



ADOPTIVE FAMILY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

ALL HOME STUDY PROGRAMS	
RESIDENCE	The applicant(s) must reside in Virginia
RELIGION	Catholic Charities provides services regardless of an applicant(s) religions background. If applicant(s) are members of a faith community or parish, a reference will be requested from the identified religious organization.
MARRIAGE	Applicant(s) are recommended to be married for at least two years prior to adopting a child.
CHILDREN	Children in the home must be 18 months of age and have been in the home a minimum of one year prior to the beginning of a home study for another child. It is expected that a couple is not actively engaged in treatment for infertility at the time of application.
HEALTH	The applicant(s) (and their child if there is one) must be in good mental and physical health with normal life expectancy, as determined by the applicant(s) physician. A 'disability' within the meaning of Catholic Charities' nondiscrimination policies does not disqualify a prospective adoptive or foster parent with normal life expectancy from adopting or fostering a child or children. Examples of such disabilities include long-term physical conditions such as diabetes, HIV-positive status and AIDS, heart disease, cancer in long-term remission, etc.
INCOME	Applicant(s) must be able to demonstrate their ability to provide financial stability and meet their current needs as well as the needs of an adopted child(ren). They must demonstrate that they have savings to meet their needs. \$100,000 in life insurance for each adoptive applicant is recommended.
EMPLOYMENT	It is recommended that all adoptive parents plan for, and have the ability to take, parental leave following the adoption of a child.
HOME STUDY	All applicant(s) must have completed an adoption home study, approved by program director and staff before a child can be placed in the home.
FEES	Applicant(s) agree to the fees outlined in their fee agreement, as reflected in the Explanation of Fees document
CHILD PREFERENCES	Applicant(s) will complete a 'child desired' form as part of the home study process in which they will consider various circumstances in which they are open, or not open, to adopting a child.
CRIMINAL HISTORY	Applicant(s) who have been arrested and convicted of a barrier crime will not be considered. Applicant(s) who have been arrested and convicted of any other crime in the past 10 years will not be considered unless: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The information is disclosed in the application b. The information is disclosed on the Duty to Disclose c. The director approves use of the 'home study special circumstances' policy
HOME STUDY MAINTENANCE	All home studies are approved in Virginia for 3 years and then require home study renewal

	Adoptive parents are responsible for communicating to Catholic Charities any significant changes to their household (additional guidance is given at the time of approval)
--	--

DOMESTIC INFANT POOL PROGRAM - ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Home Study

- Married at least 2 years
- The youngest applicant is no older than 48 years old at the time of application; families will be considered for placement until the youngest applicant reaches the age of 52
- Each applicant has minimum of \$100,000 life insurance
- Infant CPR certified
- Fire Escape plan submitted during the home study
- Open to maintaining a fully open adoption with the assistance of the agency

Ongoing Requirements

- 12 hours of annual training

INTERSTATE, INTERNATIONAL & PARENTAL PROGRAMS

Home study eligibility, additional home study requirements and ongoing training and home study maintenance are determined by the placing agency, the country the family is adopting from and/or court(s).

- Adoptive families must submit ongoing training and home study documentation to Catholic Charities in order to maintain their home study approval

WAITING CHILD PROGRAM

Additional trainings during the training and home study process are required (see document checklist for additional information).

Ongoing Requirements

- 12 hours of annual training