

Snowflakes® Family Evaluation (SFE)

The Family Evaluation/Home Study

The pre-adoption assessment, often referred to as a home study, is a tool used to help an adoption agency evaluate and educate the adopting family, while simultaneously preparing the adopting family to parent an adopted child. Every adopting family choosing the Snowflakes program is required to successfully complete a family evaluation or home study. It is not a psychological analysis; our intent is to prepare and equip you with important parenting skills.

A family evaluation is different for each adoption as everyone has different histories and experiences. It consists of extensive paperwork, education and interviews with a social worker. It provides Snowflakes placing parents with confidence that our adopting families have been properly vetted through this process. They have greater assurance they are placing their embryos into a loving, safe and secure family.

The [Snowflakes Family Evaluation \(SFE\)](#) is available in all 50 states and internationally. It is a very reasonably priced assessment service.

The SFE may only be used for an embryo adoption. It is non-transferrable to a domestic, international or foster adoption program. The fees paid for an SFE cannot be applied to traditional home study services provided by Nightlight Christian Adoptions. [Here is a video](#) detailing the SFE process. A nice feature of the SFE is that it remains valid for 2 years and includes the required Snowflakes post-birth reports at no additional cost.

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| Snowflakes Family Evaluation: | \$1,500.00 Valid for 2 years from date of completion. |
| Social Worker Travel Expenses: | \$300.00-600.00 (on average) Actual costs incurred by evaluator for your home visit will be assessed. |
| Background Checks: | \$50.00 – 150.00 Actual costs vary by state. Each person over 18 in the home must complete a background check. |

We have a completed, not expired, home study

If you have a completed a valid domestic adoption home study when you enter the Snowflakes program, you will likely be able to use that home study for your Snowflakes embryo adoption. In addition, you will need to complete the required embryo adoption education.

Most domestic home studies are only valid for 1 year, so you may need to pay your provider an update fee to keep it current throughout your Snowflakes adoption journey (current through the shipping phase of Snowflakes).

If your domestic home study does not include the cost for a post-birth report, the Snowflakes program can provide that service for \$200.00.

Please contact your agency and ask **them** to mail (to our [California office](#)) or email a copy of your current home study to Snowflakes Adopting Parent Coordinator Krista Jones, at krista.jones@nightlight.org. The copy, whether snail mail or email, must come directly from your home study agency. We have not had problems with private adoption agencies releasing home study documents to Nightlight. However, many state-run home study agencies will not release a copy of your home study to a private adoption agency. **If your home study was completed through the state, you will most likely need to complete an SFE.**

What can help me speed up my adoption timeline in the Snowflakes program?

Completing your SFE in a timely fashion is one of the easiest ways to speed up your embryo adoption journey. The application phase of Snowflakes is largely based around the time it takes to complete your evaluation. **The faster you are able to submit the necessary paperwork, the faster you will be able to schedule your home visit and move forward into the matching phase of the Snowflakes program. Be prepared: an SFE, just like any other type of home study or evaluation, requires the completion of many documents and verifications.**

Sarah says this about the Snowflakes Family Evaluation:

“Overall – I’m so glad to have this education. It has helped me to see things that I would otherwise not have known and may have made a mistake in parenting our adopted child.

One of the key things I learned was to have the focus be on the child and what is best for them. That doesn’t mean that my fears are invalid, but that I need to put the needs of the child over my own personal fears. In that way, it is best for us as a family and helps us to have a much better relationship as a whole.

I don’t have to explain everything to everyone. I am definitely more equipped to talk about embryo adoption to those who don’t understand, but I don’t even need to tell people that my child is adopted. I should let my child be the one to tell people when he/she is ready.

The age of the embryos does not affect the quality of the embryo nor its chances of success. I need to tell my child from the earliest age that they are adopted in order to be comfortable talking about it with them, making it normal for the child and not something awkward, and for them to not feel betrayed later when they are older and find out.

This really helped me to start thinking about being open with the genetic family. We are going to discuss this more and see where we are at as a couple and our comfort level of knowing and meeting with the genetic parents.”