



Home Study Timeline

- 1) Submit the completed application, signed fee schedule, signed Home Study and Post Placement Agreement and the \$200 application fee to AGAPE.
- 2) Once received, we will send you another packet of information containing clearances and additional requirements. Complete the ABI/FBI and CA/N's clearance paperwork first, and **as soon as possible**. ABI/FBI is processed through SBCN and you are responsible for mailing your paperwork directly to them (instructions will be included with fingerprint cards); **completed CA/N's forms are to be returned to AGAPE**. ABI/FBI and CA/N's clearances can take up to 12 weeks to clear.
- 3) While clearances are being processed, complete the remaining paperwork from the 2nd packet and return to AGAPE.
- 4) Once we have received your clearances from the State, and **all** of your other paperwork has been completed and returned to AGAPE, a social worker will call you to schedule the first of two (to four) home visits. Domestic adoptions require two home visits/interviews and international adoptions (depending on the country you are adopting from) require two to four home visits/interviews.
- 5) After all visits/interviews have been completed, your social worker will begin writing the home study. This can take 2 – 4 weeks.
- 6) **Domestic Home Studies***: upon completion AGAPE will release original, notarized copies of the home study to you and your placement agency or attorney as indicated.

International Home Studies*: your AGAPE social worker will complete a draft of the home study that will be sent to two additional reviewers for approval. The review process can take 2 – 4 weeks. Once the reviewers have approved the home study as meeting all Hague and USCIS requirements, they will send approval letters/certificates to AGAPE.

- AGAPE will then release original, notarized copies of the home study to you and your placement agency as indicated.
- The home study will then be forwarded to USCIS. (The adoptive parents are responsible for forwarding the home study and required forms for the proposed placement of a child to USCIS.)

AGAPE's social workers are dedicated to providing our clients with excellent service in a timely manner. Unfortunately, we have no control over the length of time it takes for clearances to be processed, home studies (international) to be reviewed or State approval (if applicable) to be granted.

Preparing a home study is a very detailed process. It takes approximately 4 – 6 months for a home study to be completed from the time clearances are received. Please keep in mind that this is an approximation and the actual length of time can vary depending on many factors. However, you can help expedite the process by quickly returning paperwork, telephone calls, emails, etc. to AGAPE when requested, and by being flexible with your availability when scheduling home visits/interviews.

****Please note that AGAPE cannot release the home study to any entity (i.e., the State, your agency, attorney or yourself) until payment has been received.***