



About Our Agency:

Children's House International is a non-profit adoption agency, licensed and in good standing since 1975, our main office is located in Washington State, but we are also licensed in Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Texas and Utah. We began our first adoption program in India, and over the years have developed many programs throughout the world and have placed over 2,000 orphaned children in their forever families. We provide international adoption placement services to all U.S. citizens, whether they reside in the U.S. or overseas.



Many of our staff members are also international adoptive parents. Because of this, they are well aware of the emotional feelings that go hand-in-hand with an adoption, and are very passionate about the children and countries they represent.

Children's House International's licensed social workers and registered counselors are experienced in educating and guiding families through international adoption process. They are able to provide Home Study and Post Adoption or Post Placement Report services to families living in Utah, Louisiana, Idaho, Texas, Florida and Washington State.

Choosing an adoption agency to work with is a very important decision in the adoption process. We encourage prospective adoptive parents to do their research and make an informed choice.

For more detailed information on all of our programs please visit our public document site at:

<http://www.childrenshouseinternational.com>

"Loving a Child has no Boundaries"



In each of the country sections you will find our Agency Application, Agency Retainer

Agreement, and a written description of expected total fees detailed in our Financial Agreement and Disclosure. You will also find information on:

1. The number of adoption placements CHI does per year and the percentage of those placements that remain intact, are disrupted, or have been dissolved.
2. The number of parents who apply to adopt on a yearly basis, based on the data for the prior three calendar years.

Our mission at Children's House International is to provide children worldwide with permanent loving homes, and to provide families with the support they need to adopt and parent their children. We provide ethical adoption services.



Hong Kong Adoption Program

Dear Family, Thank you for your interest in our Hong Kong Program! In 2023, we successfully placed our first child, highlighting the loving care provided to Hong Kong children through their child welfare system. Hong Kong has a long-standing commitment to children's well-being.

We collaborate with all three Hong Kong organizations responsible for international adoptions. This partnership allows us to connect as many children as possible with loving families. Our close relationships with Mother's Choice, Po Leung Kok, and ISSHK ensure frequent communication and demonstrate the deep care provided to each child.

Available children are generally age 2 older, with varying levels of special needs (mild, moderate, or severe). Sibling groups, where some children may or may not have special needs, are also available. These needs can be physical, cognitive, mental, emotional, or developmental, or a combination thereof. In-utero exposure to substances is a frequently seen special need. It's important to remember that all children, regardless of clinical health status, have experienced trauma. Developmental delays are common compared to children raised in family settings, and may require various therapies (speech, physical, occupational). Some delays may be lifelong.

Hong Kong has recently increased the number of internationally available children. Most children spend time on the domestic waiting list before becoming available internationally. Comprehensive documentation includes diagnosis, developmental assessments, and social history. Children receive services needed as available in their area of the country. They reside in foster homes, orphanages, or small group homes unless clinical placement is needed. Only one child is adopted at a time, unless they are part of a sibling group.

At CHI, we advocate for children with the fewest voices. Our strong reputation for child advocacy is a testament to our commitment. We've placed over 1,000 children with special needs into loving homes and supported global programs providing medical interventions. We're proud to partner with our Hong Kong colleagues to find families for children who haven't found homes in their own country.



Parent Requirements:

- Married and single applications may adopt:
 - Married couples must be at least 25 years of age and be married for at least 3 years.
- § If either parent, has been married prior, they must be married for a minimum of 5 years in current marriage.
- § Married couples who have been together longer than the marriage requirement may also be eligible with additional documentation being provided.
 - Single women may also apply to adopt boys and girls.
 - Single men may adopt boys only.
- Adoptive Parents must be in reasonable health and have no medical condition that would limit their ability to parent a child.
 - Hong Kong is accepting of parents who have physical disabilities as long as the parent is able to parent a child effectively. Hong Kong is relatively accessible and our partners are able to make recommendations for families with accessibility considerations. CHI's first family to travel needed such accommodations and would likely be happy to talk to prospective families about their experience.
 - Parents must be psychologically healthy.



- Parents must have a minimum high school level of education.
- Families must meet the USCIS guidelines for income and demonstrate the financial ability to care for their adopted child or children.
 - Hong Kong requires extensive financial documentation
- Parents must have a clear criminal record.

Time Frame:

Once a family has an approved home study, the family can start receiving child profiles and submit for consideration of a specific child. The matching process in Hong Kong is different than most countries: all agencies receive a child's profile from their partnering Hong Kong Organization (HKO) and agencies then have a set amount of time to receive/submit interested families' information. The HKO then meets to choose the family they feel best suits that child's specific needs. For this reason, all children are considered "waiting children" and direct referrals are not made. The amount of time it takes to match a family with a child will vary and CHI cannot guarantee that a family will be matched with a child. For this reason, CHI discusses its opinion of the likelihood of a family being matched, but can never guarantee an adoption will occur (in any case with any program).

From the time a family is matched with a child, the process to bring the child home can be 12-24 months (or longer). Children come home as legal permanent residents under the guardianship of their prospective adoptive parent and the adoption must be completed in the family's State/County courts per State guidelines. Finalization of the adoption can generally be completed within 9 months followed by applying for the child's Certificate of Citizenship.



Travel:

The country requires that both parents* travel to Hong Kong to bring their child home. Only one trip is needed that will last 7-10 days. Families adopting siblings may be required to stay a few extra days to further promote bonding. *Single women are strongly encouraged to bring another adult on the trip for support.

Our partner foundations in Hong Kong are professional and well-versed in adoption procedures, and they will make sure that all necessary steps are completed as smoothly as possible. Once you arrive in-country, our partners will assist you during your entire stay in Hong Kong.

Process Summary:

Steps to Begin an International Adoption:

1. Speak with the Hong Kong Team about Hong Kong Adoptions.
2. Request a DocuSign application to begin working with CHI as your placing and home study agency.
3. Start your Home Study*; take Adoption Education Courses** and read suggested educational materials.
 - a. Upon finalization of the home study, file the I-800A with USCIS along with having your fingerprints taken and submitted.
4. Receive child profiles and submit for consideration of children you are interested in adopting
5. Upon being matched with a child (referred to as the "soft match"), compile and submit your dossier to CHI.
 - a. Hong Kong often requires additional information at various points during the process
6. Upon the referral becoming official, file the child's I-800 with USCIS. Upon approval, the case has one more government entity to go through in Hong Kong.
7. Upon final approval, travel will occur approximately six weeks later.
8. Bring the child home under guardianship and complete your state's requirements in order to apply for and finalize the child's adoption in your State.



- a. Post-placement reports are required for Hong Kong and may differ from your state's requirements—both must be fulfilled.

9. Apply for your Child's Certificate of Citizenship.

*Home Study: If you live in CHI's licensure states of Washington, Utah, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana or Texas, CHI will complete your home study. If you live in any other state, CHI will need to locate a home study agency for you due to a specific Hong Kong requirement. It takes approximately 3-4 months to complete your home study. Some states have more requirements than others.

**Adoption Education and Required Educational Materials:

A minimum of 10 hours of education is required to complete your home study. Additional education, including child-specific education, must be completed throughout the adoption process.

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We know the fears, hopes, anxieties, and dreams of adopting a child, especially those with special needs. Therefore, we are happy to hold your hand as we realize you are putting one of the most profound events in your lives in someone else's hands. That's our commitment to the children of Hong Kong and we love doing it!

We are sure you will have numerous questions and are looking forward to hearing from you. You can contact us by phone during work hours or by e-mail at any time: inquiry@chiadopt.org.

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Revised: 6-5-25