

# *European Adoption Consultants, Inc.*



A Non-Profit, 501(c)(3), Licensed Adoption Agency  
HAGUE ACCREDITED

12608 Alameda Drive, Strongsville, OH 44149  
(440) 846-9300 • (800) 533-0098 • Fax (440) 846-1705  
www.eaci.com • email: Adopt@eaci.com

December 20, 2013

Bari Lee & Carolyn Kay Courts  
1139 Wellesley Avenue  
Batavia OH 45103

Dear Bari & Carolyn,

Your home study, which was completed by Karla Doerrer, MSW, LISW-S was approved by European Adoption Consultants, Inc., on December 20, 2013. This home study indicates a recommendation for placement of up to two children, having the following characteristics:

Either gender, 4 to 7 years of age for international adoption from DR Congo with lesser or correctable medical issues with the potential for normal growth and development.

In the event that no adoption has occurred 90 days prior to expiration of the home study approval, an updated home study will need to be done at that time in order to maintain completion status. According to the rules established by the state of Ohio, your home study will expire on December 20, 2015. A home study in the State of Ohio is valid for two years.

Enclosed you will find a copy of your home study and Agency Notification which refers to: OAC rules #5101:2-48-12 and 5101:2-48-12.2; outlining changes in your circumstances, which would require you to notify the agency and the timelines for that notification. These guidelines are very important to keep your home study accurate and current until you finalize your adoption. Please read the enclosed rules and return the receipt.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the EAC home study department.

Sincerely,

Lynn Kosin



# European Adoption Consultants, Inc.

A Non-Profit, 501(c)(3), Licensed Adoption Agency

Hague Accredited

12608 Alameda Drive Strongsville, Ohio 44149

Phone: 440-846-9300 Toll Free: 800-533-0098 Fax: 440-846-1705

Website: www.eaci.com Email: adopt@eaci.com

I, Bari Courts, hereby confirm I authorize European Adoption Consultants, Inc. (EAC) to process the following fees to the credit card listed below. I understand that EAC will charge a processing fee equal to 2.5% of the total charged amount. (Non-Qualified Credit Cards, such as a company credit card, will be charged a processing fee equal to 7%)

<b>Homestudy Update</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>300.00</u></b>
<b>Total of fees</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>300.00</u></b>
<b>2.5% Processing Fee</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>7.50</u></b>
<b>Total to be charged to credit card</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>307.50</u></b>

I understand that these funds are only refundable per the terms of the Agency Contract and that under no circumstances will the processing fee be refunded. Any refund to be issued will be credited back to the credit card originally used.

I understand that should the credit card transaction not process for any reason I am responsible for paying the above listed fees (less the 2.5% processing fee) prior to the services being performed.

I understand that if I choose to stop payment or dispute any charges as it relates to the above fees, EAC reserves the right to prosecute me through a court of law in the State of Ohio.

Credit Card Type: (circle) MC Visa Discover American Express

Credit Card Number: 4430440001616168 Expiration date: 01/17

Full name as listed on card: Bari L. Courts CVV Code: 713

Billing Address: 1139 Wellesley Ave City Batavia St Oh Zip 45103

My signature authorizes European Adoption Consultants, Inc. to charge my credit card the amount listed above.

Printed Name Bari L. Courts

Signature Bari L. Courts

Date 2/28/14

**Office Use Only:**

Client #: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

## **INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION HOME STUDY UPDATE For The Democratic Republic of Congo**

Bari Lee & Carolyn Kay Courts  
1139 Wellesley Avenue  
Batavia, Ohio 45103 U.S.A.

Bari and Carolyn Courts were the subject of a favorable home study dated December 20, 2013 which approved them to adopt from the Democratic Republic of Congo. This family remains in the process of their adoption and has requested an update of their home study in order to secure an extension of their USCIS I-600A approval.

### **SUMMARY OF AGENCY CONTACT**

Bari and Carolyn were interviewed jointly in their home on September 18 and September 23, 2013. Bari was interviewed individually in their home on September 18, 2013 and Carolyn was interviewed individually in their home on September 18, 2013. Additionally, Cara Courts was interviewed individually on September 23, 2013. Natasha and Alexandra were present during some of the meeting time as well. Previous individual interviews were conducted in the home of Bari and Carolyn Courts on March 24 and March 25, 2010, for their first adoptions. This social worker completed the initial homestudy with the Courts family and completed the first three years of post adoption visits and reports for the family for Natasha and Alexandra. For the purpose of this home study update, a meeting was held in the Courts' home on June 27, 2015, with Bari, Carolyn, Cara, Natasha, and Alexandra present.

### **CHILD DESIRED**

Bari and Carolyn Courts are seeking to adopt up to two children of either gender, from the ages of 2 years to 7 years of age from the country of The Democratic Republic of Congo. They have been educated, counseled and are able to parent children with special needs and a broad range of various medical conditions. One or both of the parents are willing to travel to The Democratic Republic of Congo to bring their children home.

### **ADOPTIVE FATHER**

Bari Lee Courts was born on November 12, 1966 in Cincinnati, Ohio (verified). He is five feet seven inches tall and weighs one hundred forty-five pounds. Bari has brown hair and blue eyes. His health is excellent. He rarely needs to seek medical attention. His physician, Michael Handleton, stated that he is suitable for adoptive parenting. This assessor assesses Bari Courts to be emotionally, physically and mentally stable and will provide a loving home for any children placed in his family. Under section 8 CFR 204.311(9) no referrals to medical or health care professionals were made.

Bari Courts' parents are Gene and Marcia. Mr. Courts' father, Gene, resides in Venice, Florida and is remarried. Bari Courts parents divorced when he was 9-year old and both remarried within 3 or 4 years of the divorce. Six years ago, his mother, Marcia died at the age of 69-years from lung cancer. Marcia worked as a real estate agent and Gene worked as a stock broker, but is now retired. He visits his father

and stepmother at least four times a year and they are supportive of the plan to adopt. He has frequent contact with his stepfather, the man that his mother married when he was a child. Bari is the second of three children. His older brother, Todd, is 50-years old, and is employed in the music industry. Todd is married to Rosemary, they have no children and they live in Cincinnati, Ohio. Bari gets along well with Todd and his wife and they are supportive of the plan for adoption. Bari's younger brother, Darren is 45-years old, and married to Heather with three children. They live in Greenville, South Carolina and Darren and Bari talk daily and their families get together over the holidays. Darren is supportive of the decision to adopt internationally.

Bari Courts grew up in Williamsburg, Ohio, a small town area near Cincinnati, Ohio. He was involved in school soccer, tennis, band, drama, and chorus. He excelled in school. Bari has positive memories of his childhood hanging out with his brothers and friends, enjoying school, and being active. He started working at a local amusement park his last year of high school, where he ended up being promoted to an area manager and worked there for 12 years. He describes his parents' discipline and upbringing as being moderate and appropriate. He denies any history of child abuse.

Bari Courts graduated from Glen Este High School in 1985. In 1989, he graduated from Kenyon College with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. In 1991, Mr. Courts graduated from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio with a Masters degree in Business Administration, and later received a PhD in Organizational Management from Capella University in 2004. In his adult life, he has been self-employed as an Adjunct Faculty instructor where he has taught online college courses since November 2002. Bari enjoys working in his own business, is successful at what he does, loves the flexibility, and plans no changes. In his free time, he enjoys participating frequently in the Barbershop Quartet where he is active in part of a male singing group, having served as District President for the group, and enjoys participating in singing contests in various states. He plays soccer and exercises. He is family oriented and has enjoyed parenting their older children, as well as their two daughters who were adopted from Russia. He looks forward to adding additional adoptive children to the family.

#### **ADOPTIVE MOTHER**

Carolyn Kay Boboltz Courts was born on October 17, 1965, in Cincinnati, Ohio (verified). Mrs. Courts is five feet three inches tall and weighs one hundred and forty-five pounds. She has brown hair and blue eyes. Her health is excellent. She rarely needs to seek medical attention. She takes medication which controls her high blood pressure. Her physician, Michael Handleton, stated that she is "suitable" for adoptive parenting. This assessor assesses Carolyn Courts to be emotionally, physically and mentally stable and will provide a loving home for any child placed in her family. Under section 8 CFR 204.311(9) no referrals to medical or health care professionals were made.

Carolyn's parents, Lee and Ellen Boboltz, lived in Cincinnati, Ohio and were married for 58 years. Lee worked as an Electrical Engineer and is now retired. Ellen worked as a homemaker and passed away from cancer in 2010. Bari and Carolyn see Mrs. Courts' father on a weekly basis and provide support to him, taking him to medical appointments and helping him in any way that they can. He is supportive of the Courts' decision to adopt a child internationally. Carolyn is the third of three children. Her older brother, David, is 57-years old, and is retired but active in the Michigan Ski Patrol and is a Search and Rescue Volunteer. David is single and living in Waterford, Michigan. Although the Courts do not see David frequently, they communicate through emails often and he is supportive of the plan for adoption. Carolyn's older sister, Barbara is 55-years old, single and has two children. They live in Cincinnati, Ohio and have weekly contact with the Courts family. Barbara is supportive of the decision to adopt internationally.

Carolyn Courts grew up in the Cincinnati, Ohio area. She was involved with soccer, band, photography, and the yearbook in school. She did well in school and recalls spending time with her family and friends during her childhood. She recalls happy memories of family vacations. She describes her parents' discipline and upbringing as being moderate and appropriate. She denies any history of child abuse.

Carolyn Courts graduated from Turpin High School in 1984. Carolyn had been dating a man and at age 20 years old, she found herself with an unexpected pregnancy. The relationship with the father of the child was not going to be long-term. Carolyn received support and assistance from her parents and extended family in caring for her son, Matthew, who was born July 28, 1986. She and Matthew did not have contact with Matthew's father. In 1989, she graduated from the Art Academy of Cincinnati, Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Photography. While working, she attended North Central University and received her Master degree in Business Administration in 2008. Carolyn expects to complete her PhD in Business Administration in July 2014. Since May 2008, she has been the property manager of Allstar Self Storage, a storage business that Bari and Carolyn own. Carolyn enjoys the flexibility that the businesses she and her husband operate afford. She previously worked as an accountant for eight years. In her free time she enjoys reading autobiographies, biographies, and fiction. She enjoys scrapbooking and decorating. She has immensely enjoyed parenting their two daughters who were born in Russia and adopted by the Courts. She looks forward to parenting additional children through international adoption.

#### **MARITAL RELATIONSHIP**

Bari and Carolyn met through Mrs. Courts' parents. They dated for two years, were engaged for nine months, and married on October 29, 1994 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Carolyn was attracted to her husband's personality. He was interested in helping others and was ambitious. He embraced her son Matthew and legally adopted him after they had been married for several years, when Matthew was ten-years old. Bari felt comfortable when he was with Carolyn and she had the same goals as he. In their 19 year marriage, they have built on much strength such as their commitment to each other, their flexibility to meet each other's needs, and their ability for their personalities to balance each other. Bari and Carolyn do not tend to disagree with each other. An example of a conflict from the past was with finances. They no longer have issues with finances. When in conflict, the couple works on understanding each other's perspective, learns to adapt to the other or accept the other, and works toward a compromise. They are flexible within their roles but they have defined roles such as Carolyn pays the bills and Bari makes the overall plan for the finances. Bari and Carolyn are family oriented and enjoy sharing time together as a family, traveling, and spending time with their extended family.

#### **SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS NETWORK**

Bari and Carolyn are of the Methodist faith and attend church weekly. Their daughter, Cara, recently graduated from a Catholic school. Natasha will be entering the second grade at a private Catholic school. Alexandra will be entering the first grade at a church affiliated school. Their younger children will likely eventually attend a faith based school. The Courts want their children to think of others before themselves. They have taught the children to value family. Bari volunteers with their teen daughter, Cara, with the Boys and Girls Club of America after school, assisting with homework and providing activities in a gymnasium. The Courts family enjoys spending time together playing games, cooking, and taking trips and vacations together. They prioritize their family time together.

### **ATTITUDE AND MOTIVATION TO ADOPT**

Bari and Carolyn share four children together. Matthew, age 28-years old, was Carolyn's child that Bari adopted after marrying her. Carolyn and Bari had one biological child together, Cara, age 18-years old. In February 2011, Bari and Carolyn adopted two daughters, Natasha and Alexandra from Tver, Russia. Natasha is now 7-years old and Alexandra is now 6-years old. Prior to adopting Natasha and Alexandra, Bari and Carolyn had discussed adoption for many years and agreed that they were no longer interested in having another biological child. Earlier in their marriage, they had experienced miscarriages and always hoped for a larger family. Prior to adopting their daughters from Russia, they researched international adoption and embraced the idea of adding to their family through international adoption. They have had extremely positive experiences with the adoptions of Natasha and Alexandra. They are very excited about the possibility of adopting two children from The Democratic Republic of Congo. They developed a heart for adoption from The Democratic Republic of Congo by researching the country and learning further about the adoption process in that country. Bari and Carolyn have educated themselves on adopting from The Democratic Republic of Congo and are eager to expand their family through adoption.

### **PREPARATION AND TRAINING**

To prepare for adoption, Bari and Carolyn Courts have received ten hours of training related to international adoption, including Hague related training, provided by European Adoption Consultants. The training included the international adoption process, laws on international adoption, the effects on children of malnutrition, relevant environmental toxins, maternal substance abuse and any other known genetic, health, emotional and developmental risk factors, the effects of institutionalization, impact of a child who has had to leave familiar surroundings, information on attachment disorders and other emotional problems, information on the long term implications for a family that has become multicultural through inter-country adoption. In addition they received training on child development, separation and loss, trauma, discipline and dealing with behavioral problems, adjustment issues for adoptive children, dealing with special needs, cultural awareness, caring for children who have been sexually abused, the effects of institutionalization on children, the effects of abuse and neglect on children, safety, first aid and subsidies available.

Bari & Carolyn were given the opportunity to ask any questions they may have regarding the adoption process and any possible questions regarding adoption in general. They are aware of the possibility of the child developing a previously undiagnosed medical condition following placement, effects of poverty and lack of medical care; possible developmental delays and post placement requirements.

They are aware of the expenses involved, the difficulties and delays often associated with international adoption. They are knowledgeable of the laws of the State of Ohio pertaining to international adoption, the requirements of the Citizenship and Immigration Services and the adoption process in general.

This social worker provided additional information about print, internet, or other resources available for continuing to acquire information about common behavioral, medical, and other issues: connecting with parent support groups, adoption clinics and experts; and seeking appropriate help when needed. Bari and Carolyn have a strong support system and are aware of what is available in terms of adoption related support. Bari and Carolyn will assume full responsibility for the medical and financial needs of the children after placement. If needed, they are willing to locate the necessary resources to help their children and their family work through any problems that may arise. Bari and Carolyn understand the risks and approach adoption as a life-long process.

They will share their children's' adoption information in an honest and open manner. As they have embraced the Russian culture when they adopted Natasha and Alexandra, they will also embrace the culture when they add their children from The Democratic Republic of Congo to their family. They will help to preserve their children's' culture of birth by exposing them to books, videos, arts, music, and festivals of their birth country, as well as by attending support and activity groups with other families who have adopted from the region of The Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **PARENTING EXPERIENCE**

As parents of four children ranging in ages from 28-years old to 6-years old, Bari and Carolyn have had a wealth of experience parenting children at all ages. Matthew Kevin Courts is 28-years old and is studying Information Systems. He works at Allstar Self Storage, which is owned by Bari and Carolyn. He is single, living independently in Cincinnati, Ohio, around five minutes from his parents' home. He is described as having a relaxed personality and has great talent in mechanical skills. Matthew is dependable and is very supportive of the plan to adopt.

Cara Amber Courts is 18-years with blonde hair and blue eyes. She is planning to attend her first year of college and will be studying Aerospace Engineering at Alabama University on 8/14/15 leaving to attend college. Her health continues to be excellent and she is up to date on immunizations. Her physician, John Markovich, M.D., indicated that Cara is in very good health and that he has no concerns about the adoption. Under section 8 CFR 204.311(9) no referrals to medical or health care professionals were made. Her personality is described as creative, competitive, and caring. Cara shared that she continues to be supportive of the adoption and has had a positive experience with the family's first adoptions, having developed a wonderful relationship with each of her two little sisters.

Natasha Inga Courts was born February 7, 2008, in Tver, Russia and was adopted by Bari and Carolyn Courts in February 2011. Natasha is 7-years old and has blonde hair and blue eyes with a petite build. She continues to be healthy, up to date with her immunizations, and developmentally on target. She will be attending the second grade. Her physician, Ann K. Nelson, M.D., stated, "This family would be excellent as an adoptive family!" Under section 8 CFR 204.311(9) no referrals to medical or health care professionals were made.

Alexandra Lauren Courts was born on April 21, 2009, in Tver, Russia, and was adopted by Bari and Carolyn Courts in February 2011. Alexandra is 6-years old and has blonde hair, blue eyes and a petite build. She continues to be healthy, up to date with her immunizations, and developmentally on target. She will be attending first grade. Her physician, Ann K. Nelson, M.D., stated, "This family would be excellent as an adoptive family!" Under section 8 CFR 204.311(9) no referrals to medical or health care professionals were made.

To assist their children in having healthy self esteem, the Courts praise their children for their accomplishments and spend time with them doing activities such as cooking or playing ping pong. Most of all, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Courts know that they are loved and will be supported throughout their lives. For discipline, the family is clear with rules and expectations. When it is clear that the children understood the expectation and chose not to listen, the children will receive a consequence such as withdrawal of privileges. The children will be addressed directly with firm and consistent corrections. The family will not use corporal punishment. The family is able to use humor in their daily lives and provide affection to their children. Due to Bari and Carolyn working from home a lot and

owning their own businesses, they will have great flexibility and be able to prioritize the parenting of their children.

#### **OTHERS IN THE HOME**

There are no other household members.

#### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The Courts family is already a culturally diverse family. They previously adopted two daughters from Russia and opened their home to an international exchange student in 2012 from Shanghai, China. They are very experienced in incorporating other cultures into their home and embrace this opportunity. Bari and Carolyn believe that their childrens' race and culture should be acknowledged and preserved. Their large and caring family is one of the best assets Bari and Carolyn Courts have to offer. In addition to Matthew and Cara, the two older siblings in the family, there is also a significant number of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews all living in the Cincinnati area who are willing to help out with the adoptive children. All family members are in full agreement with Bari and Carolyn Courts that children of another race or culture are equally as important as any other child. As Bari and Carolyn have kept the Russian culture as part of their Russian born daughters' lives, they believe that it will be equally important to make the culture of The Democratic Republic of Congo part of their family's lives. For their Russian born children, they have pictures of Russia in their home, listen to Russian music at bed time, have a Russian calendar in their kitchen, and celebrate many of the Russian holidays. There is also an abundance of Russian toys in their home including many Russian nesting dolls. They will seek opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate The Democratic Republic of Congo culture in a similar fashion and will embrace the culture as a whole family. They believe that their immediate neighborhood and community is very integrated with families and children of many races and cultural backgrounds, as well as eight adoptive children that live closely. Additionally, the private schools where their children attend includes many internationally adoptive children and exchange students. They believe the community, schools, and neighborhood will be most accepting of children from The Democratic Republic of Congo.

#### **GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILD**

Bari and Carolyn have chosen Matt and Lesley Folan, ages 49 and 44, of 228 Woodcrest Drive, Loveland, Ohio 45140, U.S.A., to be the guardian of their children in the event that Mr. and Mrs. Courts can no longer parent. Matt is employed as an Account Executive in the Software Electronics field and Lesley is a Stay-at-home Mom. Both are in excellent health, will be able to provide for the children financially, and both are free of a criminal record. They have three children, Hunter age 15, Maxwell age 13 and Oliver age 10. Lesley is Bari's Step-Sister and the families have regular contact.

#### **HOME AND FINANCES**

Bari and Carolyn Courts own a two-story home in Batavia, a northeast suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. The home is in an excellent condition, and is tastefully furnished. It has an eat-in kitchen, dining room, living room, family room, half bathroom, and office. On the second floor there are four bedrooms and two full bathrooms. The basement level has a storage area, an extra bedroom, a full bath, a utility room, and a recreational area. Bari and Carolyn sleep in the master bedroom, Cara sleeps in the basement bedroom, Natasha and Alexandra sleep in a third upstairs bedroom and their new adoptive children will sleep in the fourth upstairs bedroom if they are the same gender. If there is one boy, than he will have his own bedroom and Natasha and Alexandra will share a bedroom with the girl sibling. There is adequate space in the home for the addition of two more children. The safety audit was conducted on the Courts home on June 27, 2015, meeting all state and local requirements. The fire inspection was completed and passed inspection on September 16, 2013.



### **FINANCIAL SITUATION**

Bari and Carolyn's annual income is approximately \$289,961. Bari and Carolyn's monthly net pay is \$19,500.00. Their monthly expenditures total \$11,750.00. Their total assets are \$757,000, including residence market value of \$300,000 and other real estate of \$430,000, which is their storage business. Their total liabilities are \$568,000, including \$260,000 in residence mortgage and \$250,000 in a second mortgage (the storage business.) Bari has a \$500,000 life insurance policy through Progressive. Carolyn has a \$1,250,000 policy through MetLife. Bari and Carolyn have medical insurance through United Health. Their income was verified by the Applicant Financial Statement (ODJFS 01681), tax statements and personal interviews with Bari and Carolyn. They have adequate life and medical insurance to meet the needs of their children. Pursuant to 8 CFR 204.311(h)(i)(i) it is the opinion of this social worker that the addition of a child to the Courts family would not be a financial burden or cause undue hardship.

### **POST ADOPTION PLANS**

This worker has provided information and resources to Bari and Carolyn regarding post-adoption issues and support, including the international adoption clinics in the area. They are aware of professional resources such as The Cincinnati Children's Hospital International Adoption Center to help with any issues medically or emotionally that may arise with their children. Bari and Carolyn have been advised about the post adoption requirements, including post-placement reports required at 6, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months following placement. They agree to comply with all post adoption requirements of European Adoption Consultants, Inc.

### **USCIS COMPLIANCE**

Bari and Carolyn Courts expressed their understanding of 8 CFR 204.311 (c)(13) and (14) and 204.311 (j) concerning substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence. They both understand a single incident of sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence is sufficient to constitute history.

The following questions were asked and answered by Bari & Carolyn Courts to which he/she answered "No."

- Do you have a history of alcohol, drug, or substance abuse, even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction?
- Do you have a history of sexual and/or child abuse, even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction?
- Do you have a history of domestic violence, even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction?
- Have you ever been arrested, even if the record was sealed, pardoned, or expunged
- Have you ever been rejected as an adoptive parent or the subject of an unfavorable home study?

State checks were completed for Bari Courts on September 11, 2013, and for Carolyn Courts on September 11, 2013 showing no criminal records for either. Federal checks were completed for Bari Courts on September 18, 2013, and for Carolyn Courts on September 18, 2013, showing no criminal records for either. Ohio Child Abuse Registry checks for the adoptive family, Bari and Carolyn Courts of 1139 Wellesley Avenue, Batavia, Ohio 45103, USA were received on April 22, 2015, and have shown no records. Bari & Carolyn Courts have only lived in the State of Ohio since age 18.

The prospective adoptive parents have been informed and understand that under penalty of perjury it is their duty to disclose all information under 8 CFR 204.311(d). The prospective adoptive parents are aware that they must notify the home study preparer and USCIS of any new event or information that might warrant submission of an amended or updated home study and that the duty to disclose is ongoing while form I-600A is pending, after form I-800A is approved, and while any form I-600 is pending until there is a final decision admitting the child to the U.S. on a visa. In response to a direct question from this worker, Bari and Carolyn each state they have disclosed any history of physical, mental or emotional health problems to the home study preparer. They have no history to disclose. Bari and Carolyn each state that they have never been refused visa clearance by USCIS; abused alcohol; used or abused controlled substances; nor have they been a perpetrator of domestic violence, sexual or child abuse. Bari and Carolyn have not been the perpetrators of a crime even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction either in the U.S. or abroad.

Cara Courts expressed her understanding of 8 CFR 204.311 (c)(13) and (14) and 204.311 (j) concerning substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence. She understands a single incident of sexual abuse, child abuse, or family violence is sufficient to constitute history.

The following questions were asked and answered by Cara Courts to which she answered "No."

- Do you have a history of alcohol, drug, or substance abuse, even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction?
- Do you have a history of sexual and/or child abuse, even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction?
- Do you have a history of domestic violence, even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction?
- Have you ever been arrested, even if the record was sealed, pardoned, or expunged
- Have you ever been rejected as an adoptive parent or the subject of an unfavorable home study?

State checks were completed for Cara Courts on 7/10/15 showing no criminal records. Federal checks were completed for Cara Courts on 7/10/15 showing no criminal records for either. Ohio Child Abuse Registry checks for Cara Courts were received on June 22, 2015, and show no records. Cara Courts has only lived in the State of Ohio since age 18.

Cara Courts has been informed and understand that under penalty of perjury it is her duty to disclose all information under 8 CFR 204.311(d). Cara is aware that she must notify the home study preparer and USCIS of any new event or information that might warrant submission of an amended or updated home study and that the duty to disclose is ongoing while form I-600A is pending, after form I-600A is approved, and while any form I-600 is pending until there is a final decision admitting the child to the U.S. on a visa. In response to a direct question from this worker, Cara stated she disclosed any history of physical, mental or emotional health problems to the home study preparer. She has no history to disclose. Cara stated that she has never been refused visa clearance by USCIS; abused alcohol; used or abused controlled substances; nor have they been a perpetrator of domestic violence, sexual or child abuse. Cara has not been the perpetrators of a crime even if it did not result in an arrest or conviction either in the U.S. or abroad.

### SUITABILITY TO ADOPT

DR Congo has no residency requirements. Bari and Carolyn are of age and have been married for over five years. They have stable income and are of good moral character. This assessor finds that Bari and Carolyn have met the requirements to adopt from Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bari and Carolyn have satisfactorily met all the guidelines and requirements for adoption in the State of Ohio and European Adoption Consultants. This home study report has been prepared in accordance with licensing standards for approved adoption agencies, the State of Ohio, USCIS, The Hague Convention and the Council on Accreditation. This home study is a true and accurate original of the home study that has been provided to the adoptive family, USCIS, and DR Congo. This home study was performed in accordance with 8 CFR 204.311 and any applicable state laws.

I assess them to be a committed, loving couple with a solid marriage, financial stability, experience in parenting and very capable of providing nurturance and the best of care to a child. Furthermore, they have excellent resources to assist in parenting a child, they are familiar with medical and developmental services for adoptive children, and have an extremely strong support system.

### REFERENCES

Bari and Carolyn Courts provided four references for their original home study. For the purpose of this update, one additional reference letter was received. These references are on record with the agency and have been overwhelmingly favorable, recommending the couple for adoption. Statements such as the following were made by the references, "I know any child lucky enough to have Bari and Carolyn as parents will be happy, loved, and will thrive under their guidance." "I have known Bari and Carolyn for approximately 40 years and have utmost respect for them as kind, compassionate, loving individuals who always put the needs of others first. Their marriage is a strong one, built on mutual care and respect." "Bari and Carolyn are quite affectionate with their children, while also instilling discipline and responsibility appropriate to their ages. Bari and Carolyn also place a high priority on education. Bari has his PhD and Carolyn is working on hers. They have all their girls enrolled at private schools at considerable expense..."

### RECOMMENDATION

This social worker/assessor and European Adoption Consultants, Inc. continue to approve Bari and Carolyn Courts to adopt up to two children, of either gender, 2 to 7 years of age from The Democratic Republic of Congo with lesser or correctable medical issues with the potential for normal growth and development. They have been informed and verified that they understand that children, especially those from an institutionalized environment, may have undiagnosed emotional or physical issues.

### AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT HOME STUDIES

This homestudy was prepared by Karla Reinelt Doerrer, M.S.W., L.I.S.W., a professionally qualified employee of European Adoption Consultants, Inc. and a professional Social Worker licensed by the State of Ohio, authorized to prepare home studies under chapter 4757 of the Revised Code license number I-0005229, expiration date January 16, 2017, and as a certified adoption assessor under Ohio Revised Code Section 3107.012.

European Adoption Consultants, Inc. is authorized by the State of Ohio to research and prepare adoption home studies according to the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 5103, licensed through November 5, 2016 and is a Hague accredited agency, expiration date, April 30, 2016. In accordance with 22 CFR Part 96, European Adoption Consultants, Inc. is an accredited agency on file with the Department of

State. The home study is to be used for the sole purpose of an international adoption through European Adoption Consultants, Inc. This home study was performed in accordance with 8 CFR 204.311 and any applicable state laws.

I, Karla Reinelt Doerr, MSW, LISW-S, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that I personally and with the professional diligence reasonably necessary to protect the best interests of any child, whom the applicant might adopt, actually conducted the home study, including personal interview(s), the home visits, and all the other aspects for the investigation needed to prepare the home study. The factual statements in the home study are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I have advised Bari and Carolyn of their duty of candor under paragraph (d) (2) of this section concerning disclosure of new events or information warranting submission of an updated or amended home study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karla Reinelt Doerr, MSW, LISW-S  
Certified Adoption Assessor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adoption Study Completed

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret A. Cole, Executive Director  
European Adoption Consultants, Inc.

State of Ohio  
County of Cuyahoga

Sworn to and subscribed before me by Margaret A. Cole this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public