



What Happens Next?

For First Time Applicants interested in International Adoption

1. Read and sign all forms. Return you completed Application, Description of Services Contract and Service Agreement Contract to your local Adoptions From The Heart office along with you application fee. ***Out of area clients:*** Return all forms to our main administrative office in Wynnewood, PA.
2. Once your paperwork is received, your application will be processed. You will be contacted by an adoption counselor to schedule an individual counseling session. ***Out of area clients:*** Once your paperwork is received an adoption counselor will contact you via phone or e-mail. At this time you should talk to your adoption counselor about who you are planning to use for your home study. There will soon be guidelines concerning who can write home studies for international adoption.
3. At your counseling session, you will be invited to the next Home study or Educational Group Session. You will also make arrangements with your adoption counselor to have a dossier meeting where the paperwork for your home study, immigration, and your dossier will be discussed. The first portion of the agency fee and the home study fee will be due at this meeting. ***Out of area clients:*** Once the first portion of your agency fee is received your adoption counselor will send you the documents needed for your dossier, and immigration. These documents will be reviewed with you by phone or e-mail.
4. Once all paperwork that is required for the home study is received, the adoption counselor will make arrangements for a visit to your home. A home visit will not be made until the paper work for the home study is completed. The home study will not be approved until you have taken the Educational Course*.
5. Once the home study is approved, it will be sent to you for your immigration approval and for your dossier. Once your dossier is completed, make arrangements with your adoption counselor to review the paperwork and have it notarized. ***Out of area clients:*** Your home study agency will either provide you with a copy of your home study to send to immigration or will send it to immigration on your behalf. Once your dossier is complete please contact your adoption counselor.
6. Your adoption counselor will instruct you on the next step because it differs for each country.

*Out of area clients do not need to attend the AFTH Educational Course you will need to follow any requirements your home study agency sets forth. Families in the NY city area will need to attend the AFTH Education Course held in one of our other offices.