

Dear Friends:

Thank you for choosing Christian Adoption Services, Inc. to provide the direct services needed to support your adoption plan. CAS has been supporting families in their adoptions for more than 25 years now. The services we offer include **Preplacement Assessments** (adoption home studies), **Home Study Updates**, **Postplacement Supervision** after you have received your child, and support services for Finalizations. We are prepared to provide these services to adoptive applicants who reside within 100 miles of Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Matthews, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem.

Home Study

North Carolina requires that all adoptive families have a home study prepared for them by a licensed child placing agency or the Department of Social Services. The home study serves two purposes - *evaluation*, to show adoption and government agencies that you meet their requirements to adopt a child and *education*, to assist families as they prepare to parent an adopted child. While being diligent in the area of evaluation, CAS' emphasis is on education and preparing families to parent. Our workers help families as they explore their hopes, questions, and concerns about adoption, rather than seeking "right" or "wrong" answers. Finally, the home study considers your stated preferences and concludes with a recommendation of the child or children appropriate for you. If you are adopting internationally, be aware that the home study, may have to address points required by CIS and/or the country from which you are adopting, in addition to the information required by North Carolina; therefore, it is best to select an agency with experience in international adoptions.

Postplacement Supervision

Once your child has been placed with you, ordinarily you will be required to have follow-up visits by a caseworker. If you will be finalizing your adoption in North Carolina, you are required to have a minimum of two such visits - the first is to occur two weeks from your arrival home with your child. You should also check with your child placing agency or attorney since they may have additional requirements regarding Postplacement Supervisions.

The time period necessary to conduct adoption home studies is determined to a large degree by the caseload of our social workers and the speed with which CAS receives supporting documents to be provided by yourself. At the present time, we are completing most home studies within 60 days of having received all supporting documents. CAS is usually able to complete updates in less time than a home study. *Depending on our current workload, CAS can occasionally expedite the study process provided that we are notified in advance of this need so that we can prepare and confirm the availability of a caseworker to do so.*

Should any questions or concerns arise as you review this mailing, please do share them with us. I wish you the best as you seek to increase your household by adoption.

Sincerely,



Doris Woodward, BSW
Social Work Supervisor

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