



FAMILY TIES COUNSELING & CONSULTING, LLC.

Agreement for an Adoption Home Study

As prospective adoptive parents, you are about to embark upon an exciting and sometimes nerve-racking experience. At times, it will be difficult to remember all the details and information we have provided to you. We have found it helpful to put some of this information in writing so that you can refer to it throughout the adoption process.

An Adoption Home Study is one of the many steps in the adoption process. It is a mutual process by which a trained assessor and the prospective adoptive parents determine the prospective adoptive parents' appropriateness and readiness for adoption. The trained assessor will interview the prospective adoptive parents for an identified period of time. In addition, a walkthrough of the prospective adoptive parents' home is conducted. The home study helps the court system determine if a stable environment exists for a family to receive an adoptive placement.

An Adoption Home Study includes but is not limited to:

- signed releases from the identified adult(s)
- prospective adoptive parents' self-assessment of strengths and limitations
- the determination of safety and well-being of the prospective adoptive child(ren)
- prospective adoptive parents' family of origin information, employment, education, marital history, criminal history, emotional status, financial status, parenting experience and feelings regarding adoption

The length of time in which it takes to complete an adoption home study varies; typically it takes 8 to 12 weeks however this time frame is dependent upon the speed in which supporting documents are provided to the agency. As a prospective adoptive family, you are required to gather certain documents for the home study. These documents are necessary to legally establish your identity for the courts. A list of these required documents will be provided by the assessor.

Upon receipt of your application and all required supporting documents, an agency representative will review the documents and contact you. You will either receive verification of your acceptance or you may be contacted to discuss your application further.



This Home Study contract is made and entered in to on this _____ day of _____, 20____ by and between Family Tyes Counseling and Consulting, LLC (herein known as "FTCC") and _____ (client names).

The mailing address for FTCC is: P.O. Box 8010, Clearwater, Florida, 33758. The mailing address for _____ is:

_____. FTCC shall conduct a home study investigation of the prospective adoptive family in order to determine the prospective adoptive family's suitability for adoption of a child (or children) under applicable standards as governed by the laws and regulations of the State of Florida. The prospective adoptive family will pay FTCC for its time in conducting and compiling the home study report and for the responsibility assumed by FTCC in approving and disapproving the prospective adoptive family for adoption (i.e. the home study fee).

1. Prospective adoptive families who seek a home study report will pay a home study fee of \$1850. This fee is non-refundable. These fees are non-refundable.
 - a. Mileage fees may be included.
 - b. The payment of \$1850 will be due prior to the date of the home study appointment.
2. The prospective adoptive family is responsible for the fee for the required fingerprint reports for all occupants in the household age 18 and over. These fees are non-refundable.
3. If the prospective adoptive parent(s) have begun working with this agency and a period of six months goes by without hearing from you, after attempts to contact you, this agency will consider the home study file to be closed. If a period of twelve months lapses, a new appropriate fee will be collected.

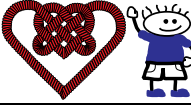
The completed home study will be returned to the prospective adoptive family only after all scheduled meetings with the writer have been completed and all home study documents have been received by FTCC. The completed home study will be returned to the client in a timely fashion after approval.

The determination regarding approval or disapproval of the prospective adoptive family is within the sole discretion of FTCC. The adoptive family does have the right to make a complaint and if not satisfied with the decision, follow with an appeal.

The prospective adoptive family shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless FTCC from and against any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, expenses, actions or causes or actions arising from or related to (a) FTCC's conduct of the home study preparer, unless such claims, liabilities, damages costs, expenses, actions or causes of action sole arise from or relate to FTCC's gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

The prospective adoptive family understands that in the course of the adoption process, certain documents, considered to be confidential, may need to be made available to persons for specific purposes related to the adoption process. The prospective adoptive family authorizes FTCC to release such information as deemed necessary.

The prospective adoptive family further acknowledges that under the laws of the State of Florida, the home study will be valid for a period of twelve months from the date upon which the report is completed and signed by FTCC. As well, the prospective adoptive family understands that they must comply with all applicable adoption regulations established by the State of Florida. The applicant(s) and FTCC understand that because each party has entered in to this agreement voluntarily, either party may terminate this agreement by giving written notice to the other party. Any fees paid at FTCC up to that point will be non-refundable.



Any dispute, controversy or claim between the parties hereto arising out of or relating to this Contract, or the breach of any term condition herein, which cannot be settled by negotiation, shall be settled by arbitration. Said arbitration is to be administered by a single arbitrator of the American Arbitration Association, under its Commercial Arbitration Rules. The judgment of the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The place of such arbitration shall be with Pinellas County or Pasco County, State of Florida. Further, the arbitrator shall award the prevailing party the costs of arbitration, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees.

The withholding of information or the providing of incorrect information which is material to FTCC’s legal responsibility to investigate an applicant’s feasibility as a prospective adoptive parent in connection with either existing or prospective adoption proceedings are grounds for the immediate termination of this contract by FTCC and forfeiture of all payments made by the applicant to FTCC. Examples of material omissions or misrepresentations of applicants which may prompt FTCC to terminate the contract are as follows: the withholding of information or providing of incorrect information relating to an arrest or the alleged commission of a misdemeanor or felony, or any criminal record arising out of an arrest; with withholding of information or the providing of incorrect information concerning the applicant’s biographical, social-economical or medical histories.

The Home Study contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

Applicant 1 Signature	Date
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Applicant 2 Signature	Date
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FTCC Managing Partner	Date
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