**Section 333.20 Definitions**

"Accredited agency" or "Hague accredited agency" means an adoption agency accredited by the entity designated by the federal government to provide adoption services in the United States for cases subject to the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention.

"Adoption disruption" occurs when an adoptive placement does not prove successful and it becomes necessary for the child to be removed from placement before the adoption is finalized.

*"Adoption services" includes any one or more of the following services performed for any type of compensation or thing of value, directly or indirectly:*

*arranging for the placement of or placing out a child,*

*identifying a child for adoption,*

*matching adoptive parents with biological parents,*

*arranging or facilitating an adoption,*

*taking or acknowledging consents or surrenders for termination of parental rights for purposes of adoption, as defined in the Adoption Act,*

*performing background studies on a child or adoptive parents,*

*making determinations of the best interests of a child and the appropriateness of adoptive placement for the child, or*

*post-placement monitoring of a child prior to adoption.*

*"Adoption services" does not include the following:*

*the provision of legal services by a licensed attorney for which the attorney must be licensed as an attorney under Illinois law,*

*adoption-related services performed by public governmental entities or entities or persons performing investigations by court appointment as described in subsection A of Section 6 of the Adoption Act,*

*prospective biological parents or adoptive parents operating on their own behalf,*

*the provision of general education and training on adoption-related topics, or*

*post-adoption services, including supportive services to families to promote the well-being of members of adoptive families or birth families.* [225 ILCS 10/2.24]

"Agency in good standing" means a licensed child welfare agency (see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 401) with no substantiated licensing violations.

"Background check", for prospective foster and adoptive parents, means:

A criminal history check of persons age 17 and over whose fingerprints are submitted to the Illinois State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for comparison to their criminal history records or the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database, when applicable, for prospective foster and adoptive parents; and

A check of the Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS) and other state child protection systems, or the National Sex Offenders Registry, as appropriate, to determine whether an individual is currently alleged or has been indicated as a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect; and

A check of the Illinois Sex Offender Registry and the National Sex Offenders Registry, as appropriate.

"Convention" or "Hague" means the Hague Adoption Convention.

"Convention adoption" means an adoption of a child who is a resident of a foreign country that is a party to the Convention by a United States Citizen or an adoption of a child who is a resident of the United States by an individual residing in another Convention country.

"Convention agency" means an agency that has been accredited on a national level to provide adoption services in Convention adoption cases (currently, COA).

"Convention country" means a country that is a party to the Hague Adoption Convention.

"Department" means the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

"Exempt provider" means a social worker professional or organization that performs home studies. Exempt providers are not required to be accredited; however, the home study performed by an exempt provider shall be approved by an accredited agency.

"Foreign placing agency" means an agency or individual operating in a country or territory outside the United States that is authorized by its country to place children for adoption either directly with families in the United States or through U.S.-based international agencies.

"Home study" means a document attesting that the home has been evaluated by an approved agency/entity in accordance with requirements set out in Section 333.80.

"Home study revalidation" means the review and approval of an adoptive home study that is 12 months old or more and adheres to this Part and 8 CFR 204.311 (2011).

"Illinois placing agency" means a child welfare agency licensed in Illinois and operating in Illinois as an adoption agency or placing agency.

"Intercountry adoption" means a process by which a child from a country other than the United States is adopted by a U.S. resident.

"Intercountry Adoption Coordinator" means a staff person of the Department appointed by the Director to coordinate the provision of services by the public and private sector to prospective parents of foreign-born children, and to coordinate and approve the adoption of children born in the United States by a resident of a foreign country.

"Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children" means a law enacted by most states for the purpose of establishing uniform procedures for handling the interstate placement of children in foster homes, adoptive homes or other child care facilities.

"Investigative report" means a report about a prospective adoptive family that adheres to the Adoption Act submitted to the court with jurisdiction over an adoption proceeding.

"Non-Compact State" means a state or U.S. territory that has not enacted the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

"Non-Convention adoption" means an adoption by a U.S. citizen of a child who is a resident of a foreign country that is not a party to the Convention.

"Placing agency" means both Illinois placing agencies and foreign placing agencies as defined in this Section.

"Post-adoption report" means a written report compiled after the adoption has been finalized that complies with the State requirements regarding the number of post-adoption home visits that must be conducted.

"Post-adoption supervision" means an in-person contact by the placing agency with an adopted child and the family that has adopted the child after an adoption has occurred in a foreign country to meet the requirements of a foreign county.

"Post-placement report" means a written report generated as a result of in-person contact by the supervising agency with a family and child after the family has been granted legal custody and/or guardianship.

"Pre-adoption requirements" means any conditions established by the laws and/or regulations of the federal government or the State that must be met prior to the placement of a child in an adoptive home.