Dear Applicants,

We’re excited with you about your plans for adoption and will be happy to provide home study services for you. Keep in mind that adoption is a wonderful, although frustrating experience. The fee for a Domestic Home Study is $2,500 plus travel expenses (billed at the current government mileage allowance). Payment in full is expected when the process begins. The state of Illinois requires that all Home Studies be updated annually. Home Study updates will be mandatory while waiting for the placement of a child.

If you should choose to work with our agency, please return the enclosed application along with a non-refundable application fee of $300 and a non-refundable background registry search fee of $150. Each person living in the household age 17 and up will need to be fingerprinted. To be fingerprinted, you will need to visit [www.accuratebiometrics.com](http://www.accuratebiometrics.com) to see when they will be in your area. **You should take the “Walk-In Fingerprint Applicant” form, the Accurate Biometrics release consent form, as well as a photo ID authorizing each person to be printed. You will also need to take a $56 payment for each person being printed.** For each person printed, you will receive a receipt, which should be returned with a copy of your signed Accurate Biometrics release consent form, and your application and fees.

If your application is approved, we will mail you a Home Study packet. Then, when we have received all your returned home study paperwork and payment of the $2,500 Home Study fee, we will contact you to schedule your home study visits.

The purpose of the home study is to get to know you, your feelings about parenthood, motivation for adoption, etc., and to confirm your home meets licensing standards. During our visits, you and your spouse will be interviewed individually as well as together. Combined, the visits usually take 4-6 hours. Fourteen hours of pre-adopt training must be completed by each adoptive parent prior to the completion of the home study. Families are encouraged to attend the training we hold at our agency, which is scheduled once every quarter. **You may attend another training, just keep in mind that four hours of the training must be in person. The in-person, face-to-face training must be provided by an agency that is certified with the state of Illinois - completing all training on-line is no longer acceptable.** However, you may complete 10 hours of online training at adoptionlearningpartners.org. This is the only website approved by the state of Illinois. All families are also required to have CPR training, which includes infant CPR. The CPR training can be counted in the total of the 14 hours, but does not fulfill the in-person training requirement.

Post-placement visits are completed once a child has been placed in your home. The number of post-placement visits varies depending on the country you adopt from. The fee is $300 (plus travel expenses) for each visit.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Regina Thompson

Program Manager

Faith Adoption Ministry

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