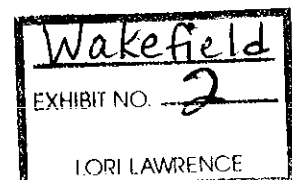


***Steps of Processing an Adoptive Samoan Child
from start to finish***
by Dan Wakefield

- 1 – Get all information possible from the referral person...about the child and the family
- 2 – Meet the family...see the child...evaluate the situation...interview the family...explain to them about the adoption process...the “do’s and dont’s” and the “cans and cant’s.”
- 3 – Get a firm commitment from the birth parents whether to move ahead...yes...no...or wait for a time ... any answer is fine!
- 4 – Make sure there is no problem with the “extended family” ... in Samoa or overseas.
- 5 – Make sure (if possible) that all is well with the childn's natural father if parents are NOT living together.
- 6 – Make appointment for a physical exam for the child. *and Blood test!*
- 7 – Take the child and its mother to get the physical exam from local doctor. *Blood test from Local Hosp. —*
- 8 – Apply for, and get a “birth certificate” on the child ... (with the mother).
- 9 – Get a shot record on the child (if available).
- 10 – Get the first Relinquishment Form signed by the birth parent(s).
- 10a – Complete “I Understand” Form to cover ALL points.
- 11 – Complete Family History Form.
- 12 – Take pictures of child and family.
- 13 – Send all documentation material to Focus on Children in the USA.
 - * Pictures
 - * Physical Examination
 - * Family History
 - * Relinquishment Form
 - * Birth Certificate
 - * “I Understand” Form
- 14 – Take the child to the Nanny House or the Foster Home.



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- 15 – Make appointment for birth parent(s) to be interviewed by two (2) lawyers.
- 16 – Sign **formal** relinquishment forms with birth parent(s) and the lawyers.
- 17 – Sign formal affidavit with birth parent(s) and lawyers.
- 18 – Take humanitarian food to most needy families (on suggestion and OK from FOC, USA)
- 19 – Check **DAILY** with all ^{*}care facilities:
(Nanny House, Foster Care Homes) to see if all is OK: proper food, medical care needed, workers, phone, power, rent.... Make sure all is proper for occasional unannounced “spot checks” by Judge, Attorney General and other government personnel.
- 20 – Be prepared to solve any and **ALL** birth family problems: Every day a **NEW PROBLEM**. When someone is involved with placing a child from a Samoan family into a strange, unfamiliar and totally new environment (such as adoption to America), the “involved person” becomes very much a member of what might be called “extended family”...to help solve problems.
- 21 – Be ready to take the “heat” and answer all malicious, fabricated and contrived stories and rumors fostered by the Press, do-gooder groups, witch hunters, who will do and say anything to start ill will against adoption in general. So don't carelessly give them anything to start with; be careful!! Don't Step Out of Bounds!!
- 22 – Be prepared to financially care for ALL children in Nanny and Foster Care regardless of how long it takes FOC (home office) to get their things completed with adoptive parents in America so they can come to Samoa and pick up their adopted child(ren).
- 23 – Be prepared to go out to villages ... to birth families who have taken their committed children back home (from the Nanny House or Foster Home) for various reasons:
 - change of mind
 - pressure from village
 - pressure from church minister
 - pressure from extended family to take the child themselves, etc, etc.And ... smooth out the waters in order to either solve the problem and bring the child back into FOC care or leave the child home with the family...
Either Way is Fine!

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- 24 – Complete **ALL** “Out Processing,” ready to leave for U.S.A.
- communicate with home office (FOC) regarding adoptive parents’ travel plans
 - make appointment for final interview of birth parents and the Judge
 - bring parents in for their final interview
 - take them home from the interview
 - get passport pictures of child
 - apply for Samoan passport
 - complete a final physical examination
 - get a “Letter of Intent” from the U.S. Embassy
 - make reservations at a local hotel for adoptive parents to stay
 - meet adoptive parents at airport and take them to their hotel
 - take Samoan child to meet and stay with its American parents
 - take US parents and their child on a round-island look-see to familiarize them with the island country of their new child
 - get a New Zealand travel visa (from the NZ High Commission) for the Samoan child to travel to NZ
 - prepare a packet with all adoption documents for U.S. parents to take to the U.S. Embassy in NZ before they go on to America
 - take everybody to the airport and make sure they **ALL** get on the plane..
OK!
- 25 – Do all the above (item 24) without any contact between the Samoan birth parents and the American adoptive parents ... **IF POSSIBLE!!**