



# St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Health and Human Services | Community Based Care Division

## Adoption Home Studies

Effective Date:12/27/17	Aligns with:65C-16	Operating Guideline: PG-OG06
Supersedes: N/A	Applicable to: FIP	Pages: 1 of 2

### Purpose:

It is the policy of Family Integrity Program (FIP) to provide comprehensive foster, adoption and protective services to at-risk children and their families in accordance to 65C-16-16.005, Florida Administrative Code.

With regard to adoption, it is essential to prepare a comprehensive Unified Adoption Home Study to ensure the safety of placed children and an adequate and appropriate environment for the child. Case Management will not utilize a Private Adoptive Home Study as a primary source for the purpose of placement of an adoptive child. The Private Adoptive Home Study can be utilized for the family selection process. FIP will be required to complete an independent assessment of the applicant's home prior to any contact between the applicant and the child. To ensure that this procedure is carried out the following procedure is in effect.

### Procedure

1. FIP will complete the evaluation of the adoptive applicant using the Unified Adoptive Home Study in FSFN.
2. FIP will complete an evaluation of the adoptive family before introducing the child to the perspective adoptive, which will include a minimum of 2 home visits.
3. The report shall be maintained in FSFN and the Adoption case file as a permanent record and shall include the following:
  - a) The applicant's motivation for adoption;
  - b) The strengths, weakness and personal adjustment of each member of the household;
  - c) The attitudes and feelings of the family, its extended family members, or significant others towards adoptive children;
  - d) The attitudes of the applicants toward birth parents and the reasons children may be in need of adoptive placement;
  - e) The applicant's plans for discussing adoption with the child
  - f) The applicant's emotional stability and maturity
  - g) The applicant's ability to cope with problems
  - h) The applicant's capacity to give and receive affection
  - i) The applicant's child caring skills
  - j) The applicant's ability to provide financially for the child and other family members

- k) Assessment of any previously adopted children.
- l) Evidence of screening of the applicants by the Florida Protective Services System Abuse Registry, law enforcement clearance, and fingerprint clearance as evidenced by the FBI and FDLE.
- m) Contingency plan in the event the adoptive parents pass away before age of maturity.
- n) Assessment of any adoption disruptions or dissolutions to include reasons for disruption or dissolution, willingness to accept help with the problems and continued support of the child through his or her change of placement.
- o) A minimum of five (5) written references shall be required. Only one (1) reference may be obtained from an employer and only one (1) of the references may be obtained from a relative. All other references must be obtained from persons who either have observed the applicants in situation that give some indication for their capacity for parenthood or who as the result of their relationship to the applicant, possess documentation or knowledge of the applicant's capacity for parenthood. All references shall be provided directly to the agency person conducting the home study by the person providing the reference.
- p) A reference is to be obtained from the applicants adult children.