



Conducting Home Studies: Risk Factors

This Quick Reference Guide is referenced in Conducting Home Studies Part II: Documentation and Recommendation.

Risk Factors

- Current Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement or recent flag on CA/N check
- Sponsor or household member listed on the sex offender registry
- Child presenting as a major safety risk to the community, sponsor, or others in the home (e.g., child who has committed assault against another child and there are children in the home)
- Sponsor unable or unwilling to meet the child's medical or mental health needs (not based on financial circumstances)
- Child has significant traveling debt, especially if owed to the sponsor
- Trafficking concerns that involve the sponsor or other household members
- Significant discrepant information throughout the home study process
- Significant drug or alcohol use in the home
- Home environment appearing unsafe for the child in any way
- Sponsor having a history of being an unsuccessful sponsor (e.g., previously sponsored child never went to school, child ran away, was returned to ORR care, or CPS became involved)
- Sponsor or household member has pending criminal charges that could impact the child's safety
- Sponsor has an active arrest warrant (not to be confused with a deportation order)
- Sponsor is unable to meet the child's basic needs



Conducting Home Studies: Household Inspections

This Quick Reference Guide is referenced in Conducting Home Studies Part I: Overview and Procedures.

Household Inspection Items

1. All rooms in the home must be inspected, including but not limited to:
 - Living rooms
 - Offices
 - Kitchens and dining rooms
 - Bathrooms
 - Bedrooms
 - Basements or attics
 - Garages
 - Any rooms in the home that are usually locked (they must be unlocked and inspected for the visit)
2. Discuss sleeping arrangements and specifically review where the child will be sleeping.
3. Confirm that:
 - Smoke detectors are installed and working.
 - Utilities are working in the home.
 - The house is free of mold and water damage.
 - There are no signs of drug use.
 - The home appears to be lived in and occupied.
4. Address safety hazards or concerns in the outdoor environment.
5. Check for signs of additional household members.

For example:

 - Six toothbrushes when only four occupants are reported
 - Extra bedroom with clothing and a used bed
 - No baby reported but a crib is in the home
 - Men's clothing in the closet when no male household member has been reported



Conducting Home Studies: Child Interview

This Quick Reference Guide is referenced in Conducting Home Studies Part I: Overview and Procedures.

Child Interview Questions

1. How do you know (sponsor)?
2. Do you know who lives in (sponsor's) home? What is your relationship with them?
3. Do you know (sponsor's) discipline style? Are there consequences when rules aren't followed?
4. Do you feel safe moving in with (sponsor)?
5. Do you have any concerns about living with (sponsor)?
6. What do you expect (sponsor's) home to be like?
7. How do you think you will spend your time with (sponsor)?
8. What kind of chores do you think you will have?
9. What are your expectations about school?
10. Can you think of anything that would be helpful to you once you're released?
11. Do you have any other family members in the U.S.?
12. Is there anyone else that helps or supports you?



Conducting Home Studies: Sponsor Interview

This Quick Reference Guide is referenced in Conducting Home Studies Part I: Overview and Procedures.

Sponsor Interview Topics and Questions

Note: For the full list of sponsor interview questions, refer to the home study assessment.

1. Sponsor Background

- Does the sponsor have any major medical issues? If so, describe.
- Does the sponsor have any mental health issues? If so, describe.
- Does the sponsor have any substance use issues? If so, describe.
- What are the sponsor's coping mechanisms?
- Describe the sponsor's background?
- What is the sponsor's English proficiency?
- What is the sponsor's proficiency in the unaccompanied child's native language?

2. Sponsor's Motivation and Relationship to the child

- Relationship to the child and previous sponsorships?
- What is the sponsor's reason for sponsorship?
- Does the sponsor have a family support system in the U.S.?
- Does the sponsor have any financial obligations for the child's travel to the U.S.?
- Is the sponsor aware of any challenges the child experienced on their journey to the U.S.?

3. Sponsor's Parenting Ability

- What is the discipline approach and house rules?
- What is the sponsor's supervision plan?
- Are there any other children in the home? Describe if their needs are being met.
- Sponsor's previous sponsorships of children released from ORR care.
 - Where are the other sponsored children currently?
 - Are the children working?
 - Are the children attending school? If so, provide proof of school enrollment.
- Any significant changes planned for the sponsor in the future?
- Is the sponsor aware of any special issues or concerns for the child?
- Does the sponsor foresee any challenges in parenting the child?



4. Community Resources

- Personal support and knowledge of services?
- Does the sponsor know who to call in case of emergency?

5. Legal

- What is the sponsor's plan to ensure the child attends immigration proceedings?
- How will the sponsor secure legal representation for the child?

6. Financial

- What is the sponsor's current employment status? If employed, gather employment information and income.
- Does the sponsor have any debt?
- Does the sponsor operate a business out of the home?
- What are the sponsor's income and expenses?
- How does the sponsor plan to financially support the child?

7. Trafficking Risk

- If the child had a previous negative recommendation home study and/or sponsor who was denied due to concerns, does the current sponsor have any connection to the previous sponsor?
- Are there any concerns that this sponsor would release the child to the previous sponsor of concern?
- Is there a risk that the sponsor will ask the child or child's family to pay rent or for basic needs?
- Is the sponsor planning on sending the child to school?
- Is the child going to be required to work, or take care of any other children in the home?



Conducting Home Studies: Household Member Interview

This Quick Reference Guide is referenced in Conducting Home Studies Part I: Overview and Procedures.

Household Member Questions

1. What is your preferred name?
2. What is your date of birth?
3. What is your gender? What are your preferred pronouns?
4. Do you have rules you're supposed to follow in the house? What happens if a rule is broken?
5. Do you go to school (or work, based on age)?
 - *If applicable:* If yes, tell me about your work.
 - Where are you employed? How often do you report?
 - *If applicable:* If not, when was your last job and why did you leave?
 - Tell me about your typical day now.
6. Do you ever have to miss school (or work, based on age)? If so, why?
 - *If applicable:* Have you ever been terminated or asked to resign from your job? If so, what happened?
7. Is there anything that you pay for with your own money?
 - What are you responsible for paying for with your own money to live here?
8. Are you able to go to the doctor or get medicine if you need it?
9. Does each child in the home have and get what they need?
10. Does everyone feel safe in the home? Is anyone fearful of anyone?
11. What are the house rules and expectations for each child in the home?
12. Are you dependent on (sponsor's) income?
13. What is (sponsor's) discipline style with children?
14. What is everyone's sleeping arrangement and location?
15. What is your perspective on (unaccompanied child) coming to live in the home?
16. What is your role in (unaccompanied child's) life?
17. Do you struggle with substance abuse or have a criminal history?
18. Are there any firearms in the home?
 - If so, where, and how are they stored? (Reference state laws for firearm safety.)
19. *If applicable:* Have you previously sponsored any children?
 - If so, where are they? Are there concerns regarding the previously sponsored children?
20. Address any other questions not already covered that address the reason for referral.