

Understanding the Social Investigation Process

Presented by Christy Frans and Emma Kennedy
A New Beginning
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www.adoptanewbeginning.org





A New Beginning is a non-profit, fully licensed agency providing the full-spectrum of adoption services necessary to complete U.S. Infant and Foster- Adoptions, home study, legal and post-placement services for international and private adoptions. A New Beginning's free and confidential unplanned pregnancy services include options counseling, pre-delivery, hospital and post-pregnancy support and services in Idaho. Our Wellness Center's staff are experts in the areas of grief and loss, trauma, attachment and family dynamics and these services were designed especially for adoptive families, adoptees, blended families, foster families, foster-children, birth families and others during the adoption process and post-placement.

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Christy Frans, Bachelor of Arts - Psychology



Christy Frans has worked in the non-profit arena for over 17 years and has worked with A New Beginning Adoption Agency as an adoption specialist since 2009. As sister to an adopted brother and aunt to an internationally adopted niece, Christy has been surrounded by adoption most of her life. Christy graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Boise State University. She works primarily with families in the home study process, where she provides them support and training as they begin their adoption journey. She also has experience working with birth families in placement and adoptive families in post placement services. She currently co-teaches the agency's foster adopt training, but has enjoyed developing and conducting trainings in all adoption programs over the last 9 years at A New Beginning. Christy is especially passionate about working with youth adopted from the foster care system. She co-facilitates A New Beginning's Youth Advisory Board which meets twice a month. Christy is a proud mom to three daughters, who loves family time with her husband and children.

Emma Kennedy, Licensed Social Worker



Emma has been involved in the adoption world since 2014. Having a good friend who is an adoptee, adoption has always been an interest of Emma's. She completed her senior year practicum with A New Beginning and graduated from Boise State University with a Bachelors degree in Social Work. Emma is a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Idaho. As an Adoption Specialist, she finds much joy in working with adoptive families and birth parents throughout their adoption journey. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family and what the Boise area has to offer.

Description of Social Investigation Service

- A New Beginning is hired to give a recommendation to the court, in response to the petition.
- The final social investigation report written by A New Beginning will include the recommendation and supporting assessments. The recommendation can include, but not limited to, termination of parental rights, step parent adoption, visitations, and guardianship.

Fees Associated with Social Investigation Service

- Fee for investigation and report- \$1,000
 - To be submitted to A New Beginning by family
 - Fee is due when the completed social investigation packet is submitted to the agency.
- Fee for testimony- \$150 flat fee (includes travel time)

Referral and Intake Process

- Attorney contacts A New Beginning Adoption Agency and the agency emails the social investigation packet and contract for service to requesting Attorney. Attorney forwards packet to client OR the family contacts A New Beginning directly.
- Petitioners submit the completed social investigation packet and fee to the agency.
- Adoption Specialist reviews completed social investigation packet and interviews are scheduled.

Information Needed for Packet

- Autobiographical questionnaire on step parent
- Birth Certificate of Child to be adopted
- Birth Certificate of Petitioners (or other age and identification verification)
- Marriage Certificate of Petitioners
- Divorce decrees from any previous marriages of Petitioners
- Financial statement
- Verification of income of Petitioners (check stub, W2, or 1040 tax form)
- Personal Background Form for step parent
- Members of household, names and birth dates
- Four personal references, three of whom are not related
- Criminal Record check(s) for step parent and any adults in the home, send results to agency
- Child history form(s)- genetic forms on biological mother, biological father and child
- Information Disclosure Form(s)
- Release of Information(s)
- Medical Form(s)
- Petition for Termination of Parental Rights/Petition for Adoption
- Child Support Report

Time Frames

- The Social Investigation Report is due 30 Days from Court Order date
- All paperwork due to A New Beginning prior to investigation/interviews are scheduled and conducted
- Attorney can file for an extension if needed
 - if paperwork is not submitted on time
 - availability of interviewees schedule

Interviews

- Interviews are scheduled after all paperwork has been submitted to A New Beginning
- Interviewees include:
 - Child(ren)
 - Petitioners (biological parent & step parent)
 - Biological parent for termination of parental rights
 - Optional interviews
 - Treatment providers
 - References
 - Adults living in the home
 - Others as deemed necessary

Assessment and Recommendation

- Child centered (what is in the best interest of the child)
- Recommendations not based on desires of Petitioners
- Long term ramifications about the recommendation
 - How will birth history be conveyed to the child(ren)
 - Reunification
 - Sibling relationships

Report and Submission

A court ordered report, pursuant to I.C. 16-2008(2), that includes:

- A recommendation for or against termination of parental rights and may include a recommendation for or against step parent adoption.
- The circumstances of the petition, the investigation, the present condition of the child and parents, proposed plans for the child, and such other facts as may be pertinent to the parent and child relationship.
- Report is prepared and submitted to the court by A New Beginning.

Questions?

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