



HENRY McMASTER, GOVERNOR  
MICHAEL LEACH, STATE DIRECTOR

Dear Applicant:

Your interest in the Certificated Investigator (CI) program is appreciated. Please find the following documents associated with the CI application:

- Application
- DSS form 2612, Request for Criminal Background Check (*Please ensure you sign*)
- DSS Form 3072, Release of Information (*Please ensure you sign and have witnessed*)
- Questions and answers regarding the program
- State Statute & Regulations governing this program
- Adoptive Family Pre-Placement Investigation Guide

In order to apply, please submit the following materials to:

**South Carolina Department of Social Services, Direct Adoption Services,  
P.O. Box 1520, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-1520**

Or

**Email to [Rebecca.Carrier@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Carrier@dss.sc.gov)**

- Completed application
- **Signed** DSS Forms 2612 and 3072
- Letters of reference from three people who can attest to your reputation in the community (at least one of these must be a professional reference). Letters must be original, dated within the last 30 days, signed by the reference, and include an address and telephone number where they can be reached).
- If less than 2 years' experience writing home studies, please include a letter from the person who will be supervising your work. This letter should include their contact information, Certified Investigator number, signed, and dated. Please note that this letter can be used as a letter of reference as well.
- Photocopy of diploma or other documentation of graduation.
- Documentation of adoption-related continuing education (25 hours within the past three years). Unrelated training on issues such as management, administrative procedures, etc. will not be accepted. If you are in doubt as to the acceptability of the training, you may submit a written explanation as to why you think it is relevant. Continuing education must have proof of completed training ie: certificate, print out of registration or letter from the instructor and be clearly documented as to the title of the training, content, number of hours, and date it occurred.
- Check or money order for the appropriate certification fee (\$15 Adoption Investigations ONLY, \$20 Adoption Investigations AND Relinquishments and Consents) \*Note there is no fee for DSS employees who are only getting certified as part of their job requirements.

Upon receipt of this information, we will process your application. You may be required to submit additional information in order to support your application. If you have any questions, please call Rebecca Carrier at (803) 898-7637 or email at [Rebecca.Carrier@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Carrier@dss.sc.gov).

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Carrier, MSW, Adoption Supervisor  
State Office Adoptions