



# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING AN AGENCY:

## **SERVICES:**

What services are included when selecting this agency? Agency should have a list of services and any fees involved for each.

## **TRAINING:**

Does the agency provide pre-adoptive training? If so, how many hours? Will both parents (if applicable) have to participate? If both parents are unable to attend, are there any other avenues for which to obtain training (i.e., one-on-one training)? When is the next available training? Is there an orientation to the training?

## **LICENSING:**

Does the agency recommend and/or require dual licensing (simultaneous foster care license and adoptive approval)? Are families not willing to be dual licensed treated any differently (specifically regarding training/approval timeframe) than those who are willing to be dual licensed?

## **HOMESTUDY:**

Does the agency provide a written homestudy? Is there a fee to the family for the homestudy? If not, is there ever an instance where they would have to pay for the study (i.e., if they pursue an out of state child)? Do they use contract workers to write this study? If so, will they still be considered the family's supervising agency? What is the estimated time frame between completion of training and final written approval to adopt? We recommend that a homestudy specify the type of child you desire but final recommendation section indicate general type (age 5-18 even though you may be looking for a 5-7 year old because your preferences may change over time).

## **MATCHING:**

Does the agency provide assistance with finding a child? How involved will they be in your pursuit to identify a child? How will you handle a situation where you feel you would like to pursue a specific child, but your agency does not feel that child is 'right' for your family? Do they utilize other mechanisms for identifying a child other than internet searching?

## **POST-PLACEMENT SUPPORT:**

Does the agency provide post placement supervision? What fees are involved for this? What will happen if child's agency will not cover these fees? How often will agency meet with your family? How long will agency be involved in supporting your family? What resources are available to your to obtain on-going training and support?

## **INTERSTATE:**

Will the agency support an out-of-state child placement? Will there be costs involved if you choose to adopt a child from another state? Are there any states that the agency has successfully completed numerous interstate adoptions?