

## **THE ADOPTION PROCESS**

**INFORMATION SESSION:** A free, informal meeting to provide general information about waiting children, the agency, programs offered, and how to get started with a home study. A phone call to the office will let you know the date, time of the next online Information Session.

**INTAKE INTERVIEW:** You will meet with an agency staff member and determine together whether AACA can help you with your adoption plans. If the answer is “yes,” the next step is to fill out a Guardian Reference form, submit fingerprints, and make arrangements to attend Adoption Preparation Classes 2 and 3. You will also start working on the rest of the required paperwork for your home study. **NOTE:** The Intake Interview is a daytime appointment, during regular working hours (weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.).

**ADOPTION PREPARATION CLASSES 2 AND 3:** Education is the emphasis in this training, which may include from two to seven families who are adopting from the foster care system. Training consists of seven, hour-long training sessions that are self-directed and online. In addition, there is a two-hour long virtual training that is facilitated by a social worker. Both the self-directed and virtual classes focus on home study requirements, child development, building healthy emotions and behaviors in special needs children, coming to terms with your adopted child’s past, and accepting and dealing with separation, loss, grief, bonding, and attachment.

**INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS:** This is required for every type of home study: foster care and domestic infant adoption. Your social worker meets with each of you individually, at the agency office, during regular working hours.

**HOME VISIT:** The social worker will visit your home, at a time when all members of the household are present, and during regular working hours.

**CHILD SEARCH/MATCHING:** As you have been each step of the way, you are involved in the search for and placement of the child you will adopt.

**ADOPTION PREPARATION CLASS 4:** This class is for families adopting internationally and from foster care. It is offered to families after home study approval and during the child search process. The six-hour class will focus on proven practical skills and strategies for applying Trust-Based Relationship Intervention principles so you can build strong parent-child connections and healthy behaviors in children who come from hard places.

**POST-PLACEMENT AND FINALIZATION:** AACA will complete the legally-required visits and reports. AACA can also help you file your court documents and set your final hearing date. You decide whether to attend the hearing on your own, or to hire an attorney at your expense to represent you.

**NOTE FOR DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTIONS:** The training classes listed above are optional but encouraged. We will provide additional resources for you to locate a match. While we encourage families to use our affiliate agency, American Adoptions Kansas, we can refer to other matching agencies. California law requires families must work with a licensed adoption agency for matching. Once you are matched, if the birth parent is in California, AACA will handle all of the paperwork to obtain the birth parents’ relinquishment for adoption, and will terminate parental rights for any non-consenting, non-contesting parent. If you are working with an attorney, the attorney will provide all of the finalization services, and will handle any court hearings if any parent contests the adoption.

☐ **Corporate Office**  
1120 Tully Road  
Modesto, CA 95350  
209-524-8844  
Fax: 209-578-9823  
FFA #500318115

☐  
9700 Business Park Dr #402  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
916-568-5966  
Fax: 916-362-6005  
FFA #347006064

☐  
7257 N. Maple Ave. #101  
Fresno, CA 93720  
559-325-9388  
Fax: 559-325-9373  
FFA #107201347

☐  
2815 Jefferson St. #301  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
760-730-9576  
Fax: 760-730-9288  
FFA #374603919