

Essential elements to be assessed (applicable to organisations, as well as individuals)

Component 1: Structure & Credibility

- Official registration, monitoring legislation, single point of contact for joint applications.
- Mission, vision, funding sources, service list, annual/financial reports, office addresses.
- Capacity to engage in policy advocacy and collaboration on initiatives
- Geographic scope, presence in other countries, contact info.

Component 2: Operational and Financial Capacity

- Planning: achievable goals, flexibility, evaluation.
- Transparency in criteria to determine their fees.

Component 3: Knowledge on Children's Rights, Child Protection

- Knowledge of national legislation on search for origins/data access, international legal frameworks.
- Knowledge of the current adoption system.
- Ethical positions (e.g., adoptee rights vs. birth parent privacy).
- Experience in domestic/international adoption and search for origin processes (scope, duration, number of cases).
- Code of conduct, staff training.

Component 4: Technical Capacity

- Manuals for services and search for origin/truthfinding stages.
- Internal/external audits, criminal record checks.
- Local partner networks, challenges/opportunities.
- Views on DNA, media searches, reporting, involved staff.
- Knowledge of how to ensure cultural sensitivity in a country when conducting investigations.

Component 5: Collaboration

- Fees and payment conditions, cooperation with stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- References from adoptees and partners.
- Communication plan, complaints mechanism.

Component 6: Independence from ICA

- Independence from past and current ICA processes
- Example: [REDACTED] – expresses a clear stance on adoptee rights vs. former ICA involvement.