**Psychological Strategies, LLC**

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**PREPARING FOR YOUR PRE-ADOPTION EVALUATION**

Many adoption agencies require psychological evaluations for prospective adopting parents as a regular part of the overall adoption process. Such assessments are often required when a person or a couple is adopting a child internationally. Each host country sets its own requirements for the items that they want the evaluation to include. An interview and psychological testing, as described below, are typically included.

If you are an adopting couple, the interview portion of the assessment will consist of my spending time with both of you individually and as a couple. I typically start out interviewing you both as a couple. Following that interview, while I further talk with just one of you, the other person completes the psychological testing process. The test consists of a paper-and-pencil assessment tool. Thus, this entire process typically takes about 3 hours. If the two of you are unable to come in together for a 3-hour block of time, that’s no problem. We can split up the time as needed to accommodate your schedules.

If you are adopting as a single parent, the process is the same. We will begin with an interview followed by your completion of a paper-and-pencil psychological test.

There are a few countries that require two types of psychological tests – a paper-and-pencil process as described above and a second type of test which must be administered in person by me. If you are adopting from one of these countries, there will need to be a second testing appointment set up with me on another day.

After the interviews are completed and the tests are administered and scored, I interpret the results and prepare a report for the adoption agency or the host country, whichever applies in your case. Evaluation reports are printed, signed, and notarized before being sent to the required parties in the mail.

Your adoption agency will provide you with information from the host country as to what is required by them in the psychological evaluation. It is often helpful, before setting up the initial appointment, for us to have a 10-minute, free telephone conversation in order to determine whether one or two tests will be required. **It will be important for you to have the information from the host country available for our phone conversation. In addition, I will appreciate it if you also fax this information to me in advance of your initial appointment so that I can be properly prepared to cover the items required by your host country. My fax number is 952-925-5614.**

I look forward to meeting you soon! Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the pre-adoption evaluation process.