**Section 333.80 Adoption Home Study Services**

a) A home study shall be completed by a child welfare agency licensed in Illinois and meet the requirements of the Department and the federal Department of Homeland Security (8 CFR 204, Immigrant Petitions (2011)).

b) The Department shall consider a home study to be valid for a maximum period of 12 months from the date of the completion of the home study. Home studies shall also meet the requirements of USCIS. A home study revalidation shall be required when the home study is more than 12 months old and a child has not been placed. A copy of the revalidation shall be forwarded to the Intercountry Adoption Coordinator.

c) An adoption home study shall consist of:

1) A factual evaluation of the financial, physical and mental suitability of the prospective parent or parents to raise and educate the child properly;

2) Background check results, including a statement as to whether the prospective adoptive parent or parents have a history of substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, criminal convictions and/or arrest history, physical or sexual abuse, either as a victim or perpetrator, even if the incident did not result in an arrest or conviction;

3) A statement indicating whether the prospective adoptive parents have ever voluntarily surrendered parental rights or had parental rights involuntarily terminated, including the circumstances;

4) A detailed description of the living accommodations where the prospective parent or parents currently reside that meets the minimum standards of Appendix A;

5) A statement on the motivation for adoption;

6) Documentation of pre-adoptive training;

7) Characteristics of the children who the prospective adoptive parent would be qualified to adopt; and

8) The home study shall be signed and dated by a home study worker who has conducted the home study and the worker's supervisor.

d) Pre-Adoption Requirements

In addition to complying with Section 333.40, the child welfare agency that completes the adoptive home study shall:

1) Offer to provide adoption preservation services or refer families for appropriate services in their community;

2) Obtain a written agreement from the adoptive parents for regular post-adoption visits to take place as required by the State of Illinois, placement agency or country of origin.

e) Post-Placement Requirements

In addition to complying with Section 333.40, the child welfare agency that completes the adoptive home study shall:

1) Submit post-placement or post-adoption reports to the Intercountry Adoption Coordinator within 30 days after the child's immigration to the US;

2) Provide post-placement services until the adoption has been finalized;

3) Complete post-placement reports as required by Section 6 of the Adoption Act; and

4) Complete the investigative report for the adoption as required by the court (see 750 ILCS 50/6).