

<b>International &amp; Independent Adoption Fee Schedule</b>		
<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>When Is Your Payment Required?</b>
Application for Adoption	<i>\$125.00 Domestic</i> <i>\$150.00 International</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Home Study (non-Hague or Independent)	<i>\$1,600.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Home Study (Hague Country)	<i>\$2,400.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Expedited Home Study (non-Hague less than 4 weeks)	<i>\$2,250.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Expedite Home Study (Hague less than 4 weeks)	<i>\$3,000.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Home Study Addendum (non-Hauge or Independent)	<i>\$125.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Home Study Addendum (Hague)	<i>\$250.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Training, Single Home Application	<i>\$200</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Training, Couple Home Application	<i>\$350</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Home Study Annual Update (Domestic)	<i>\$650.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Home Study Annual Update (International)	<i>\$850.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Pre-placement Adoption Visit (Prior to Child Placement)	<i>\$350.00</i> <i>per visit w/report</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Post-placement Supervision with report (one child or more)	<i>\$350.00</i> <i>per visit w/report</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Adoption Counseling Services	<i>\$175 via Zoom (1 hr.)</i> <i>\$200 in person (1 hr.)</i> <i>\$1,000 flat fee for 6 (1 hr.)</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Court Report (Requested by public child welfare agency or Judiciary)	<i>\$450.00 per report</i>	Prior to Start of Service
Child Specific Report (Requested by public child welfare agency or Judiciary)	<i>\$250.00</i>	Prior to Start of Service

<p>Break the Seal, non-identifying report (i.e., medical report or hobbies). This includes the pre-search interview, a diligent search utilizing technology and other resources, required updates and reports to the court, and can involve petitioning the family.</p>	<p><i>\$250.00</i></p>	<p>Prior to Start of Service</p>
<p>Break the Seal, identifying report. This includes the pre-search interview, a diligent search utilizing technology and other resources, required updates and reports to the court, petitioning families, and the opportunity to facilitate family connections with consent of involved parties (i.e., reunion via conference call or face to face).</p>	<p><i>\$500.00</i></p>	<p>Prior to Start of Service</p>
<p>Travel Fees &amp; Mileage</p>	<p>\$100 per visit (for families 50 – 100 miles from LSSNCA main office)           \$200 per visit (for families over 100 miles away from LSSNCA main office)</p>	<p>Prior to Start of Service</p>



<b>Explanation of Adoption Costs</b>	
<b>Adoption Application</b>	An adoption application or questionnaire is required to determine eligibility to adopt within the Lutheran Social Services National Capital Area (LSSNCA) program. A review of documents will be conducted, general information provided, and a discussion of openness to adoption.
<b>Home Study</b>	<p>The home study serves as an assessment of the pre-adoptive home and family. The home study process helps the adoption agency or child welfare organization evaluate the home for suitability and ensure that good matches are made between children and families. Home studies also help to ensure that prospective homes comply with State and local laws for placement of adoptive children, that parents and families are educated about the adoption process (pre and post) and have the information they require to make the most sound and best decision(s) for their families regarding adoption.</p> <p>The home study process includes interviews with a Clinical Social Worker, undergoing specific types of training, and collecting documents about family background and the home. Each resident of the home is required to participate in the home study process.</p> <p>A home study must be completed by an agency licensed in the State in which the applicant lives, and the cost of the home study depends on the type of adoption being pursued, the type of report required, and how quickly the final report is needed.</p> <p>A domestic adoption home study typically cost less than an international adoption home study due to strict regulation governing inter-country adoption. Other fees that <b>may</b> impact the cost of a home study may include state-mandated adoption training required to complete the adoption home study, administrative fees for background checks and health records, or the cost of travel in some situations.</p> <p><b><i>International Adoptions:</i></b></p> <p>A home study is required for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to determine if you are suitable and eligible to adopt a child abroad and bring the child to the United States through the Form I-600/A (orphan) or Form I-800/A (Convention) process. It assists USCIS and the foreign country's adoption authority, in determining whether you and your home environment are suitable for a child.</p>

<p><b>Pre-Adoption Training</b></p>	<p>Different types of adoptions require different types and amounts of pre-adoption training for prospective parents. Adoptive parent trainings for families adopting from foster care, as well as trainings for kinship/relative families, also vary from State to State and even from one county to the next in county-administered States.</p> <p>Some nationally recognized training programs include Parents as Tender Healers (PATH); Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education (PRIDE); or Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (PS-MAPP). Some States may use local versions of these or other curricula.</p> <p><b>International Adoptions:</b> If a child is being adopted through intercountry adoption from a country that is a party to the <i>Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption</i>, 10 hours of preservice training is required.</p>
<p><b>Pre-Placement Adoption Visit</b></p>	<p>If applicable, the purpose of pre-placement visits is for the child to get to know the family they will be moving in with and to provide closure for their current placement before they are moved.</p>
<p><b>Post Placement Visits (PPV) And related reporting</b></p>	<p>Following the placement of a child or children, an adoptive family is <b>required</b> to go through a supervisory period that includes home visits by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Post-adoption visits and related reporting provides assurance to the agency or child welfare organization that the child or children who are placed in the home are receiving appropriate care and protection. Visits are conducted <b>before</b> finalization of the adoption and <b>after</b> child placement.</p> <p>To properly determine and assess post placement functioning of the child or children the Social Worker will observe the child and discuss a variety of topics that may include health statements and medical visits, educational objectives, and daily life activities. A walk through of the living space and the child/children’s room may also be requested.</p> <p>The District of Columbia and the State of Maryland require (3) Post Placement Visits (PPV) for infants. Requirements can vary for older children. Sometimes the state agencies will pay the pp visits until adoption is finalized. If not, families must pay until finalized.</p>

	<p><b><i>International Adoptions:</i></b></p> <p>Many countries <b>require</b> adoptive parents to provide information regarding the progress and welfare of their adopted child or children after placement in the home. The requirements for the number of visits and reporting vary from country to country and are sometimes quite detailed and may extend until the child reaches the age of 18 (or even older in a few rare cases).</p> <p>The Department of State encourages prospective adoptive parents to be aware of these obligations at the outset of their adoption process, and in consultation with their adoption service provider, consider their willingness and ability to comply with post-adoption reporting requirements prior to identifying the country from which they wish to adopt.</p> <p>Missing or delinquent post-adoption reports can negatively impact adoption service providers seeking authorization in affected countries, as well as U.S. citizen parents seeking to adopt in the future.</p> <p>PPVs are paid for by the pre-adoptive families and schedules (the number of visits) are determined by the country.</p>
<p><b>Professional Services and Counseling</b></p>	<p>Their main goal of professional services is to provide education and support for hopeful and adoptive parents. Most importantly, the goal is to coach prospective adoptive families through difficult decisions. Overall, the idea of the counselling is to help prospective adopters explore their feelings and make sure they are serious about adopting a child.</p>
<p><b>Court Report or Child Specific Report</b></p>	<p>The Family Court, Public Child Welfare Agency, or Legal Counsel may ask the agency to perform certain functions related to the petition to adopt and provide and update through a formal written report.</p>
<p><b>Break the Seal Investigations (District of Columbia and Maryland only)</b></p>	<p>Certified Confidential Intermediaries (CI) work as an intermediary between the Petitioner (whoever petitions the court) and the person being searched for. The Petitioner can be the adoptee searching for their birth parent(s) or the birth parent searching for the child they relinquished for adoption.</p> <p>The CI has access to adoption files. With this information, they will conduct research and release non-identifying information to the Petitioner at the Court's order, if the birth parents did not file a veto when consenting to the adoption of their child. The CI can also work to facilitate reunions between the birth parent/s and the adoptee.</p>
<p><i>Updated 10/01/2022</i></p>	<p><i>The Fee Schedule is subject to change based on programmatic changes.</i></p>