



HOME STUDY AGREEMENT

Global Adoption Services, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Maryland state licensed and Hague accredited child placing agency, hereby referred to as "Global" and _____, the prospective adoptive parent/s, hereby referred to as PAPs, agree as follows:

PAPs will submit their pre-screening application and home study documents through Global's secure and dedicated database in a timely fashion. Global will review all information submitted by the PAP's to determine whether the applicants are approved to proceed with the process and notify the PAP's accordingly. Applicants who are found ineligible have the right to consult with a social worker to discuss the findings and determine whether any corrective actions can be applied, or to appeal the decision. The pre-screening application fee and database technology fee are due with the submission of the pre-screening application and are non-refundable.

Applicants who have received preliminary approval of the home study application, which is comprised of numerous documents, certificates, and inspections, are eligible to schedule a home visit with the social worker assigned to the case. The home study fee is due prior to a social work visit and is non-refundable once the first visit is made. If PAP's are using a placing agency other than Global, an Interagency Agreement is required and must be fully executed before a finalized home study will be released.

Payment for the home study must be received before an appointment with the social worker will be made.

Global will provide the following services for the stated home study fee: face-to-face interviews (individual and joint) and other necessary contacts to discuss the prospective adoptive parents' adoption plans, a minimum of one appointment within the PAPs' home, pre-adoption counseling particularly regarding the type of child that the PAPs wish to adopt and the family's expected adjustments, direct and recommended pre-adoption education, pre-adoption guidance regarding possible post-adoption resources needed, adherence to the state of Maryland and the placing agency's home study requirements.

Additional pre-adoption services (e.g. direct pre-adoption education, direct pre-adoption counseling) are available for additional fees. Please refer to Fee Schedule.

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PAP's initial _____

PAP's initial _____

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Parents should expect other costs associated with the home study and necessary documentation in addition to the home study fee, including but not limited to fingerprinting, out-of-state child abuse clearances, sanitation and fire safety surveys, driving records, sealing and apostilling of documents, social worker mileage and travel expenses, etc.

The home study report will be completed within 90 days of receipt of the required home study documents. Expedited reports will be completed within 30 days of receipt of **all** required documentation. Four notarized copies and one county sealed copy of the home study report, each with a Global agency license, Hage certificate (if applicable), and the social worker's license included, will be sent to the PAPs after completion of the home study. Sealing of home study reports and additional copies of the report are available, per the Fee Schedule.

If PAPs are seeking an adoption from a country in which Global does not have an adoption program, PAPs agree and understand that they are required to have a Hague Accredited primary placing agency in addition to a home study agency. In some cases, Global may be able to provide the services of a Primary Placing Agency in countries where Global does not have an established adoption program. Please contact the office to determine if the adopting you are planning can be services by Global. Global will not release the home study to the PAPs until a placing agency has been established. If PAPs are using a placing agency other than Global, an Interagency Agreement is required and must be fully executed before a finalized home study will be released. Global agrees to provide a home study that is compliant with USCIS requirements. PAPs understand that their primary provider is responsible for ensuring that the child/ren meet orphan status as outlined in USCIS standards and that the adoption complies with the principles of the Hague Adoption Convention (Convention), the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) and the Immigration and the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

Global neither guarantees nor warrants that the completion of a home study will result in an approval to adopt or a successful adoption.

REFUND POLICY

Global will refund some or all of prospective parent/s' money under the following conditions:

1. If after Global accepts the required home study documents and home study fee but prior to the social worker visit, the prospective parents withdraw their application, the Agency home study fee will be refunded. The home study fee is due and payable before the first social work visit. Once the visit has been made, the home study fee is non-refundable. The \$500 application fee and \$225 database fee are non-refundable.
2. If any employee of Global has made a blatant misrepresentation of information, the home study fee will be refunded.
3. Refundable expenses do not include the pre-adoption expenses necessary for the home study, including mileage or travel expenses paid to the social worker.

POST-PLACEMENT SERVICES

Global can provide post-placement and post-adoption services, as well as your initial home study, if requested by the PAPs and the placing agency. A separate contract may be required by your placing agency. **Payment for post-placement and post-adoption report(s) must be received before an appointment with the social worker will be made.**

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

(a) Limitation for Information, Etc.: Unless expressly provided in this Agreement, Global shall not be liable to PAPs for any damages, fines, penalties or charges, whether direct, indirect or consequential, or any other cost whatsoever, relating to any information, plans, counseling, guidance, education, resources, specification, data, instruction, advice or any other services

furnished to PAPs in connection with the performance by either Global or PAPs under the terms of this Agreement.

(b) Limitation for PAPs' Noncompliance: Global shall not be liable to PAPs for any damages, fines, penalties or charges, whether direct, indirect or consequential, assessed as a result of PAPs failure to comply with applicable federal, state, municipal, local or foreign laws, rules or regulations, now or hereafter in effect, governing PAPs home study requirements, pre-adoption services, and post-adoption services including, but not limited to, those laws, rules and regulations imposed by the State of Maryland, the Department of Human Resources "DHR" or any state or foreign equivalents of the DHR except as such damages, fines, penalties or charges relate to a breach by Global of any covenant or representation contained in this Agreement.

(c) Limitation – General: The parties agree that determining damages under this agreement will be difficult to determine, and so, the parties agree that Global's maximum liability for acts or failures to act whether under tort, contract, statute, or any other cause of action, shall not, in any event, exceed the amounts paid or to be paid by the PAPs under this agreement.

BINDING ARBITRATION

If it should be necessary to resolve any dispute between Client and Global Adoption Services, Inc. regarding the application or interpretation of this Agreement, the dispute will be submitted to binding arbitration before an arbitrator appointed by agreement of the parties, and barring the ability to come to an agreement, the American Arbitration Association. All proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the American Arbitration Association Rules and Regulations. The arbitration will take place in the city of Bel Air, State of Maryland and the substantive law to be applied by the arbitrator will be the law of the State of Maryland

FEE SCHEDULE

- Pre-screening fee for Global Adoption Services (Non-Refundable) \$500
- Database/Technology Fee \$225
- Home Study fee for UAA-Compliant Adoption (Domestic and International) \$2,250
- Post Placement Visit and Report for one child \$400
- Post Placement Report for additional child (if completed simultaneously) \$200

Post-adoption/post-placement fees are due prior to Global signing a post-adoption/post-placement Interagency Agreement or completion of a Home Study for an adoption through Global Adoption Services.

- Global Home Study Update (Complete and valid for one year) \$1,000
- Global Home Study Update (Significant Change of Circumstance) \$750
- Global Home Study Update (minor Change of Circumstance) \$350
- Home Study Update (if another agency completed original home study) \$1,200

Please note: A Home Study Update will require new supporting documentation according to licensing requirements, extends the original Home Study approval for one year, and can be done up to three times before a new Home Study is required. A Home Study Update can be done without updated clearances and extension of approval and may be required to reflect a minor or significant Change of Circumstance for the child desired, or to the circumstances of the adoptive parents or household.

Additional Services:

- Expedited Home Study (within 30 days of receipt of *all* required documents) \$300
*This service is available at the discretion of the Executive Director and the availability of a social worker to perform the service.
- Additional Adoption Counseling or Family Counseling (if requested) \$100/hr

Please inform your social worker if your placement agency requires any additional documentation (i.e. post placement guarantee, extra agency or social worker licenses, miscellaneous documentation, etc.). Our ability to provide all required and necessary documentation along with your Home Study will expedite your adoption process and reduce unnecessary anxiety and expense for all parties involved. Additional fees listed below apply to documents requested after the Home Study is completed.

Additional Document Fees (applicable after final Home Study is approved/issued):

- Additional Home Study documents (four copies included in Home Study fee) \$25 ea
- Harford County Seal fee \$5 ea
- Maryland Apostille (using applicant’s pre-established Federal Express account) \$5 ea
- Maryland Apostille same day service (does not include seal fees) \$100
- Priority Mail service fee (charge is in addition to USPS Priority Mail rates) \$20

