

# Steps in the Adoption & Foster Care Process



## Information Session

- The first step to discovering the ways you can work with AASK to provide relationships to children.



## Intake

- A few forms and signatures are all it takes to start a discussion with an AASK Family Specialist about how you can be a ‘family’ to a child in foster care.
- It is also where you and AASK determine whether AASK is the right agency for you.

# Intake Process



- Primary Questionnaire to learn more about your family.

- Handed out at the information session if you are interested in continuing.

- Complete and return it to the agency.

- You will receive a call to schedule a meeting within 3 business days of receipt of your Pre-Intake questionnaire.

- Preliminary meeting to know more about your family.

- Review Intakes and Develop follow up questions.

- Follow up questions.

- Detailed overview of process



## Training

- Adoptive, Kinship, and Foster families are trained together.
- Training is a blend of online sessions and in-person classes...
  - 5 in class sessions of 3 hours each
  - online, interactive, multi-media component in between classes
  - Trainings are held at our offices in the west, central, and east valley.
- Registration for training is completed during your Intake meetings.



## Homestudy

- It captures who you are, identifies your strengths and shows the State that you have the skills and talents needed to parent a child.
- Your Homestudy is begun at the same time as training.
- The Homestudy is your family's advocacy tool.



## Approval

- When your Foster Homestudy is complete, it is submitted to DCS/ OLR for approval. Once approved, you are a LICENSED foster family.
- When your Adoption Homestudy is complete, it is submitted to the court for approval. Once approved, you are CERTIFIED adoptive family.





## Child Match

- Based on the age, gender, ethnicity and level of needs you are open to in a child, your Family Specialist will work with the state to find a child that your family is right for.





## Placement

- Your family placement preferences will impact the time it takes for a placement to be made.



## Placement

- Once adoptive families have been matched with a child, they will meet the child and enjoy time together during a transition period (usually 2 weeks - 2 months). When everyone feels comfortable, the child will move into their new home.
- During the post-placement period, AASK will provide support & advocacy services.



## Finalization

- Adoption is complete upon the finalization hearing in the court (usually 9-12 months after placement). This is a special day... now your family is official!



## Family Support

- We know that hard work truly begins the day your adoptive or foster child moves into your home. AASK provides a variety of services to help support and nurture your family.