

## Partnership

As part of Catholic Social Services' (CSS) commitment to serve children and families, CSS entered into an agreement with the State of Alaska, Office of Children's Services (OCS). CSS provides home studies for those families seeking to adopt or provide guardianship for a specific child in the custody of OCS.

## Home Study

The home study is a report, written for the court, assessing the appropriateness of the permanent placement of a child. The writer will meet with the applicant(s) a minimum of two times in their home. Everyone living in the home will be part of the home study process which will take approximately four months to complete.

The home study is YOUR story, and as such you are encouraged to participate fully. You are entitled to a truthful and accurate finished product that will be presented to OCS for final approval.

## What Catholic Social Services provides:

- Home studies for
  - \* Infant Adoption
  - \* International Adoption
  - \* Office of Children's Services' Special Needs Adoption
- Life-long post-placement counseling
- Education about legal rights
- Pregnancy Support Counseling
- Parenting Supplies (maternity & baby clothes, diapers, etc.)
- Education about pre and post partum care
- Adoption Planning
- Adoption Workshops



## Catholic Social Services' Pregnancy Support & Adoption Services

Special Needs Adoption &  
Guardianship

Home Study Process for the  
State of Alaska's  
Office of Children's Services



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cssalaska.org

 **Catholic  
Social Services**  
*Providing Help  
Creating Hope*

## Mission

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The Pregnancy Support and Adoption Services program of Catholic Social Services supports the tradition of family life and affirms the belief that every child is a creation of God. The program assists the family of origin and the family of adoption to make a confident and loving plan for their own and their child's future. With education and respect, the families grow to an understanding of lifelong commitment and love.



*Children need permanent,  
safe and loving homes.*

## Information Included in the Home Study

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Personal and family background (including upbringing, siblings and key events) of child(ren) and applicant

Significant people in the lives of the applicant

Marriage and family relationships

Motivation to adopt or provide guardianship

Expectations for the child(ren)

Integration of the child(ren) into the family

Family environment

Physical and health history of the applicants

Education, employment and financial information

References and criminal background clearances

Summary and study writer's recommendation for permanent placement

## Tips for getting through the process.....

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- Ask questions
- Have patience
- Clarify information
- Review the draft of your study
- Keep all appointments with the home study writer
- Complete home study packet promptly
- Complete fingerprinting process promptly

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*CSS staff is available to  
answer questions and offer  
support throughout the  
process.*