



Illini Christian Ministries, Inc.

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Building Families

Building Lives

Building Hope

Home Study Process

The home study process is often referred to as a “paper pregnancy.” The process itself, as well as the paperwork necessary, can feel overwhelming for the adoptive family. At Illini Christian Ministries, it is our goal to assist each family in navigating the home study process. We strive to serve as a resource to the adoptive family throughout the adoption process. Our home study process is as follows:

- Apply to the home study services of Illini Christian Ministries.
- Once approved, you will receive the home study packet, outlining each step of the home study process.
- Begin working on gathering the necessary paperwork, which includes such documents as birth and marriage certificates, reference letters, guardianship statements, autobiographies, medical forms, etc.
- Obtain FBI, State Police, and Child Abuse background clearances.
- Become licensed to adopt through the state of Illinois, if necessary. Your ICM caseworker will assist you in becoming licensed.
- Complete your online adoption training.
- Host three home visits with your caseworker in your home. During these home visits, individual interviews will be conducted with each individual living in the home who are ages three years and older.

Once a family has completed all of the home study steps, the caseworker will write the home study. The adoptive family has the option of reviewing the completed home study before finalization. International home studies must then be sent to the Department of Children and Family Services for final approval. Once the home study is completed and approved, it is sent to the adoptive family. The entire home study process typically takes between three and five months.