

# **BEST PRACTICES OF THE PORTABILITY OF PRIDE PRE-SERVICE TRAINING AND A SAFE HOME STUDY**



A Guide for Public, Private and Inter  
country Adoption professionals in Ontario

## **Acknowledgements**

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# OACAS: BEST PRACTICES OF THE PORTABILITY OF PRIDE PRE-SERVICE TRAINING AND A SAFE HOME STUDY

## 1. Purpose

In 2006 PRIDE pre-service training and the SAFE home study were mandated for use in Ontario with the intent that they be portable across all public and private care systems.

The aims of this guide are to describe best practices surrounding portability. Effective placement of children is best achieved with transparency and clarity for resource applicants, and public/private collaboration. Portability is essential to this process.

This guide defines the concept of portability, outlines appropriate expectations about portability, and discusses information about portability for potential applicants of adoption, fostering, and kinship care systems in Ontario.

## 2. Definitions

**Resource parent applicant:** a description used to be inclusive when referring to foster, adopt or Kin applicants

**SAFE:** is an acronym for “Structured Analysis Family Evaluation,” it is a standardized methodology for assessing resource parent applicants in Ontario. SAFE is mandated for use with all Ontario resource parent applicants wanting to foster, adopt or provide kin care or customary care for a Child Welfare agency. SAFE is also mandated for use with all Ontario adoption applicants wanting to work with an adoption licensee or adoption agency.

**PRIDE:** is an acronym for “Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education”. PRIDE is a pre-service educational training program mandated to prepare all Ontario resource parent applicants.

**Portability:** refers to the acceptance of the SAFE home study and PRIDE pre-service training program across all systems in Ontario.

**Child-specific home study:** an assessment of the applicant(s) regarding a specific child or sibling group, chosen by the applicant(s) at the outset; it includes specific information about the child or sibling group and the applicant(s) ability to meet the needs of that child or sibling group.

**Placement ready:** the applicant has completed a SAFE home study and completed PRIDE pre-service training, along with any updates required by the receiving agency.

## 3. Portability

SAFE home studies and PRIDE pre-service training are only completed once and are portable.

**An exception** is a relationship status change of a single applicant or a single foster/kin care provider who becomes a couple applicant or a couple foster/kin care provider. The new partners must attend PRIDE pre-service together and complete a SAFE home study that focuses on their relationship as a couple and their ability to care for children placed in their home. If a couple applicant or couple foster/kin care provider become single, then a SAFE update is required. The SAFE update will focus on how the single person is managing the relationship status change, support network and parenting as a single person.

However, in any of the following circumstances updates and additional education may be required:

- System change: the applicant wants to move between public, private domestic, or inter-country adoption systems.
  - e.g., someone who originally applied to adopt through a Children’s Aid Society now wants to explore a private adoption, or vice versa.
- Resource-status change: the applicant wants a change of resource status.
  - e.g. from foster care provider to adoptive parent, or kinship care provider to adoptive parent
- New application: the applicant wants to adopt again through the public, private, or inter country adoption system.
- Relocation: the applicant relocates in the province.
- Family and/or home constellation: new adult or child in the home.
  - e.g., a boarder or step-child
- Child-specific home study: the home study is geared toward a specific child but now the applicant has applied for a different child, or to become a non-child specific resource parent.
- Change of recommendation: the applicant has requested a change to the child profile recommendation in the SAFE home study.

Updates may include but are not limited to further interviews, home visits, child-welfare checks, education, or SAFE questionnaires.

What updates are needed will be determined by the SAFE Update Guide located at [www.safehomestudy.org](http://www.safehomestudy.org) and may depend on the applicant’s needs or the need of the receiving system. However, typically, they include what is outlined in the Portability Chart.

#### **4. Information for Applicants**

Potential applicants should be given clear unbiased information about different systems of care—adoption, fostering, kinship care—and different adoption systems—public, private, and international.

They should be directed to relevant webpages (e.g., the MCYS webpage on three ways to adopt in Ontario: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/thinking-of-adopting/chart.aspx>) and be given or directed to how to find the pamphlet “Adoption in Ontario: Private, Public, and International.”

It should be made clear to applicants that their home study is portable across all systems although due to third party release policies not all collateral documentation is portable. Practitioners need to inform applicants that making copies of the documentation that they have gathered for the SAFE home study process i.e. medicals, police clearances, will assist in the portability of the SAFE home study between systems.

Applicants should be informed that, despite their home study and training being portable, they will likely need to complete a SAFE update to fulfill the requirements of the new system. They should be informed of the reasons for these updates, and also the wait time for becoming Placement Ready in the new system.

# PORTABILITY CHART

FOR RESOURCE FAMILIES WHO HAVE COMPLETED PRIDE PRE-SERVICE AND A SAFE HOME STUDY

	PRIDE Pre-Service Training	New SAFE Home Study	SAFE Update Home Study	SAFE Questionnaire 1	SAFE Questionnaire 2	SAFE Questionnaire 2	Update Questionnaire 2	Police Clearance Vulnerable Sector	Foreign Police Check	Safety check	Medical	References	Child Welfare Check	Interview(s) As many as needed	Additional requirements
System Change <sup>1</sup>	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N: if did not live outside Canada since initial home study Y: if did	N-if in same home as original SAFE Y-if different home	N: < 2 year Y: > 2 year	N: < 2 year Y: > 2 year- only 3 new references	Y	Y	Y	Change from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PIA to PA: receiving HSP has phone conversation with HSP/ Agency that recommended family for placement</li> <li>PA to PIA :as above</li> </ul>
Resource-Status Change	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	Y	Y	Change from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FC/KC to PA: resource worker to meet with adoption worker</li> <li>KC to FC, or FC to KC: agency workers review request</li> </ul>
New application	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	Y	Y	Worker reviews initial SAFE, along with the adoption probation file, if available
Relocation	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	As above	As above	As above	Y	Y-5 for a new couple 3 for single	Y	Y	New home safety check would be part of the SAFE update
Family and/ or home constellation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	Y	Y	Worker reviews the family constellation change and its likely impact on the family as well as on the future placement of a child or children. Will the new person be asked to act as a caregiver?
New Child-specific Home Study	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	Y	Y	
Change of recommendation	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	Y	Y	

PA: Public (i.e., CAS) Adoption      KC: Kin Care      PIA: Private/International

FC: Foster Care      HSP: Home Study Practitioner Adoption

1. For explanation of the terms used in this column, see OACAS Best Practices Guide on Portability

