

[LETTERHEAD]

NAME:

[INDIA ONLY: CANNOT EXCEED SIXTEEN PAGES, INCLUDING COVERSHEET.]

ADDRESS

FAMILY COMPOSITION

Husband:
Birth Date: Date (age XX)
Education:
Occupation:
Income:

Wife:
Birth Date: Date (age XX)
Education:
Occupation:
Income:

Children in the home
Name
Birth Date: (age XX)
Name
Birth Date: (age XX)

MARRIAGE Date (XX years)

RELIGION

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

CHILD DESIRED: (country/program, ethnic background, age, gender, health condition, etc.)

Summarize: age, gender, mild/moderate/severe/ special needs. Language may include “potential for normal growth and development.” *Exclude full detailed openness on range of diagnoses or circumstances.* Address later in **placement considerations.**

HOME STUDY

Name

Address

Address

Telephone (Home)

Telephone (Work - Mother)

Telephone (Work – Father)

Telephone (Mobile - Mother)

Telephone (Mobile – Father)

CONTACTS & TRAINING:

Pre-Application Interview: Date, Names of those present and Location of Meeting

Training: Date , Names of those participated

Joint Interview: Date, Names of those present and Location

Individual Interview: Date, Name and Location

Individual Interview: Date, Name and Location

Other Adult (if applicable) Date, Name and Location

Reference Interview (if applicable): Date , Name and Location

Home Visit: Date, Names of those present (include children and other household members if applicable)

[KOREA ONLY: Requires that two visits take place in the home. These two meetings can count toward total of four HS meetings.]

Four face-to-face visits are required, including one joint meeting, one individual meeting with each parent and a home visit. In case of a person adopting as a single, only three visits are required.

[CHINA ONLY:

China home studies must also include: the length of the meeting and a description of the topics covered.]

SUMMARY:

Introductory paragraph re: couple or individual, including:

Name of Applicant(s) and ages

Length of marriage (if applicable)

Children already in the home? Names, ages, & whether by birth or adoption
Summary of applicants' reasons for seeking to adopt (if infertility, please give
concise, respectful summary)

Brief summary of child(ren) they are seeking to adopt, including country/program,
ethnicity, age, sex of child, special needs description. *Do not include full list of placement
considerations here.*

Discussion about the prospective adoptive parents' motivation to adopt from the specific
program/country.

The applicants' responses to questions of whether they have been previously rejected for
a home study, or have started a home study without completion, or have ever been the
subject of an unfavorable home study, or have relinquished custody of any child.

If previously rejected, started without completion or unfavorable, provide an explanation
on reason and copy of previous rejection and/or unfavorable home study.

If the family has received a favorable home study and successfully adopted, list the
purpose of the home study, date of approval, date of placement and agency involved.

When there is a history of relinquishing or receiving custody of a child within state/local
authorities and following state/local process, please include general information,
including date, placement, circumstances, process, outcome, etc.

When there is a history of relinquishing or receiving custody of a child outside of
state/local authorities or outside of state/local process, please discuss with Barker staff
since it will likely be a barrier for a favorable home study.

Example: Mr. and Mrs. Doe were asked whether they had been previously rejected for a
home study, or have started a home study without completion, or had ever been the
subject of an unfavorable home study. To each question, Mr. and Mrs. Doe answered
"no."]

ADOPTIVE FATHER (For same sex couples please title this section Adoptive Parent)

Physical Description and Personality

Description of personality/temperament from social worker's perspective; may also
include how client perceives himself

Age, weight, height, hair color, eye color, race and complexion. (Use the weight and
height reported on medical exam, not those listed as a self-report on the adoption
application.)

Interests and hobbies

Family History

Prospective adoptive father's full name (and maiden name or any previous names used),
date and place of birth (verified). In case of a naturalized citizen or non U.S. citizen, alien

registration number if applicable. [NOTE: Specify city, state of birth based on birth certificate.] (The social worker must view the original documents on site in order to provide the needed verification)

Client's position in family/sibling birth order.

Description of client's mother and father: names, occupations, personalities and character traits; health; relationship with client; client's evaluation of his parents' marriage and the client's perception and feelings about their role/jobs parents. Provide a *summary* of the applicant's formative years – where raised, memories, interests, shaping experiences, and sibling relationships, parents' role in disciplining and encouraging growth throughout their childhood

Adolescent years – school, activities, relationships

Parents' and siblings' current status and quality of current relationship with applicant

His extended family's attitude toward adoption – welcoming of child by adoption

Education and Work Experience

Colleges attended, dates graduated, degrees obtained, and major field of study. If high school is terminal education, state name of HS and year graduated. Brief discussion of shaping experiences in college.

Concise summary of any employment prior to current job. (e.g., Past work history included positions with X, Y, and Z, primarily in the field of _____.) It is not necessary to include the dates of all previous employment. Move as quickly as possible to current employment, unless he very recently began his current work, in which case more discussion of previous job is needed.

Discuss current employment, job title, main responsibilities, salary, prospects for continued employment, and client's current job satisfaction and/or career goals. Confirm whether parent is currently planning to stay in or change jobs.

Amount of paternity leave he plans to take upon placement of the child.

Previous Marriage

If no previous marriage, state such.

Previous marriages (if applicable) – Brief information re: previous marriage, including name of former spouse, date and place of marriage (verified) and of divorce(s)(verified). General reason for divorce (or death or annulment);

How the client *grew* through this experience/lessons learned;

Statement that “no children were born to this union,” or statement regarding children born during previous marriages. Child support obligations?

ADOPTIVE MOTHER (For same sex couples please title this section Adoptive Parent)

Physical Description and Personality

Description of personality/temperament from social worker's perspective; may also include how client perceives herself

Age, weight, height, hair color, eye color, race and complexion. (Use the weight and height reported on medical exam, not those listed as a self-report on the adoption application.)

Interests and hobbies

Family History

Prospective adoptive mother's full name (and maiden name or any previous names used), date and place of birth (verified). In case of a naturalized citizen or non U.S. citizen, alien registration number if applicable. [NOTE: Specify city, state of birth based on birth certificate.] (The social worker must view the original documents on site in order to provide the needed verification)

Client's position in family/sibling birth order.

Description of client's mother and father: names, occupations, character traits, quality of relationship with client; client's evaluation of her parents' marriage

Provide a *summary* of the applicant's formative years – where raised, memories, interests, shaping experiences, and sibling relationships, parents' role in disciplining and encouraging growth throughout their childhood

Adolescent years – school, activities, relationships

Parents' and siblings' current status and quality of current relationship with applicant

Her extended family's attitude toward adoption – welcoming of child by adoption

Education and Work Experience

Colleges attended, dates graduated, degrees obtained, and major field of study. If only high school, state name of HS and year graduated. Brief discussion of major shaping experiences in college.

Concise summary of any employment prior to current job. (e.g., Past work history included positions with X, Y, and Z, primarily in the field of _____.) It is not necessary to include the dates of all previous employment. Move as quickly as possible to current employment, unless he very recently began his current work, in which case more discussion of previous job is needed. Move as quickly as possible to current employment, unless she recently began new employment, in which case more discussion of previous work is necessitated.

Discuss current employment, job title, main responsibilities, salary, prospects for continued employment, and client's current job satisfaction and/or career goals. Confirm whether parent is currently planning to stay in or change jobs.

Amount of maternity leave she plans to take upon placement of child.

Previous Marriage

If no previous marriage, state such.

Previous marriages (if applicable) – Brief information re: previous marriage, including name of former spouse, date and place of marriage (verified) and of divorce(s)(verified). General reason for divorce (or death or annulment); How the client *grew* through this experience/lessons learned; Statement that “no children were born to this union,” or statement regarding children born during previous marriages. Child support obligations?

MARRIAGE

(Client’s Name) and (Client’s Name) were married on (date) in (city/state) (verified). Description of how they met and what attracted them to each other. Courtship. Strengths brought by each to the marriage. Communication styles, including conflict resolution. Challenges they have faced together (including infertility, if applicable); therapy Areas they see for future growth in the marriage Support systems/network Current family life and anticipated changes after child arrives Conclude with as strong a statement as possible concerning your assessment of strength and stability of current marriage.

FAMILY LIFE (*For single applicants only, in lieu of marriage section*)

Statement regarding fact that applicant is currently not married and is or is not presently in a serious relationship. (Previous marriages have already been discussed but can again be referenced.) Describe support network and resources – especially important for single applicants. Discuss positive role models of opposite sex that will be available to the child. Discuss client’s awareness of single parent issues for child. Current family life and anticipated changes after child arrives.

CHILDREN IN THE HOME (if there are no children in the home, please state such)

Begin with statement such as: The Smiths are the parents of one daughter/son, (full name), born (date), in (state/country where born) (verified), child’s alien registration number (if any). If more than one child, list children in chronological order, beginning with the oldest.

If children joined the family by adoption, add the following variation to the information on child: The Smiths are the parents of one daughter/son, (full name), born (date), born in (city, country), and adopted in (jurisdiction of final decree) on (date) (verified). Child’s alien registration number (can be found on child’s Certificate of Citizenship.)

Description of each child – based on written information, parents’ reporting, and social worker’s observation and including current wellbeing (physical, mental, emotional, and behavioral health), special needs (if any), personality, current school setting, interests and hobbies. When asked, Mr. and Mrs. Smith (and the child, if age appropriate) stated that

(child's name) has no history of criminal activity, charge, or arrest. (If there is a criminal history, please describe in detail and include a criminal check and/or disposition if allowed by State law. If not allowed by State law, please state so.)

If children are aware of adoption plans, include statement about how the children feel about the prospect of a younger/older sibling, as the case may be. How do parents intend to help children already in the home transition/adjust?

Include discussion on how the characteristics of the children would impact the overall suitability of the home and the family's ability to care for additional children. also include social worker's assessment of any problem areas/recommended restrictions (if any) on the characteristics of the child to be placed in the home, if applicable.

If child is living with another parent, lives in the home occasionally (for example, shared custody situation) or is away at college describe living arrangements.

[CHINA only:

Address the adoptive parents' child's attitude towards adoption and their openness to a sibling of Chinese (or other country/race) heritage, when the child already in the home is 10 years or older.]

CHILDREN LIVING OUTSIDE THE HOME (if there are no children living outside the home, please state such.)

ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTING

Discuss the children they are already parenting. If applicant(s) have no children, especially important to describe their experiences/interaction with children (babysitting, job/volunteer experience with kids; relatives' and friends' children, etc.)

General parenting philosophy and strategies

Role models they plan to emulate in parenting

Discipline – general discussion of their philosophy;

Conclude the discussion of discipline with Corporal Punishment Statement acknowledgement:

“(Client's name) and (Client's name) signed the Agency's corporal punishment statement that prohibits inflicting pain or discomfort on a child as a method of teaching or punishing.”

Anticipated childcare plan following the adoption must be addressed. Include the following language with childcare plans:

“(Names) have read and understood the Barker Six Week Policy, and understand the importance of directly meeting the needs of their child for the first six weeks after placement. They understand that this policy is in place to promote attachment and bonding with their child, and that they may not utilize childcare in the first six weeks after placement.”

[SPECIAL NEEDS AND/OR OLDER CHILDREN ADOPTIONS ONLY:

Discussions on the specific preparation for special needs or an older child and the qualifications for the family to adopt such a child.]

For international, please include **detailed** information about family's plan to expose child to their birth culture.]

OTHER ADULT IN HOME (if no other adult in home, please state such)

The contractor must conduct an in person interview with any other adult member in the household to assess and report on the following:

General identifying formation about the person, including DOB, POB, alien registration number (if any); their relationship to applicant(s). Reason that this individual lives in the household.

Career; personality; interests;

Attitude towards adoption.

Health (results of medical exam dated within six months of the finalization of the home study). General health and free of communicable diseases.

Clearances – Police, FBI, child protective services

USCIS questions re: history of substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse (including unregulated custody transfer), domestic violence, as an offender, etc. in similar format to that used for discussion of primary applicants' clearances and history) if it is determined that the individual's alcohol or drug use is substance abuse, the substance abuse must be addressed, including rehabilitation.

CPS clearances for all the states/countries the adult household member has lived since his/her 18th birthday. (Use similar language to that used for primary applicants.)

The USCIS questions on previous rejection for home study, started a home study without completion and unfavorable home study. (Use similar language to that used for primary applicants.)

On health, add assessment of physical, mental and emotional health of the adult household member. Also assess behavioral issues that could be a concern in light of the future adopted child joining the family.

HOME AND COMMUNITY

Description of home – size, location, number of rooms, description of rooms, etc.

Room selected for the child – adequate in size?

Community – Description of neighborhood and available resources. (e.g. Proximity to schools, hospitals, recreational facilities, etc.)

If community is known for diversity, please mention.

Summary re: general conditions and safety, such as: "Housekeeping standards are excellent, and no safety hazards were noted."

Summary re: firearms, such as “The (Names) were asked if there were any firearms in the home or on the premises, and they each responded “no.” Or: The family possesses firearms which are stored in a locked cabinet not accessible to children. Ammunition is stored in a locked place separate from the firearms.” Provide a statement about the PAPs signing Barker’s weapons policy. NOTE: worker is person who verifies weapons are appropriately secured

Discuss the family’s evacuation plan that was submitted with the HS materials (if applicable).

Statement re: household pets being current on rabies and other immunizations

Anticipated community’s acceptance of a foreign born child. This includes discussion on anticipated acceptance of a child from the culture the family is seeking to adopt from.]

USCIS requires: Statement that the home meets/exceeds the state requirements for a safe and suitable accommodations for a child & Assessment of the suitability of home and community for a child adopted internationally.]

FINANCES

Note to Social Workers: Please be sure to carefully discuss this section with the family and get a sense of their understanding and ability to plan for and pay for all of the costs associated with adoption and parenting. Help them to anticipate the costs of childcare, medical care, and other factors that may be unique to the child(ren) they are seeking to adopt. If considering adoption siblings or twins, please assess for financial and logistic resources sufficient to do so.

The family’s adjusted gross income in (Year)) was (amount) according to the 1040 Tax Forms submitted by Mr. and Mrs. (family name). List current incomes separately for each adoptive parent. Salaries, assets and liabilities were verified using letters from employers, financial statements, bank letters, tax forms and the family’s self report, The family’s total assets: approximate amount. List of assets (real estate properties, bank accounts, investments, automobiles, personal properties, etc.). The family’s total liabilities. List of significant debts, including but not limited mortgage payment, automobile payment, bank loans, student loans and other loans, etc. List the family’s net worth.

The family’s monthly income versus monthly expenditures, including car payment, mortgage payment, insurance payments, utilities, childcare and miscellaneous expenses, etc. This leaves a monthly remaining discretionary of \$XXX.

(Family name) are well-able to support a child with this remaining income.

The family has life insurance in the amounts of (\$), with (wife’s name) as beneficiary, and (\$) with (husband’s name) as beneficiary. If the family does not yet have life insurance or a beneficiary noted on an existing policy is someone other than the co-

adopting parent, address this at the first meeting so that changes can occur by the time of home study finalization. (Please note, in very rare cases of extreme net-worth, a family may not need to have life insurance. This is only the case if the child/family lifestyle can remain the same with the loss of an income due to pre-mature death. Otherwise, Barker requires each parent have a life insurance policy).

The family has health insurance, which covers their adopted children and is effective upon placement without limitations for pre-existing conditions.

The (Name) family meets or exceeds state financial guidelines for adoption. Assessment of family's financial stability and suitability to care for an adopted child.

GUARDIANSHIP

In the unlikely event that the adoptive parents become unable to care for their child/children, the applicants, Mr. and Mrs. X have designated (names) of (city/state) to serve as the legal guardians for the child they plan to adopt, and the (name of guardians) have consented. State relationship of applicants to guardians (e.g., sibling, close friend, etc.).

Note to social workers: Barker requires that when naming a person who has a spouse, both spouses *must* be named and agree to be guardians. The home study social worker must also call the guardian to seek their feedback about: 1. Their understanding of the population of children we serve; 2. Their willingness to serve in this role; and 3. Their support of the adoptive parents' adoption. (If calling the guardian is not required by your state regulation, please disregard.)

CHINA ONLY:

(do not seek or provide this level of detail for non-China adoptions), guardianship section must include: guardians' names and ages; health status; employment; children in family (how many/how old); statement that the family has more than adequate income to support another child (annual income and net worth preferred, but not mandatory); statement that guardians have agreed to the responsibility; and the guardians' attitude towards adoption.

Assessment on the guardians' suitability to assume the responsibility.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH *(includes medicals on all family members, but not for "Other Adult in Home")*

(Applicant #1 Name) was examined by (Physician's name, credential, and location of office) on (month/day/yr), and was found to be in (excellent, good, fair, poor) physical and mental health, with a normal life expectancy. Moreover, the medical test results indicate that NAME is free of communicable diseases, and he presents as being emotionally and mentally healthy. Dr. NAME states that NAME has no indication of drug or alcohol abuse, depression or mental illness, domestic violence, or physical abuse.

When applicable, brief discussion of any significant physical/mental health issues, including direct quotes from specialists as appropriate, especially insofar as the professionals support the adoption. Medications; Surgeries; abnormal results (If no medications, surgeries, etc. state such). Conclude with statement such as: (Client's name) does not condone the use of illegal substances, nor does he have a history of alcohol abuse. He has no communicable diseases or medical issues that would impact his parenting ability.

USCIS requires that if it is determined that the individual's alcohol or drug use is substance abuse, the substance abuse must be addressed, including rehabilitation. USCIS requires assessment on applicants' physical, mental and emotional suitability of caring for a child. The statement may read as follows:

It is this worker's assessment that NAME is emotionally, physically, and mentally stable and doesn't present with any behavioral issues that would prevent him from providing a loving home for any child placed in this family. No referrals to medical or mental health professionals were made.

If social worker makes any referrals, you must include a copy of the report resulting from each referral and the social worker must give an assessment of the impact of the report on the suitability of the parent.]

(Applicant #2 Name) was examined by (Physician's name, credential, and location of office) on (month/day/yr), and was found to be in (excellent, good, fair, poor) physical and mental health, with a normal life expectancy. Moreover, the medical test results indicate that NAME is free of communicable diseases, and he presents as being emotionally and mentally healthy. Dr. NAME states that NAME has no indication of drug or alcohol abuse, depression or mental illness, domestic violence, or physical abuse. If applicable, brief discussion of any significant physical/mental health issues, including direct quotes from specialists as appropriate, especially insofar as the professionals support the adoption. Conclude with statement such as: (Client's name) does not condone the use of illegal substances, nor does she have a history of alcohol abuse. She has no communicable diseases or issues that would impact her parenting ability.

It is this worker's assessment that NAME is emotionally, physically, and mentally stable and doesn't present with any behavioral issues that would prevent him from providing a loving home for any child placed in this family. No referrals to medical or mental health professionals were made.

If social worker makes any referrals, you must include a copy of the report resulting from each referral and the social worker must give an assessment of the impact of the report on the suitability of the parent.]

A medical exam was completed for (Child's name) on (Date) by (Physician's name, credential, location of office). The evaluation indicates that (Child's name) X's routine inoculations are current, he/she is free of communicable diseases, and his/her physical and emotional development are within the normal range.

Repeat for each child in home.

[CHINA ONLY:]

China requires all physical and psychological illnesses, medications, medical procedures, abnormal results mentioned on the medical form to be well addressed in home study.]

If any outside assessment/evaluation was requested or utilized (i.e., substance abuse evaluation or psychological evaluation), attach a copy of the report to the study. Also, include social worker's assessment of the impact of the report on the suitability of the applicant to adopt. (e.g. In light of the report, this social worker continues to support the adoption plan of the (Name) family. When there is recommended restriction from the report, state that the social worker concurs with the recommendation.)]

[INDIA ONLY:]

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION (The evaluation needs to be done on the prospective adoptive parents and should include assessment as appropriate of interpersonal relationships with other people living in the home.)

In accordance with India's Central Adoption Registration Authority guidelines, _____ and _____ (prospective adoptive parents) underwent a psychological evaluation on ____ (date). The evaluation was administered by Dr. _____, trained psychologist, licensed in the state of _____ and it includes a personal interview focused on assessing emotional stability, decision making/planning skills, parenting ability, readiness/motivation for adoption, as well as an evaluation of the stress and frustration tolerance of the prospective adoptive parents.

Briefly summarize evaluation's conclusions regarding the applicants' psychological health, emotional stability, and suitability and readiness to parent. Please then state your general assessment on the conclusions.

RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION AND ETHICAL CODE

Members of organized religious group? Active or just loose affiliation? Does the religious group constitute an important support system for the family?

Ethical principles under-girding their lives? "Life philosophy" can be another way to speak about this subject.

Expectations for children vis-a-vis-s religion and/or moral and ethical code. When the child is older, discuss the parents' willingness to accommodate the child's religious beliefs and/or practices.

[KOREA only:

Assess and discuss the family's willingness to respect their adopted child's right to make their own decision about religion]

REFERENCES

Four letters of reference were received on behalf of the (family name). In addition, the social worker interviewed two (three) of the references via telephone and met with one reference in person. (This requirement is for Barker workers - for out of area agencies, please have the social worker call at least one reference). The following individuals submitted letters of recommendation:

*Name (interviewed on mo/day/yr)
Address

Name (telephone contact on mo/day/yr)
Address

Name (telephone contact on mo/day/yr)
Address

Name (if applicants have school-age child, Grades K and up, one reference
Address must be a teacher, counselor, or administrator in child's current school. (The social worker should consult with the program director in the event that the school will not provide a reference) *If your agency does not collect school based references, please let Barker staff know so that we may collect this.

These individuals have known (applicants' names) for between (#) and (#) years. All recommend them as individuals of the highest character and integrity who would make wonderful parents for any child placed in their home.

[CHINA only:

China requires one school/teacher reference when there is a school age child in the home and references from adult children when applicable.]

CRIMINAL AND CHILD ABUSE CLEARANCES (CPS checks must be included for all jurisdictions in which the clients resided within the last five years—see note below about additional requirements for international cases).

As part of its routine procedures, *the [agency name]* conducted criminal background checks on the applicants. Clearances were received from the (name of the local police office) for (Name) on (Date) and for (Name) on (Date). FBI clearances were received for (Name) on (Date) and for (Name) on (Date). Child abuse clearances were received from the (name of the local child welfare department) for (Name) on (Date) and for (Name) on (Date). No criminal record or child abuse/neglect listings were found.

In addition, (Name) and (Name) individually replied “no” to the following questions:

- a. Have you ever been arrested or convicted, whether in the United States or abroad?
- b. Do you have a history of being convicted of child abuse, sexual abuse, or domestic violence, whether in the United States or abroad?
- c. Do you have a history of alcohol, drug or substance abuse, whether in the United States or abroad?

As required by the USCIS regulations (8 CFR 204.311 (i), the Barker Adoption Foundation has also obtained child abuse clearances from all the states (countries) where (Name) and (Name) (also list other adult household members if applicable) have resided in since their 18th birthday. No record was found.

NOTE: Review all locations applicant has resided for any length of time since age 18 and ensure that clearances information is included for each of these locations. (Same rule applies to other adult living in the home.)

For each person, list the states/countries where he/she has resided and where a child abuse clearance was received and the date of clearance.

In the case that the applicant has lived in a country where there is no child abuse registry, please state such. For a list of countries where a child abuse registry is not available, please visit this site:

<https://www.uscis.gov/adoption/home-study-information/child-abuse-registries-foreign-countries-and-geographic-entities>

A child abuse registry is not “available” if the state or foreign country will not release the information to the agency or the clients; or if it has been at least six months of attempting to obtain. This needs to be noted in the home study with written proof on file.

When asked, (Name) and (Name) each responded that they do not have histories as offenders, whether in the United States or abroad, of substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, or domestic violence, even if such history did not result in an arrest or conviction.

When asked, (Name) and (Name) each responded that they do not have histories of transferring or receiving permanent custody of a child outside of the state/local authorities or outside of the state/local process.

When there is a history of abuse, violence and/or criminal history, certain documentation is required: *Requirements on information concerning history of abuse and violence and/or criminal record:

1. Information and date of each occurrence
2. Certified copy of the documentation showing final disposition of each incident, which resulted in arrest, indictment, conviction and /or any other judicial judgment or administrative action.
3. Signed statement from the applicant giving details including mitigating circumstances, if any, about each incident. For Hague cases, the statement needs to be signed under Penalty of Perjury.
4. Applies to any additional adult members of the household

* Requirements on evidence of rehabilitation:

1. discussion of rehabilitation
2. evaluation of the seriousness of the arrest(s), conviction(s), or history of abuse
3. number of such incidents
4. length of time since the last incident
5. any counseling or rehabilitation programs which have been successfully completed
6. evidence of rehabilitation by an appropriate licensed professional
7. all facts and circumstances which were considered
8. reasons for favorable home study
9. applies to any additional adult members of household.]

DRIVING RECORDS (if applicable/required per state regs; if not required by your state, please disregard)

(Family Names) supplied clearances from [Government of the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles; Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration; Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, issued on (Date) for (Name) and on (Date) for (Name), which showed valid drivers' licenses with no restrictions [with the exception that _____ (e.g., Mr. X must wear corrective lenses while driving). In the event that the client has a history of driving offenses, the social worker should report on the steps taken as a result. For example, the applicant may have been required or may have voluntarily participated in a driving safety course. It is not sufficient to report a history of offenses without reporting the steps taken to reduce or eliminate the likelihood of a reoccurrence.

READINESS FOR ADOPTION

Transitioning from infertility, if applicable

Acceptance of difference in adoption

Preparation and Education, including participation in RESOLVE, PAGs, Barker information meeting, seminars, waiting parents' groups, as well as adoption literature and resources utilized. Also refer to any volunteer work with special needs children and life experiences that may strengthen the family's ability to parent a child in foster care when applicable.

INTERNATIONAL ONLY: *(make sure to include the following language)*

The family has completed the current [please insert total hours of training] Barker training curriculum which was designed to comply with Hague requirement. The training curriculum includes: [describe trainings completed; if specific trainings are not listed elsewhere in the study please list here], and country orientation at application interview.]

Understanding and acceptance of challenges of adoption

Understanding loss, grief, bonding and attachment

Understanding of cultural/racial heritage as part of identity formation. This includes detailed plans regarding meaningful ways that the family will integrate the child's culture and ethnic background in to their everyday life.

Understanding of nature/nurture influences in child to be adopted; expectations
 Understanding of “special needs” – 1. Particularly in older child adoption, but also
 in children who have, e.g., been institutionalized; prenatal exposure to
 alcohol and other drugs, etc. Expectations re: developmental delays. 2. In an
 adoption of a child with medical needs, add the understanding of specific needs.
 Empathy toward birth parents; feelings and assumptions about birth parents.
 Comfort with sharing adoption story with child in developmentally appropriate ways.
 Comfort with addressing child’s curiosity regarding adoption, including parents’ support
 if child desires to search for information about birth family in the future.
 For older child adoption, comfort with visitation with birth relatives

Assessment of the family’s readiness and suitability to parent a child through adoption

STATE PREADOPTIION REQUIREMENT

The adoption is final in (China, Korea, India, Colombia, etc.) and therefore state
 preadoption requirement doesn’t apply. (If the home study is for a country where
 adoption is not final in country, please discuss with Barker staff for instructions.)]

UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

(Family Names) have received training and counseling on the processing, expenses,
 unknowns, and difficulties and delays associated with international adoption, and the
 family understands the process and accepts the risks inherent in such situations. The
 (Name) family has also received training and counseling with regard to the specific
 situation in (China, India, Korea, etc). They are aware that previously undiagnosed
 medical, emotional, and/or behavioral issues may develop with the child, and they are
 willing and prepared to take on this responsibility.

(Family Names) understand that there are post adoption reporting requirements from the
 agency and the country even though the adoption in (China, India, Korea, etc.) is final.
 The Barker Adoption Foundation requires three post-adoption supervisory visits after the
 child arrives and the country’s post-adoption requirements (please specify the country
 requirements, see the attached list of country requirements). The family understands that
 additional post adoption visits may be required by country government, court or agency.
 The family is committed to complying with all post placement requirements.

Note: In cases where the adoption is not final in country and the child is brought to the
 U.S. for finalization, the above paragraph needs to be adjusted to reflect that fact.
 Specifically, “post-adoption” needs to be changed to “post-placement”.

(Family Names) further understand that the Agency will provide counseling and
 supportive services, as well as referral services, for parents needing extra support upon
 the child’s arrival. They have expressed willingness to receive post-placement counseling
 and supportive services when needed.

If adopting a child with special needs or an older child, discussion of preparation, willingness and ability to provide proper care to such a child.]

DUTY OF DISCLOSURE

[PAP NAME(s)] (and name for any other adult member of the household) have been informed of the Duty of Disclosure (8 CFR 204.311 (d)) and have signed the agency's Duty of Disclosure statement on DATE. They understand the following:

1. They must give true and complete information to [agency name] and their social worker;
2. They must disclose any arrest, conviction, or other adverse criminal history in the US or abroad, even if the record has been expunged, sealed, pardoned, or the subject of any other amelioration;
3. They must disclose other relevant information, such as physical, mental or emotional health issues, or behavioral issues;
4. This Duty of Disclosure is an ongoing duty which continues until there is a placement. They and any adult household members must notify [agency name], and the USCIS of any new event or information that might warrant submission of an amended or updated home study.
5. A single incident of sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence is sufficient to constitute a "history".

[PAP NAME(s)] have also been informed by [agency name] that failure to disclose under this Duty of Disclosure could result in the denial of their adoption application by [agency name] and/or the USCIS.

PLACEMENT CONSIDERATIONS—Please note: The information included in this section should not be taken directly from the applications. Social workers must thoroughly discuss the needs of children with special conditions, the family's resources (financial, time and skills) to care for a child with such. For International homestudies, please refer to the family's *Child Considerations Checklist* also sometimes called *Medical Considerations Checklist*. If the family has not completed or provided you with Barker's specific checklist pertaining to medical needs, please reach out to Barker staff or the family to request this.

Throughout the home study, the (Family name) have carefully considered the child(ren) they could best parent. They hope to adopt a child who (list factors such as age range, gender (gender preference not permitted in domestic infant) (*where specification is not permitted, state "either gender"), health risks and special needs accepted; number of children (e.g., siblings and/or twins); country/program/ethnicity. For special needs child adoption, please be very specific about how the family defines the "special needs" they could accept. For older child adoption, please refer to the applicants' matching tool and clearly specify the issues that the family will feel comfortable parenting.

[NOTE: INDIA ONLY: Please refer to India Child Medical Considerations Checklist regarding conditions. In narrative format address family's openness to conditions categorized by "yes, no, maybe."]

* For age of child, it is advisable to keep the upper limit a bit higher, especially for international and older child adoption home studies, but use phrase such as, "The Does prefer a child 12 months of age and younger, but will accept a child up to the age of 18 months." – Tailor this for the country and/or check with program directors. Please note that the domestic older child adoption program begins at age 6-17 years old.

[NOTE: please use years instead of months whenever appropriate. For instance, state that the family is open to adopt a child up to two years of age, instead of 24 months.]

EVALUATION, RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL

(Agency name) has conducted a home study and found (Name) and (Name) to be well-prepared for the adoption of a child (or twins) (or sibling group) from (country or program). In the judgment of this Agency, they have shown that they are capable of providing for the emotional, physical, financial, and educational needs of a child (or twins) (or sibling group).

[PAP NAMES] have met all of the requirements for adoption in the state of (PAPs state of residence). This Home Study has been prepared in accordance with licensing standards for approved adoption agencies, the state of (PAPs state of residence), USCIS, the Hague Convention and the country of origin.

(Insert specific country specific requirements-see below.)

[For South Korea:] South Korea requires that couples applying to adopt meet the following requirements at the time home study is first submitted to country: be a heterosexual couple married a minimum of three years; be in good physical and mental health; have the financial ability to care for a child; be accepting of a child's religious freedom and willing to respect their choices surrounding religion; have no recorded criminal history of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault or drug use, or have any history of drug or alcohol dependence; must be between the ages of 25 and 45 unless one of the applicants is of Korean heritage, is an adoptee of any heritage, or has adopted from South Korea previously; and have no more than three children currently in the home. NAME and NAME meet these qualifications.

[For India]: India requires that applicants applying to adopt meet the following requirements at the time home study is first submitted to country: be married a minimum of two years if adopting as a couple; be in good physical and mental health; have the financial ability to care for a child; have no more than one child unless adopting a child with special needs or relative, and adoptive parents' combined age must be less than 85

years in order to adopt a child less than two years old. NAME and NAME meet these qualifications.

****Note:** If adopting a child between 2-4 as a couple, combined age must be less than 90 years. If adopting a child between 4-8 as a couple, combined age must be less than 100 years, If adoption a child 8+ combined age must be less than 110 years. If adopting as a single applicant, age must be under 40 years to adopt from 0-2, 45 years to adopt 2-4, under 50 years to adopt from 4-6, under 55 years to adopt children 8+. Couples and single women may adopt a child of either gender. Single men are only eligible to adopt a male child.

[For China:] China requires that applicants applying to adopt are over 30 years of age, are a heterosexual female or a heterosexual couple married at least two years, have no more than five children in the home younger than 18 with the youngest child three years of age or older, have a minimum household income of \$30,000 plus an additional \$10,000 per child in the home, have a minimum net worth of \$80,000 and have good moral character with no criminal history. NAME and NAME meet these qualifications.

****Note if a single applicant:** Can have no more than two children under the age of 18 in the home and have a minimum net worth of \$100,000.

(Agency name) certifies that all copies of this home study are identical and will be provided to (country) and the Citizenship and Immigration Services. To the best of our knowledge, the [last name] family meets all the requirements identified by [country] to adopt from [country] and all facts reported in this home study that are relevant to the eligibility and suitability of the family to adopt from [Country] according to these specific requirements are true and accurate. }

(Agency name) therefore recommends and approves (Name) and (Name) for (Please include specific approval of age range at time of referral/placement, gender, number of children, health status, and country of adoption, etc.) Whenever possible, put age range in years instead of months. Specifically approve the family for the adoption of a child with special needs and list any restrictions when applicable. In light of the circumstances of internationally adopted children, instead of approving a family to adopt a healthy child, please approve the family to adopt a child with the potential for normal growth and development. NOTE: please approve the family for the broadest range, including age, gender and health, the family is comfortable to consider and equipped to parent. If the family later is matched with a child outside of the approved parameters set forth in their home study, the family will have to update their home study and pay a fee to USCIS to amend their immigration approval.]

AGENCY'S CERTIFICATION/AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT HOME STUDIES

(Agency name) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit child placement agency, licensed in (PAPs state of residence). (Agency name) is authorized to conduct home studies in the state of (PAPs state of residence) under its license. The license number is _____ with an expiration date of _____.

[Name of social worker] is a social worker for (agency name). She/He is authorized under the [name of state of the parents' residence] law to conduct home studies in the State of [name of state]. Her/his license number is [license #] with an expiration of [date].

(Agency name) is authorized under 22 CFR part 96 to complete home studies for international adoption cases as a Hague Accredited adoption service provider. The expiration date of (agency name's) Certificate of Accreditation issued by the Inter-country Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity, Inc. (IAAME) is June 28, 2025.]

The home study is the property of (agency name). It was prepared solely for the purpose of an adoption from (country) through The Barker Adoption Foundation. It is not to be reproduced or used for any other purposes without permission from The Barker Adoption Foundation.

Declaration of Home Study Preparer

The signer of this home study, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury under U.S. law, that:

- 1. The signer personally, and with professional diligence reasonably necessary to protect the best interests of any child whom the applicant might adopt, actually conducted the home study or supervised the home study,*
- 2. The factual statements in the home study are true and correct, to the best of the signer's knowledge, information and belief, and*
- 3. The home study preparer has advised the applicant of the duty of Disclosure, specifically noting the ongoing duty of disclosure of new events or information, which may require an updated or amended home study.]*

Prepared by:

Name, Academic or Licensure Credentials
Social Worker

Date

Approved by:

Name, Academic or Licensure Credentials
Title

Date of Home Study Approval: _____