La Vida International
Helping with a heart . . . one child at a time

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INDEPENDENT HOME STUDY INFORMATION

A home study consists of two interrelated efforts; a process of getting to know you personally and following up this process with the collection of paperwork and a written report. This state required written report forms the basis from which the adoption can be completed. The cost of an independent home study is $2,300.00 (full home study) or $1,800 (an update to an existing study if permitted).

For a full home study there are 2 visits that will be conducted in your home by a social worker. Some country adoption administrations require 4 visits in which case the fee is $2,550. Children (of a verbal age) and adult household members will be included in the in-home visits. During this process, we will explore together your feelings about adoption, child rearing, life experiences, family support systems, etc. We will also discuss in detail your reasons for wanting to adopt, expectations of the adoption process, and issues surrounding parenting and family interactions. For a home study update, 1 or 2 visits may be conducted.

In addition to your home visits, certain paperwork must be completed before your home study is approved. The forms that will be needed for completion of a home study included, medical examinations; financial information; police and child abuse clearances for each state in which you have resided for the past 5 years; state required FBI fingerprint clearances, references, verification of employment; birth certificates; divorce records (if applicable); and other miscellaneous information. The supporting information also includes an autobiography. This autobiography should portray a realistic picture of you, the other members of your family (if applicable), childhood up-bringing, etc. You will be provided with a guideline for completing your autobiography.

Following personal meetings and a brief tour of your home, a written document is prepared. This document is a necessary prerequisite to the placement of a child and can generally be completed within 30 days of your home visits. This document is a necessary prerequisite to the placement of a child. It is generally accepted by other sources as a valid assessment of the adopting family. In some cases, your placing agency will request a certain written format from your home study agency. This format needs to be provided to us prior to your social worker visitation. Please contact your placing agency to inquire about any special instructions or guidelines they may have about the home study and forward this information to La Vida.

La Vida also offers post-placement supervisory reports after the child is adopted. The cost is $500 for each visit and pre-payment for all anticipated visits is required. If you wish La Vida to perform this service please let us know.

We look forward to working together with your family to help you to reach your goal of adoption. Please do not hesitate to write or call with any questions that you may have.