

Frequently Asked Questions for Prospective Adoptive Families

1. What are the costs for private domestic adoptions?

The average costs of private domestic adoptions range from \$7,000-\$40,000. The cost varies on a case-by-case basis due to the specific circumstance of each adoption. LSC has a schedule for specific fees and will address any additional costs with prospective adoptive families if they arise.

2. Are there resources to assist with the costs of private domestic adoptions?

We understand that prospective adoptive parents may be concerned about the financial costs of adopting a child. Some may even fear they will not qualify due to their finances. There are resources to assist families through the adoption process without placing unmanageable strain on your finances. LSC adoption counselors will work with you to find resources that can help cover these costs. Some of the financial resources include, but may not be limited to, Tax Credits, Adoption Grants, Adoption Loans, Military Reimbursements, Employer Benefits, and Home Equity or Mortgage Refinancing.

3. Do many applications do not get approved?

It is quite rare for a family to not be approved. Prospective adoptive families are not expected to be perfect, live in a fancy house or be wealthy. We understand your families are real people and the stories of their lives are multifaceted with successes and difficulties. The most important quality of all is that families seeking to adopt is their motivation to provide a loving, stable, and nurturing forever home to a child. Of course the state has put safeguards in place for the protection of children and this is the purpose of your adoption home study.

4. What documents are required to complete an adoptive home study?

Prior to being contact about the home study, you will have completed the Private Domestic Adoptions Application. In order to complete the home study assessment, you will need to provide

- Pre-placement assessment form
- Birth certificates for all family members
- Marriage and/or divorce certificates (if applicable)
- Certified criminal background reports for all adults age 18 and older living in the home for your county of residents for the last 2 years.
- FBI Fingerprint clearance
- Responsible Individuals Listing form (one for each adoptive parent – DSS Form 5268)

Return these forms to the office with your home study application

- Physician's report for each member of the adoptive family living in the home or any other persons living in the home.
- Income verification: Copy of your most recent pay stubs or a statement from your employer verifying employment and income 9. Copy of the first two pages of your most recent Federal 1040 income tax return
- Three sealed, notarized letters of reference from individuals who have known you for at least two years.

5. How long does it take to complete an adoption home study?

Depending on how quickly the family is able to submit their application and supporting documentation, it generally takes 4-6 weeks from the date of the second interview. As soon as the family is able to submit their application and service agreement, we are almost always able to accommodate the family with an interview visit within 2 weeks. Prompt service is one of our highest priorities as we understand waiting parents desire to move forward quickly to complete their family!

6. Why do you require training?

LSC believes it is important for prospective adoptive families to be well-informed of the adoption process and unique needs of their child. The education process begins with your first questions and continues throughout the adoption journey, including after the child joins your family. The training we have recommended will prepare you to be confident parents who understand their child's unique needs and are better able to meet the challenges and joys of parenting an adopted child. Education also helps families and children achieve greater satisfaction with the overall adoption experience throughout the life span. We have a list of resources available so that you can choose the topics that are most relevant to your situation.