

Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program

Snowflakes Family Evaluation (SFE)

A pre-adoption assessment, often referred to as an adoption home study, is a tool used to help an adoption agency evaluate and educate the adopting family, while simultaneously preparing them to parent an adopted child. Every adopting family choosing the Snowflakes Program is required to complete a family evaluation or home study. The family evaluation is about education and assessment; it is not a psychological analysis. Our intent is to prepare you for the embryo adoption process and equip you with important parenting skills.

The family evaluation is different for each adoption as everyone has different histories and experiences. However, the process for each family consists of completing various documents, including personal histories, references, criminal and child abuse/neglect background checks, adoption education, and interviews with a home study provider. In addition to meeting adoption best practices, the evaluation provides Snowflakes placing parents with confidence that our adopting families have been properly vetted, giving them greater assurance that they are placing their embryos into a loving, safe, and stable family.

The [Snowflakes Family Evaluation \(SFE\)](#) is available in all 50 states and internationally. [Here is a video](#) about the SFE process in detail.

The SFE is only valid for an embryo adoption. It is non-transferrable to a domestic, international, or foster-adopt program. The fees associated cannot be applied to traditional home study services provided by Nightlight Christian Adoptions.

The SFE is valid for two years and includes the required Snowflakes post-birth reports at no additional cost.

Below is an average SFE fee breakdown:

Snowflakes Family Evaluation:	\$1,500.00 Valid for 2 years from date of completion.
SFE Provider 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.

The SFE, just like any other home study or family evaluation, requires commitment from the adoptive family. *The time it takes you to enter matching is largely dependent upon the time it takes to complete your SFE.* Completing your SFE in a timely fashion is one of the easiest ways to speed up your embryo adoption journey. The Snowflakes team is readily available to help you along the way!

Traditional Adoption Home Study

If you have completed a traditional domestic infant home study:

Snowflakes will likely be able to apply your home study to your embryo adoption. In addition, we will provide you with embryo adoption education, which needs to be completed before you may move forward into matching. Most traditional home studies are only valid for one year. Your home study must be valid until you have completed the contracts phase of the Snowflakes Program. Your provider may request an update fee to keep it current throughout the Snowflakes process.

If you have completed a home study for international adoption or foster care:

These home studies may meet the home study requirement for your Snowflakes adoption, but this will be determined on a case-by-case basis. While you are more than welcome to have your home study provider send us the document for review, we cannot guarantee that it will be valid for the Snowflakes Program. You will also be required to complete the embryo adoption education before entering the Snowflakes matching process.

We have not had issues with private adoption agencies or home study providers releasing documents to Nightlight in the past. ***However, many government-run home study providers are not permitted to release a copy of your home study to a private adoption agency.*** If your home study was completed through the state or an agency contracted by the state, you will most likely need to complete an SFE.

Our provider gave us a copy of the completed home study—can we send it to you?

If you have completed a home study already, whether for domestic infant or foster care, please contact your provider and request that they mail or email a copy to the Snowflakes Adopting Parent Coordinator. ***The copy, whether mailed or emailed, must come directly from your home study provider.*** We are unable to receive additional copies you may already have on hand.

Is there anything else our home study provider should be aware about?

Every Snowflakes adoption requires a 6-week post-birth visit and report (see page 4 of [Contracts, Shipping and the Frozen Embryo Transfer](#)). Please inquire with your home study provider about the cost for this service. If they are unable to complete this for you, Nightlight is able to offer a 6-week post-birth visit for a \$200 fee.