

Network Agency Home Study Guide – South Korea

Once completed, please email a draft of the family’s home study to Elena Taylor at etaylor@barkerfoundation.org to review prior to finalizing.

If you have program specific questions during the home study process, please reach out to International Case Manager Katie Fischer at kfischer@barkerfoundation.org.

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

1. Home Visits

- Korea requires that two of the four in-person interviews with prospective adoptive parents be conducted in the applicants’ home.

2. Age Restrictions

- Prospective parents must be under the age of 42 by dossier submission. Couples must have been married for a minimum of 3 years at time of home study approval.

3. Sex

- Families must be open to both male and female children.

4. Health and Wellness

- Korea requires that all adoptive parents provide medical forms that demonstrate a BMI of less than 34. Such a BMI must be reflected in the height and weight recorded in their home study, which must match the height and weight documented in their medical reports.
- Mental and emotional health is highly valued in Korea, meaning the regulations surrounding physical and mental health history in this program is somewhat restrictive. Ideally, Barker will be aware of all health and criminal history of the applicants due to application and intake screening. However, if any concerns arise and the family indicates they have not disclosed a history of mental health treatment or criminal history to Barker (however minor), please reach out to Katie Fischer at kfischer@barkerfoundation.org.
- Additionally, any mental health history should be disclosed in the study with citations from doctors or therapists / support professionals who support the applicant’s adoption plan, and do not see any contraindications to parenting. If the specialist includes additional verbiage and language that support the family’s

decision to adopt and assert that the medical / mental health condition is resolved/not a barrier to parenting, please feel free to include quotes from these letters as appropriate.

5. 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 should be noted in the study.

6. Training

- Families must meet training requirements set out by Hague. Included in our [Exempt Provider webpage](#) is our most up to today training checklist. Families also have access to this checklist through Baker's online portal.
- After home study finalization, Barker requires that families complete a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education per calendar year, and that this training is documented and discussed in subsequent home study updates.

7. Religious Orientation and Ethical Code

- In the section of the study where religion and values are discussed, assess and discuss the family's willingness to respect their adopted child's right to make their own decision about religion.

8. Placement Considerations

- In "Placement Considerations" section of home study, please be sure to address the following:
 - i. Prenatal exposure to alcohol is very possible due to cultural norms surrounding drinking in Korea. Prospective adoptive parents must be open to at least minor alcohol exposure in utero and must demonstrate an awareness of the potential developmental impacts of prenatal exposure to substances.
 - ii. Prospective adoptive parents must acknowledge that even with extensive health histories provided by Korea, it is impossible to predict how a child may grow and develop. Families must be aware that previously undiagnosed medical, emotional, and/or behavioral issues may develop with their child and must be willing and prepared to take on this responsibility.
- 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.

9. Psychological Evaluation

- Each member of the prospective adoptive couple must undergo a psychological evaluation. However, it is not necessary to mention the psychological evaluation in the home study, unless there are findings that require supporting discussion. If you are unsure whether findings require further discussion, please feel free to double check with Barker staff.
- The psychological evaluation needs to be edited by Barker staff. If you receive a psychological evaluation in error, please forward to Barker staff.

10. Psychological Evaluation – Copies & Mailing

- 2 notarized originals to Barker offices

11. State Preadoption Requirement

- Please include the following section in the home study:

“STATE PREADoption REQUIREMENT

The adoption is final in South Korea and therefore state preadoption requirement does not apply.”

12. Preservation of the Child’s Birth Culture

- In the study, please address in detail the prospective adoptive parents plan to preserve and incorporate their child’s birth culture into their daily lives. This can include: food, music, holidays, Korean culture/language school, television shows, books, and cultural mentors. The prospective adoptive parents should be able to demonstrate that they have already begun incorporating some of these things into their lives during home study and have specific plans regarding incorporation of Korean culture into their child’s life upon placement.

13. Home Study Finalization – Copies & Mailing

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

14. Home Study Updates

- If permitted by your state, please use the [Home Study Update template](#) provided by Barker.
- Please submit reports for review to *Katie Fischer* at kfischer@barkerfoundation.org before finalization to review and check for country requirements.

15. Home Study Updates Finalization – Copies & Mailing

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

16. Post Adoption Reporting Requirements

- Please refer to [Baker’s Post-Adoption Reporting guide and template](#)
- Please submit reports for review to *Katie Fischer* at kfischer@barkerfoundation.org before finalization to review and check for country requirements.

- Post adoption reports are due to Barker at the following intervals after placement:

South Korea	1 month	2 months	3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months
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17. Post-Placement Reports Finalization – Copies and Mailing

- 3 notarized originals to Barker offices