

Network Agency Home Study Guide – India

Program Contacts:

Name	Email	Role
Elena Taylor	etaylor@barkerfoundation.org	Please send all Home Study Drafts to Elena for review prior to finalization
Kellie Olive	kolive@barkerfoundation.org	Please direct all program or eligibility specific questions to Kellie. Please send all Home Study Update Drafts to Kellie.
Rosamond Sereboo	rsereboo@barkerfoundation.org	All questions regarding EP agreements, contracts, or print/signature may be directed to Jennie.

Please note: Home studies, home study updates, and Post Adoption reports must be reviewed and approved by Barker staff prior to finalization.

Barker Licenses & Accreditations:

Please navigate to our [Exempt Provider Resource Page](#) for all documentation needed for your files.

Home Study Requirements:

In addition to all requirements set by the adoptive applicants' state of residence, USCIS, and the Hague Convention, India program home studies must meet the following requirements, and include the following information:

- **Length of Study**
 - India home studies cannot exceed 15 pages.
- **Age Restrictions – See Regulations in image**
 - Couples whose combined ages total under 85 (including **month day and year** of birth) are eligible for children 0-2, or older. Our preference is that these families indicate openness to children 0-3 years old. Couples whose combined ages total under 90 are eligible for children 2-4 years old, or older. Families can be more specific in dossier and should reach out to Barker staff for more details.
 - Couples whose combined ages total under 100 (including **month day and year** of birth) must be open to children 4-6 years old in their home study. Single applicants may be under 50 years old.

Age of the child	Max. composite age of PAPs (couple)	Max. age of single PAP
Upto 2 years	85 years	40 years
Above 2 & upto 4 years	90 years	45 years
Above 4 & upto 8 years	100 years	50 years
Above 8 & upto 18 years	110 years	55 years

- **Plans for time off and childcare**

- May be included in the section in which prospective adoptive parents' education and career are discussed.
- Time off: Barker requires that families do not use childcare (including relatives and friends) for the first six weeks after placement of their child, in order to promote bonding and attachment. Time off plans must be noted in the study.

- **Training**

- Families must meet all training requirements set out by Hague. Barker provides all PAPs with a Pre-Adoption Training Checklist, in order to ensure that they are meeting those requirements, whether that is through a local agency, online, or a combination. Families who are seeking approval to adopt children 5 years old or older may have additional requirements added to their checklist. The current checklist may be found on Barker's [Exempt Provider Webpage](#).
- After home study finalization, Barker requires that families complete a **minimum of 6 hours of continuing education per year**, and that this training is documented and discussed in subsequent home study updates.

- **Placement Considerations**

- In "Placement Considerations" section of home study, please be sure to address the following:
 - i. Please refer to **India Program Child Consideration Checklist** regarding conditions. **The family or Case Manager [Kellie Olive](#) can provide this to you.**
 - ii. In narrative format, address family's openness to conditions categorized by "yes, no, maybe." If you do not have this list, please reach out to Barker staff – each family completes one and submits it to Barker staff for approval.
 - iii. Families hoping to adopt through the India program **MUST** be open to anything that is a common consequence of orphanage care. These include:
 1. Mild malnutrition
 2. delays in speech, social skills, height, and weight
 3. educational delays or inconsistent education, as applicable
 4. Families must demonstrate an openness to and understanding of the lack of background and health information that they will

receive at time of referral, and their understanding that there may be a history of exposure in utero, mental illness, depression, abuse, etc. but that there will not be any documentation even if such a history is present.

iv. **Families approved to adopt children 5 years old and older** will often be required by Barker to complete additional training. Please include explicit description in the home study of PAPs approved for this age range preparedness for:

1. Management of special education services
2. Readiness and willingness to engage in therapeutic and/or supportive services (ST, OT, PT)
3. Knowledge of bonding and attachment in older child adoption (common struggles as well as specific strategies to promote healthy bonding and attachment).
4. In addition, please provide commentary and assessment on the PAPs demonstration of the following characteristics:
 - a. Flexibility (willingness to adjust house rules and personal expectations to meet child where they are)
 - b. Resiliency (ability to see struggles as temporary and move through them)
 - c. Support system (willingness of PAPs community to lend support, step in to provide respite, etc. This should include as assessment of the PAPs current adoption community).

- When referring to age of children the family is open to, 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.

- **Psychological Evaluation**

- The psychological evaluation must be mentioned in the home study, typically along with or following medical evaluations for each prospective adoptive parent
- The evaluation of the prospective adoptive parents should include assessments as appropriate of interpersonal relationships with other people living in the home. 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.
- Please use the language below, **which must appear verbatim** in the study, prior to the social worker's summary:

“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.”

- **State Preadoption Requirement**

- Please include the following section in the home study:

“STATE PREADOPTON REQUIREMENT”

The adoption is final in India, but if there are any pre-adoption requirements in your state that need to be mentioned here, please include them.

Print and Finalization (Copies & Mailing)

Home Study

Copies

- 2 notarized originals to Barker offices
- 2 notarized originals to the family

Home Study Updates

- Please submit reports for review to **Kellie Olive at kolive@barkerfoundation.org** before finalization to review and check for country requirements.

Copies

- 2 notarized originals to Barker offices
- 2 notarized originals to the family

Post-Placement Reports

- Currently, post placement reports are required for India at 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 18 months and 24 months after arrival to the U.S. Please refer to Barker’s [Post Adoption Reporting Guide](#) for detail. **Some states in India may require additional reports.**
- Please submit reports for review to **Kellie Olive at kolive@barkerfoundation.org** before finalization to review and check for country requirements.

Copies

- 3 notarized originals to Barker offices
- 1 scan to rsereboo@barkerfoundation.org