

A Portable Home Study

Once your home study is completed you can apply to adopt through private, public or inter-country adoption.

Each adoption system has unique requirements. Additional documentation, interviews and education may be necessary. **No one practitioner or agency can fully approve you to adopt within all three systems,** and a Children's Aid Society can not complete a home study for the sole purpose of inter-country adoption.

Making copies of the documentation that you have gathered assists in the portability of the home study.

SAFE home studies and PRIDE pre-service training are only completed once and are portable. There may be instances when your SAFE home study requires an update:

- Change of adoption system (for example, public to inter-country)
- Change of circumstances (you have a new partner, child, you have moved to a new home or area in the province)
- Change of child profile (you would like to expand your criteria to include different sex, age, special needs, etc.)
- You will be required to update any information that was not provided or has changed since your original home study.



Timelines

Becoming approved as an adoptive applicant takes time.

Completing all of the requirements for adoption in Ontario may take up to **one year**. Your local CAS may have a wait list for PRIDE pre-service training or to complete your SAFE home study based on staffing and resources available

In all three systems, children are placed based on the match with the family. The time frame for a match, and subsequent placement of a child, depends on the type of adoption you are pursuing and the profile of the child you are hoping to adopt.

Your local CAS or private Adoption Practitioner can discuss with you the time frames you may need to consider in your unique circumstances.

After 2 years, if you have not had a child placed with your family your SAFE home study will require an update. This will involve obtaining new references, criminal and child welfare clearances, medical reports, and a meeting with an adoption professional to update your information.

Need more information?

www.ontario.ca/adoption

www.adoption.on.ca

www.oacas.org

www.adopt4life.com



Adoption in Ontario:

Private, Public and Inter-Country



Public Adoption

Public adoption involves the adoption of a child or youth currently in the care of Ontario's child welfare system. A CAS can facilitate the adoption of a child or youth in their care.

There are no fees associated with public adoption. Your local CAS will provide you with all of the required information you will need to consider public adoption. To find your local CAS, go to www.oacas.org.

Private Adoption

Private adoption is the process through which a child's biological family makes the decision to pursue an adoption plan for their child, typically at birth, though a private adoption can be initiated at any age. The adoption is facilitated by a licensed Ontario adoption agency on a fee-for-service basis. To locate a list of licensees or agencies licensed to facilitate private adoption, go to www.children.gov.on.ca.

Inter-Country Adoption

Inter-country adoption involves the adoption of a child from another country by a resident of Ontario. Generally, inter-country adoption must be facilitated through a licensed Ontario adoption agency that is authorized to facilitate adoption by both the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and by the child's country of origin. Services are provided on a fee-for-service basis and vary depending on the adoption agency's fee schedule. To locate a list of adoption agencies licensed to facilitate inter-country adoption, go to www.children.gov.on.ca.

All three options can be explored to build your family through adoption; it is important to educate yourself about each of them to determine the pathway that is best for you.

Ontarians must complete the following requirements in order to adopt:

1. Complete a SAFE (Structured Analysis, Family Evaluation) home Study;
2. Complete PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education) pre-service training;
3. Work with a licensee, licensed adoption agency or Children's Aid Society (CAS) who will facilitate the adoption; and
4. Receive approval on suitability and eligibility to adopt.

SAFE (Structured Analysis, Family Evaluation) is a standardized assessment home study methodology used for public, private and inter-country adoption. All Ontarians interested in expanding their family through adoption must participate in a SAFE home study, which includes:

- A series of interviews with all family members
- Home safety checklist
- Medical report, Police Clearance and Child Welfare record check

A SAFE home study may only be completed by a CAS adoption worker or a ministry-approved private Adoption Practitioner. A list of private Adoption Practitioners can be found at www.children.gov.on.ca. Your SAFE home study can take **4-6 months to complete**, is *generally* valid for up to 2 years and portable across public, private and inter-country adoption.

Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) pre-service Training

PRIDE pre-service training is a nine-module (27-hour) training program used to prepare and educate families interested in adoption and fostering. The PRIDE pre-service curriculum includes information about the following:

- Adoption and child welfare systems, processes and laws
- Attachment and loss
- Child development and issues specific to needs of adopted children
- The effects of neglect, lack of stimulation, abuse, institutionalization on children
- Identity formation and the importance of cultural and racial awareness
- The importance of connections and continuity for children

PRIDE pre-service training can be completed through a private PRIDE trainer for a fee or via a CAS at no cost. A schedule of private PRIDE training sessions can be found at <https://secure.adoptontario.ca/pride.main.aspx>

