



International Adoption Adoptive Parent Training Requirements

Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center (ACI) offers Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) training courses to promote a successful adoption. Training is required for all families to educate themselves on issues relevant to adoption. There is no additional cost to attend classes offered by our agency once PAPs have submitted their application and paid the Home Study fees. CPR training is required for all PAPs.* ¹

What is training and why do I need it?

Adoption and parenting come with many challenges (and joys!) and we want to ensure that PAPs are well prepared and that children thrive in their forever family. We encourage PAPs to continue their education throughout the adoption process and in the years to come.

How many training hours are required?

In addition to CPR training, PAPs must complete a minimum of 10 training hours before the home study can be finalized (12 hours if adopting from China).

PAPs must complete training that is specifically geared toward their identified adoption expectations. At least 2 hours of training must address the specific needs of the child that PAPs are open to adopting. For example, PAPs open to adopting a child with complex medical needs, prenatal substance exposure, an older child, a child with a trauma history, and/or a child of a different race must receive training related to each of those topics.

Please note that if PAPs expectations change after the home study is finalized or after they have been matched with a particular child or children, they may be required to take additional trainings. At any time while working with our agency, more training may be suggested or required in order to better prepare PAPs for adoptive parenting.

What methods of training are acceptable?

Trainings can take place in-person or online so long as they provide certificates of completion. While we encourage as many in-person trainings as possible, some online resources that PAPs have utilized include www.adoptionlearningpartners.org, <https://heartofthematterededucation.com>, www.adoptionsupport.org, <https://creatingfamily.org/>. Please note that each PAP must be listed on the certificate of completion to provide them with credit. While we do not require that families attend ACI's classes, we highly recommend that PAPs attend as many in-person trainings as possible.

How long are our credits from training courses valid?

Credits are valid for 4 years.

¹ Please check with your local American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or EMS Safety Services for these trainings.

TRAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS:

Regulations for adoptive parent training pursuant to the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 require 10 hours of training (12 hours for China) **before** a family can have any contact with the child. Families cannot travel to the child's country of origin to "view" or "select" a child until they have completed 10 hours (12 hours for China) of training. This training must cover 8 mandatory topic areas as follows:

1. The intercountry adoption process, general characteristics and needs of children awaiting adoption and the in-country conditions that affect children in the country parents plan to adopt.
2. The effect of malnutrition, relevant environmental toxins, maternal substance abuse, and any other known genetic, health, emotional and developmental risk factors associated with the country.
3. Information about the impact of leaving familiar ties and surroundings as appropriate to the expected age of the child.
4. Data on institutionalized children and the impact of institutionalization on children, including the effect of the length of time in the institution and the type of care provided in-country.
5. Information on attachment disorders and other emotional problems that institutionalized or traumatized children, and children with a history of multiple caregivers, may experience before, during and after adoption.
6. Information on the laws and adoption processes of the expected country of origin, including foreseeable delays and impediments to finalization of an adoption.
7. Information on the long-term implications for a family that has become multicultural through Intercountry adoption.
8. An explanation of the reporting requirements associated with Hague adoptions, including post-placement or post-adoption reports required by the country of origin.

PAPs must also complete training to be as fully prepared as possible for the adoption of a particular child. This includes training on:

9. The child's history and cultural, racial, religious, ethnic, and linguistic background;
10. The known health risks in the specific region or country where the child resides; and
11. Any other medical, social, background, birth history, educational data, developmental history, or any other data known about the particular child.

Which ACI classes count towards the International Adoption training requirements?

- Attachment and Adoption
- Communicating with your Child about Adoption
- Race and Adoption
- Adult Adoptee Panel: Adoptees Share their Experiences
- Understanding the Effects of Pre-natal Alcohol and Drug Exposure
- Understanding Grief and Loss

Please note that it is not possible to complete all Hague training through classes at ACI so PAPs must take some training classes through other resources. Additionally, while we do recommend in-person trainings whenever possible, some websites offer Hague training packages (i.e. www.adoptionlearningpartners.org, <https://heartofthemattereducation.com>).

Please remember that additional trainings may be required based on PAPs adoption expectations and/or a child's specific needs.

If you have any questions relating to training, you may contact Michelle Setka or Lindsay Weinberg at 773-334-2300.