



## Children Traveling Disclosure

Children's House International strongly advises all adoptive families **against bringing their children from home** on an adoption trip. An adoption trip is a serious, emotionally significant journey that requires the **full, undivided attention** of the adoptive parent(s). This period is critical for bonding, completing legal steps, attending medical appointments, and working through essential processes at the Embassy and with in-country authorities.

This trip is **not a vacation**, nor is it an opportunity for children at home to travel or "see the world." During this time, the child being adopted will be adjusting to their new environment and caregivers. They may experience fear, grief, confusion, sleep difficulties, and emotional dysregulation. They are leaving everything familiar—their caregivers, language, food, routines, and cultural environment—and facing entirely new expectations.

Because of this, adoptive parents must be fully present. Divided attention—caring simultaneously for your children from home and an adopted child in transition—can place **all children** in a stressful and unfair situation. Children's House International has witnessed families experience severe difficulties, including **disruption of the adoption**, when children from home became distressed by the adopted child's behaviors or struggles.

Additionally, should you have an adopted child already, the trauma and adjustment that the newly adopted child might experience while still in country could trigger your adopted child from home in negative ways. These are better handled once you return home.

### **To support the best possible outcome for every child:**

#### **Adoptive Parents Traveling Alone**

We strongly encourage adoptive parents to travel **without** their children from home. This approach provides the adopted child with the focused attention they need and supports a stable beginning to the attachment and transition process.

#### **Single Parents Traveling**

Single adoptive parents should bring **another adult** to assist in case they become ill or require help caring for the adopted child. This is not optional—it is in the best interest of both the child and the parent.

#### **If Families Insist on Bringing Children from home:**

Although we counsel firmly against it, if a family insists on bringing children from home:

- An **additional adult is mandatory**.
- This adult must stay in a **separate hotel room or apartment**, not the same unit as the adoptive family.

- The purpose is to reduce the impact of the adopted child’s normal transitional behaviors on the children from home.
- **Young children from home should never travel** on an adoption trip.
- Older children from home (age **16+**) may travel **only** with the additional adult described above.

**Risks of Not Following This Guidance**

Families who reject this guidance place their adoption at risk. Possible consequences include:

- Adoption disruption or failure
- Significant emotional trauma for the adopted child and
- Emotional distress and trauma for the children from home
- Long-term grief and loss requiring counseling
- Strain or breakdown in the parents’ marriage
- Financial and emotional hardship

An adoption trip is a short period in the life of a family, but it has a **permanent impact** on the adopted child’s ability to attach and transition successfully. Prioritizing this time ensures the best possible foundation for your new family.

**Acknowledgment**

I/We have read and understand the above guidance regarding Children Traveling on an Adoption Trip.

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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Prospective Adoptive Parent

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Prospective Adoptive Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Full Name

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Children’s House International Representative