

Adoption Home Study Checklist

- Letters of suitability for each adult living in the home of the petitioner(s). Refers to the FBI and the SBI clearances. § 26-10E-19(a)(1).
- Child abuse and neglect (CA/N) clearances pursuant to the Adam Walsh Act, for all household members 14+ from any state in which any petitioner has resided for 5+ years. § 26-10E-19(a)(2).
- Anticipated costs/expenses related to the adoption. § 26-10E-19(a)(3).
- Any agency/social worker licenses. § 26-10E-19(a)(4).
- 6 reference letters: 4 unrelated to the petitioner(s) by blood/marriage, and 2 related to the petitioner(s) by blood/marriage. If there are 2 petitioners, 1 related reference letter shall be written by a member of each petitioner's family. § 26-10E-19(a)(5).
- Medical reports on all individuals living in the home, and letters from any prescribing doctors for any controlled substance prescriptions. § 26-10E-19(a)(6).
- Financial worksheets for each petitioner's previous tax year, OR a copy of previous year's tax returns. § 26-10E-19(a)(7).
- Copies of each petitioner's birth certificates and marriage licenses. § 26-10E-19(a)(8).
- Copies of current pet vaccinations. § 26-10E-19(a)(9).
- Copies of any divorce decrees, if applicable. § 26-10E-19(a)(10).
- Copies of any death certificates, if applicable. § 26-10E-19(a)(11).
- Verification of who will do supervisory visits, if applicable. § 26-10E-19(a)(12). In every adoption proceeding, after a child has been placed in the home of the petitioner(s), the post-placement investigator must observe the adoptee and interview each petitioner in the home as soon as possible after notice of the placement but within 45 days after the placement. § 26-10E-19(h).
- A written biography of each petitioner, including medical and social history. § 26-10E-19(a)(13).

- A home safety inspection indicating that the home of the petitioner(s) is safe for the adoptee's residency. § 26-10E-19(a)(14).
- Any other requirement pursuant to Title 660 of the Alabama Administrative Code or any other rule adopted by DHR. § 26-10E-19(a)(15).
- Verification of all allegations of the petition. § 26-10E-19(i).
- Sufficient facts for the court to determine whether there has been compliance with consent or relinquishment provisions of this chapter. § 26-10E-19(i).

If post-placement:

- Why the biological parents or legal parents, if living, desire to be relieved of the care, support, and guardianship of the adoptee. § 26-10E-19(e)(1).
- Whether the biological parents or legal parents have abandoned the adoptee or are otherwise unsuited to have custody of the adoptee. § 26-10E-19(e)(2).
- Any orders, judgments, or decrees affecting the custody of the adoptee or any children of any petitioner as can be determined by a due diligence search. § 26-10E-19(e)(3).
- Any property owned by the adoptee. § 26-10E-19(e)(4).
- Updated medical and mental health histories of the adoptee. Must be provided to the petitioner(s) in writing before the final decree is entered. § 26-10E-19(e)(5).
- Updated medical and mental health histories of the adoptee's biological parents. § 26-10E-19(e)(6).
- Any other circumstances which may be relevant to the placement of the adoptee with the petitioner(s). § 26-10E-19(e)(7).
- Updated letters of suitability, updated CA/N Clearances, updated criminal records from the county in which the petitioner(s) have resided for the 2 years prior to the finalization of the adoption, and updated results from the National Sex Offender Public Registry. § 26-10E-19(e)(8).
- If applicable, proof of compliance with the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children ("ICPC"), codified as Section 44-2-20: authorized signatures of the sending and receiving states on the ICPC Request Form. § 26-10E-19(e)(9).
- Information enumerated within subdivisions (a)(1) through (a)(10) that was not obtained in the pre-placement investigation required under subsection (a). § 26-10E-19(i).

Form/Timeline:

- Post-placement investigative report shall be submitted in a form developed by DHR in conjunction with the Alabama Probate Judges Association and the Alabama Law Institute. § 26-10E-19(i).
- Investigator shall complete and file the pre-placement home study with the court within 60 days from receipt of notice of the proceeding and shall deliver a copy of the pre-placement investigative report to each petitioner's attorney or to each petitioner appearing pro se. § 26-10E-19(i).

Stepparent/Relative Adoptions:

- An investigation shall be conducted to determine the suitability of the petitioner(s) and the home in which the adoptee will reside, and the report of the investigation, which shall include the information required by subdivisions 26-10E-19(a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(14). § 26-10E-26(2); § 26-10E-27(2).
- Shall be filed with the court no later than within 30 days of the date of the filing of the petition. § 26-10E-26(2); § 26-10E-27(2).
- A relative is defined as: a grandfather, a grandmother, a great-grandfather, a great-grandmother, a great-uncle, a great-aunt, a brother, a half-brother, a sister, a half-sister, an aunt, or an uncle of the first degree and their respective spouses. § 26-10E-27.