



## **FAMILY HOME STUDY**

The home study is a necessary part of the adoption process and is required by law in every state in the United States. It is an adoption agency's way of finding out about prospective parent's general suitability to adopt and whether or not they meet the state requirements for adoptive parents. But just as importantly, the home study is an educational process whereby the persons seeking to adopt begin to learn more about adoption and the many different issues when considering adoption.

The home study will usually be a series of meetings with a social worker. Any children you may have will be included in some of these meetings. Some of the topics you should expect to discuss during these meetings are:

- \* Your reasons for adopting a child
- \* Your strengths and weaknesses
- \* Your personality, level of patience, attitudes toward life in general, sense of humor
- \* Your marriage - its strengths and weaknesses; how you handle family disagreements
- \* Previous divorces and your relationships with ex-spouses or with the children your spouse may have from a previous marriage
- \* Your health
- \* Your work - its stability and importance
- \* Your plans for child care if both parents plan to continue working
- \* Your relationships with family, friends, neighbors, etc.
- \* The kind of parenting you have experienced; how you feel about it
- \* Your extended families' feelings about adoption
- \* Your past experiences with children
- \* Your current lifestyle, how you expect a child would change it.
- \* How you have resolved your fertility problems if you have them
- \* How you may have handled the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, or in some other way
- \* How your children, if you have any, will adjust to a new sibling
- \* How you are preparing your children for adoption