reaction to the discipline they received. • Discipline styles and techniques and ability to recognize the need to use different discipline methods to suit different children. 	
Abuse/Neglect	Discuss and assess the applicants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of child abuse and neglect. • Ability to help these children. 	
Adoptee Separation & Loss	Discuss and assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dynamics of separation and loss and the effects of these experiences on children. • Their personal experiences with loss and their processing of those experiences. • Their ability to help children through the grieving process. 	
Birth Parents	Discuss and assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity and reactions to birth parents. • Sensitivity to and acceptance of a child's feelings about his parents and siblings and their ability to help the child deal with those feelings. • Reactions to open adoption and future contact between the child and his biological family. 	
Attitudes Toward Adoption	Discuss and assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The attitudes of family members and other household members towards adoption. • Their involvement in the care of the child. 	
Expectations	Discuss and assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their expectations of the child and the flexibility of those in relation to the child's actual needs and abilities. • Their capacities to recognize and emphasize the strengths and achievements of the child. • Willingness and ability to accept special needs and/or disabilities of the child they adopt. 	
Recommendations	Include the following and be specific : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific age (0-6 weeks; 0-3 months) • Gender (male, female or either) • Number (singleton, twins, sibling group) • Race 	