



INDIA ADOPTION Letter of Understanding

As with ANY international adoption, the culture and lifestyle in an international country is very different from that of the United States. The following are points that prospective adoptive families must understand as they commit to this International Adoption program. We, at Children's House International (CHI), feel it is of utmost importance that families are aware of the pros and cons of any of our adoption programs.

As Adoptive parents:

1. I/we understand that the primary method of communication concerning our adoption will be through e-mail. I/we will inform CHI of any problems with our e-mail or change of address during the process so there will be no interruption of communication through e-mail.
2. I/we understand that the ages of waiting children vary by country and that babies are generally not possible. I/we understand that marital status will vary by each country.
3. I/we understand that it is Children's House International's policy that our home study must be written by a Hague accredited agency. In situations where a Hague accredited agency is not available, the International Specialist and the Case Manager will work with the Prospective Adoptive Parents to find an agency that can write the home study.
4. I/we understand that all Children's House International's adoptive families are required to take Hague compliant, pre-adoption courses which includes a minimum of 10 hours. These courses are offered on the Internet through various online resources including but not limited to Adoption Learning Partners, Creating a Family and Heart of the Matter. I/We understand that course requirement will ultimately be determined by my/our Social Worker and the Social Services Supervisor. The following are recommended courses: "Hague Package for International Adoption" from Creating a Family. I/We understand that I/we will be required to complete additional training beyond the minimum 10 hours, including child specific training. I/we agree to complete these courses and understand that these must be finished before my/our home study is completed.
5. I/we understand that life in other countries can move at a much slower pace than here in the United States. Keeping in mind that customs are different, etc., I/we are willing to be patient with and understanding of the people of our adoptive country and be good representatives of both CHI and the United States of America.
6. I/we understand that CHI has no control over how often waiting children will be referred. The waiting time is dependent on each country. CHI can give us an idea of how things have moved in the past, but cannot guarantee how things will move in the future. I/we further understand that I/we will not be allowed to travel to pick up our child without the permission of CHI.
7. I/We understand that I/we can only travel to country with permission from CHI. If I/we choose to travel before I/we am/are granted permission I/we understand that this could cause delays in my/our process and I/we could end up staying in the country longer than expected or may mean I/we must make multiple trips to the country. CHI is not responsible for any expenses/costs incurred for such delays.

Initials _____, _____



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8. I/we understand that children being adopted from international countries sometimes come with scabies, malnourishment, parasites, etc. They may improve rapidly once they get the medical care and nutrition they need.
9. I/we understand that CHI has no control over how often waiting children will be referred. The waiting time is dependent on each country. CHI can give us an idea of how things have moved in the past, but cannot guarantee how things will move in the future. I/we further understand that I/we will not be allowed to travel to pick up our child without the permission of CHI.
10. I/we understand that children being adopted from international countries sometimes come with scabies, malnourishment, parasites, etc. They may improve rapidly once they get the medical care and nutrition they need.
11. The adoptive family understands the child may have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse prior to adoption and may exhibit sexualized behaviors in their new home. The family understands that they will need to provide counseling or other resources to help their child deal with these experiences if these behaviors are evident once home. The family understands that these behaviors may not be apparent to the foreign caregivers prior to adoption.
12. I/we understand that the medical records may not be complete when I/we receive a referral. I/we further understand that I/we will receive very basic medical information on the child and the biological parents if available.
13. I/we understand that I/we are not required to accept any referral. CHI requests that a family who decides to decline a referral do so based on medical conditions, not physical attractiveness, hair color, eye color, skin tone, etc. I/we will be requested to give CHI a written reason for declining. An answer of yes or no must be given regarding the referral 2 weeks after the child is referred.
14. I/we understand that it is possible, if there is an unexpected delay, CIS (US Immigration) documents may have to be re-submitted if our approval will expire before our adoption is completed. CIS fingerprints will have to be re-submitted before the CIS I-797 approval time of 15 months. Home studies must be updated yearly. There may be more documents required to be done over. I/we understand this is not CHI's policy but they will be informing us of any new document requirements as they hear of them. These repetitive processes will likely involve additional financial investment.
15. I/we understand that, as specific information concerning our case comes along, private emails and phone calls will be made to us individually. CHI cannot call every family each week to say there is no news. Family phone calls to CHI are always welcome.
16. I/we understand that our travel cannot occur until I/we have paid all fees, turned in all CHI documents, and submitted our dossier. Travel is dictated by government requirements. It is impossible for CHI to promise you a specific time for travel in advance. Length of travel varies by country. I/we will be understanding and respectful of different cultures and religious backgrounds while traveling.
17. I/we will learn as much as possible about our adoptive child's culture and help our child to know about his/her culture and participate in cultural activities as much as possible.

Initials _____, _____

✉ Washington Office: P.O. Box 447, Lynden, WA 98264

Email: info@chiadopt.org Telephone: 360-383-0623

Licensed in: Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Texas, Utah, and Washington

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18. I/we understand that I/we will have CHI agents/representatives in our adoptive country to help us through the process. These reps will do their best to be sensitive to our needs and to help us through the adoption process. I/we understand that our CHI agent/representative may only be available to us by telephone in India depending on the location of the orphanage I/we are adopting from.
19. I/we understand that a PAR deposit is required for all families who do not pre-pay all required Post Adoption Reports in advance. (Proof of prepayment is required for non-CHI Home Study Agencies)
20. I/We understand that if I/we have paid a PAR deposit to CHI, this money will not be refunded until CHI has received the required post placement reports written by a social worker, copies of the final adoption documents I/we received in country, and a copy of our child(ren)'s U.S. certificate of citizenship.
21. I/we understand that CHI strongly encourages that BOTH parents travel, or that the traveling parent has another adult accompany them. I/we understand that depending on the country I/we are adopting from, one parent maybe allowed to travel on their own, or may be allowed to return home during the process, either by law or with previous permission granted by the local foreign government authorities. I/we also understand that when only one parent travels there may be additional paperwork required by foreign government officials and the U.S. Embassy, and the time spent in the country could be extended. CHI is not responsible for additional costs or time incurred if only one parent travels or if one parent returns to the U.S. before the adoption can be finalized in country, including processing of the U.S. Visa.
22. I/we understand that I/we are expected to travel to the country to accompany the child home. I/we understand that if an escort is requested or needed, I/we must obtain prior approval from the Executive Director. I/we also understand that our request will only be granted in unique circumstances and if the country allows.

As Adoptive parents:

1. I/we understand that India is not the easiest or fastest country to adopt from. The laws change often and our adoption process could be longer or shorter than what CHI had predicted. I/we agree to be truly dedicated to Indian adoption before entering this program.
2. I/we understand that CHI cannot control which Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) assigns us to. I/we understand that each SAA, each State, each SARA Office and each local Court have their own processes, time frames and requirements.
3. I/we understand that CHI is unable to predict the length of our court process, but again, they advise us according to how recent cases have progressed. Changes in Indian laws, court processes, judges, etc. can make our court process move more quickly or take much longer. Again, I/we will trust CHI to do everything they can to make our court possible to expedite our court process.
4. I/we understand that India requires that all documentation be less than one year old at the time of our court hearing. If for some unforeseen reason our adoption takes longer than one year to complete, I/we will be required to update our home study and dossier documents. I/we may also be required to re-file our I800A and redo our fingerprints. I/we understand that I/we are responsible for all costs associated with updating/re-filing documents.
5. I/we understand that I/we will not travel to India until Children's House International has given us permission to do so.

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6. I/we understand that, from time to time a well-meaning person may offer to assist us in expediting our adoption, or tell us they have contacts in India to make things move more quickly. I/we understand that any actions like this can jeopardize our adoption, can jeopardize adoptions for other children, and is not allowed by CHI. CHI must follow the legal process completely in India. **I/We understand that CHI families are NOT allowed to contact CARA directly or have any friend or relative contact CARA. I/We understand all contact with the orphanage, courts, attorneys, and CARA must be done through CHI.**
7. I/we understand that I/we will be granted final adoption of our child in India and that Children's House strongly encourages us to either readopt or have the adoption recognized legally in the United States. Our child will arrive on an IH3 and a Certificate of Citizenship will arrive in the mail. I/we agree to send a copy of this Certificate of Citizenship to Children's House.
8. The child will become my/our legally adopted child when the Judge grants the adoption at the court hearing in India. I/we will accept full responsibility of this child as our own. Should I/we then, while still in country, decide I/we do not want to parent this child after being considered the legal parent(s), I/we agree to provide financial support for the child until the legal dissolution of the adoption is completed. I/we understand that I/we will be fully responsible for any court costs, attorney's fees, multiple travel or extended stay in country to dissolve the adoption. I/we agree to pay these fees. I/we understand that if I/we leave the child without these arrangements in place, I/we can be charged with child abandonment and potential arrest in the country of the child's birth. I/we understand this is a serious situation and agree to be responsible, to stay in touch with Children's House International and to finish all the steps necessary so that the child can be re-referred to another family.
9. I/we understand that families adopting from India are required by the Indian government to submit (through CHI) a minimum of six post adoption reports, written by a social worker, every 3 months for the first year after the child comes home and every 6 months for the second year. These reports must include 6 recent photographs of the child as well. I/we understand that the courts in India may require additional reports to be completed beyond CARA's requirements.
10. I/we agree to send to CHI upon arrival home with our child, a complete photo copy of the adoption documents and translations given to us by the orphanage, including a copy of our child's Indian passport and visa. Immediately upon receipt of our child's U.S. Certificate of Citizenship in the mail, I/we agree to send a photo copy to CHI.

After reading and carefully considering all the above listed items, I/we understand the unique program details as written above and agree to comply with those requirements. I/We are comfortable with pursuing an adoption through Children's House International's India Adoption Program.

Date signed: _____

Prospective Adoptive Parent

Prospective Adoptive Parent

Printed Name

Printed Name

Children's House International Representative

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