

**Place on Office Letter Head
Required Homestudy Content
For Adoption/Guardianship Homestudies**

Prepared by: _____
Homestudy Writer Name

Information	Applicant 1	Applicant 2
Name		
Address/Phone		
Date of Birth/Age		
Marital Status		
Employer		

Child(ren) Being Considered for Adoption

Name	
DOB/age	
Relationship to applicant	

Other Children in the home

Name	Date of Birth/Age	Relationship- foster child/relative etc...

Others in the home (other children and household members 16 and older must have a criminal background check summary below)

Name	Date of Birth/Age	Relationship

General Description of Home/Safety issues

Provide a physical description of the home, number of bedrooms, sleeping arrangements. Discuss safety plans (fire plans, emergency exits), location of medications and firearms and expectations related to these plans.

Assess how well the home accommodates the child.

Summary of Contacts/Sources of Information

Training family has completed	
Dates of Home visit (two required- face to face)	
List of who was interviewed during home visit	
List of contacts with collateral contacts, including tribe (if applicable)	
List other sources of information used in assessment process, i.e. medical reports, psychologists, family therapists, etc...	

Criminal Background and Report Summary

Applicants:	Applicant 1	Applicant 2
Court View	Date checked	
Sex Offender Registry		
CPS/JOMIS history		
FBI/State Criminal History		
Licensing Status		

Summary of new information regarding Criminal Background and Reports such as screened in PSRs and licensing investigations (if applicable).

Brief Introductory Paragraph

Description of purpose of study, description of the family being studied and reason for adoption.

Family Motivation and Readiness to Adopt/become Guardian

This section should contain:

- Worker assessment of the family's motivation and preparation to proceed with adoption or guardianship.

This can be assessed through:

- Discussion of the family's ability to manage the special needs of the child
- Noting the factors which indicate success for this family with this child.
- Asking all applicants what they feel their training/educational needs are in regards to meeting the specific child's special needs and documenting what they ask for.

- Describing the parenting challenges the family has already faced in managing the child's special needs as well as the family ways of dealing with the challenges.
- Describing the family's willingness to seek help with the child's special needs throughout the child's lifetime.
- Evaluating the family's ability to realistically project the longer term impacts of the adoption/guardianship of the specific child; one year, three years, five years, ten years.
- Describing the family support network, formal and informal supports.

Background of each Adoptive/Guardian Applicant:

- Description, Personality, and Background of Each Applicant:
- Present Marital Status and Family Life:
- Parenting Philosophy/Discipline
- Values/Spirituality/traditions/food culture
- Relatives and Support Network (including community supports):

Child Specific Assessment

- Give an updated overview of the child's present needs, diagnosis and current services received.
- Summarize the child's current special needs and received services as described by service providers including therapists psychiatrists, school staff, other service providers for the child, Guardian ad Litem (GALs) and foster parents.
- Specifically describe the tribal agencies and services/supports assisting the child and family at this time.
- Identify any specific risk factors presented by the child
- Relate the specific child's feelings about adoption or legal guardianship by the specific family.
- Discuss the child-specific preparation which has occurred to prepare this child for adoption or guardianship.

Health

Describe the applicant's health status. (Use the Health History form to help fill out this section)

Financial and Employment

Describe the applicant's financial and employment status. (Use the Financial Summary Sheet to help fill out this section)

Relationship with Birth Family

Note the status of the applicant's relationship with the birth family.

Guardianship Plan:

What is the plan for the child in case something happens to the adoptive parent/guardian?

For Children eligible for protections of the Indian Child Welfare Act ONLY:
There must be a court finding that the child's case is considered an ICWA case. If not, skip to the next section.

- Describe the child's racial and ethnic background.
- Specifically note whether the placement meets placement preferences outlined in ICWA.
- Describe the tribe's position on the child's adoption or guardianship.
- Describe family's level of preparation for assisting the child in maintaining the child's culture. Relate ways the family has demonstrated this.

Family References (3 Must be contacted)

- Summarize the statements of three references provided by the family

Homestudy Writer's Evaluation and Recommendation:

- State the homestudy writer's recommendation (for or against) the applicant(s) in adopting or becoming the guardian of the child.
- If needed, recommend specific training, and/or a need for further evaluation before adoption or guardianship occurs.
- Summarize the characteristics that indicate the capacity of the applicant(s) to parent the specific adoptive/guardianship child(ren).
- State homestudy writer's impressions of the family.
- **FOR ICWA CHILDREN ONLY:** Summarize the child's cultural needs and supports, and the ways in which the family plans to meet these needs. Describe whether the family will need assistance in maintaining cultural ties for the child.

Writer Signature

Date

Grant Project Director Signature

Date

Regional Permanency Specialist Signature

Date