

## GUIDELINES FOR INTER - COUNTRY ADOPTION OF A THAI CHILD

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1. It is necessary for the applicants to make adoption application through the competent social welfare authority in their country i.e the governmental organization which is responsible for Social Welfare (Competent Authority) or the non-governmental Child Welfare Organization which is licensed by their Government to handle the matter of Inter-country Adoption
2. Under the Child Adoption Act of 1979 of Thailand, all Inter-country Adoption application have to be proceeded through the Department of Children and Youth (DCY : Competent Authority) or the Non-Governmental Child Welfare Agencies (Authorized Agencies) which are particularly authorized by DCY, in cooperation with the Competent Authority and under the direction of the Child Adoption Board of Thailand. The Board members comprise the representatives of various concerned authorities and qualified person. The Director General of DCY is designated as the chairman of the Board while the Director of the Child Adoption Center, Department of Children and Youth, functions as the secretary of the Board. **Please be informed that Private Adoption is not allowed.**
3. Preliminary qualification of applicants for adoption are as follows :
  - Be at least 25 years of age and be at least fifteen years older than the child to be adopted.
  - Be eligible to adopt a foreign child under the concerned law of country of domicile.
  - Have legitimate spouse in case of applying as a family.
4. Adoption Application and documents, including those for adoption of step-children or relatives have to be submitted by the Competent Authority to or Authorized Agencies. In this connection, the Competent Authority has to provide DCY or Authorized Agencies with the three documents as follows :

- 4.1 A Home Study Report made by the Competent Authority which should be included of the applicants' physical and mental health, family status, assets, liabilities and financial standing, personal reputation, conditions of residence and surrounding, size of family maturity and ability to give love and care to the child, motivation and any special reasons related to the welfare and interest of the child, parental relationship and obligation with the children born out of previous marriages (if applicable), and other matters pertinent to the applicants.
  - 4.2 A statement of approval made by the Competent Authority or the responsible authority as the case may be, confirming that the applicants are qualified for adoption under the concerned legislation in their country and are in all respects suitable to be the adoptive parents of a foreign child.
  - 4.3 A Statement made by the Competent Authority agreeing to supervise the pre-adoption placement of a child in case such placement is granted to the applicants and to provide three bi-monthly progress reports to DCY. The pre-adoption placement period is a probationary period of not less than six months.
5. An official Adoption Application (as attached) is to be filled out and returned by the applicants to DCY or Authorized Agencies via the Competent Authority. Such completed Application has to be attached with the additional required documents, alien certificate and residence certificate as cited below.
    - 5.1 Copy of passport or identity card (including house registration)
    - 5.2 Copy of document certifying marriage and divorce (if any)
    - 5.3 Medical certificate verifying good physical health, mental stability, indication of the applicants' infertility (if any)

- 5.4 The psychological assessment of the applicants made by psychologist or psychiatric doctor
- 5.5 Document certifying occupation and income
- 5.6 Document certifying current financial status (dating back not over than six months)
- 5.7 Document certifying asset.
- 5.8 Four photographs of the applicant and spouse (if any) size 4.5 x 6 centimeters, applicants' children and the home area.
- 5.9 Document from relevant authorities of the country of domicile or residence of the applicant certifying the eligibility of applicant to adopt a child according to such country's adoption law.
- 5.10 Document form relevant authorities of the country of domicile or residence of the applicant certifying the eligibility of an adopted child to enter into such country.
- 5.11 Copy of work permit of alien (if any)
- 5.12 References from at least two persons.
- 5.13 Application for Child Adoption which the applicants have filled out.
- 5.14 A Home Study Report which should include details of the applicants.
- 5.15 A statement agreeing to supervise the pre-adoption placement, should the child granted probational placement for a period of at least six months and to forward bi-monthly reports to the Department of Children and Youth of Thailand.

5.16 Confirmation form COMPETENT AUTHORITY or concerned authority that after the adoption is finalized under the Thai law, it will also be legalized under the concerned Law of the applicants' country when due.

5.17 Police Check / Criminal Record / Child abuse Record

5.18 Extract of the applicants' divorce and the commitment to give custody of their children (if applicable)

5.19 Preparation course certificate.

5.20 Biography

6. It is required that all of the documents have to be original and be verified by the Royal Thai Embassy or General Consulate in the applicants' country, or sent through diplomatic channels. Accordingly, please note that our official language is Thai. However, English is applicable. **Therefore, the documents in other languages have to be attached with their translation which must be translated by authorized translator, either in Thai or English, which have to be verified by the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate.**

7. For the applicants who have lived temporarily in a foreign country where they do not have permanent residence, the Home Study Report will have to be made and their eligibility for Inter-country adoption will have to be assessed and confirmed by the Competent Authority in their country of domicile. Unless the applicants have been living in that country for at least not less than 6 months before submitting their application and will remain in that country until the adoption is finalized, cooperation may be sought from the Competent Authority in the country where they have temporary resided. The Competent Authority may prepare the Home Study Report and supervise the pre-adoption placement when due. The eligibility for Inter-country adoption may be confirmed by the Embassy of their country of residence in such country. Furthermore, the permission for the child to be adopted to enter the countries have to be confirmed to DCY by the concerned authorities of both countries.

8. When all of required documents are received, in certain cases, they will be submitted to the Child Adoption Board of which, the results will be informed to the applicants through the Competent Authority whether or not they are approved as prospective adoptive parents.
9. In case the application is processed through DCY, the matching of the prospective adoptive parents with a child who is legally available for Inter-country adoption, will be arranged by DCY.
10. In case the adoption application is processed through the Authorized Agencies, DCY is entitled to review and investigate (if needed) the background of the child to be adopted in order to be confirmed that the child is legally available for Inter-country adoption. This investigation will have to be done before submission the case to the Child Adoption Board.
11. After matching and the Board's approval, photographs and information about background and health condition of the child will be sent through the Competent Authority to the prospective adoptive parents for consideration.
12. In case the prospective adoptive parents accept the child, the case will be further submitted to the Child Adoption Board and the Director-General of the Department of Children and Youth, respectively for approval of pre-adoption placement either in Thailand or aboard. In case the prospective adoptive parents living abroad, the case will be accordingly submitted to the Minister of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security for a permission to take the child out of the kingdom for the purpose of arranging its adoption.
13. In case the pre-adoption placement is approved, a definite appointment will be made by DCY through the Competent Authority in such countries for both of the prospective adoptive parents to travel to Thailand in order to meet with and be interviewed by the Child Adoption Board, and then to receive the child for pre-adoption placement. **Please be advised that according to the current**

**Ministerial Regulation, both of the prospective adoptive parents have to travel to Thailand to collect the child and meet the Child Adoption Board.**

14. For children allocated by DCY, DCY will facilitate the issuance of documents necessary for travel of the child. Accordingly, the prospective adoptive parents should manage to stay on in Thailand for about two weeks for this purpose. The prospective adoptive parents have to be responsible for the expenses to be incurred by the travelling of the child to be adopted such as passport fee, air fares, transportation, and concerned medical fee etc.
15. For the second adoption of a Thai child, it could be possible to request with reasonable reason for social worker of DCY to escort the child to the country of the prospective adoptive parents. All the travel expenses to be incurred will be obligated by the prospective adoptive parents.
16. Upon returning to their country, the prospective adoptive parents are requested to report to the Competent Authority in order that the supervision of the pre-adoption placement of the child could be commenced.
17. When at least three bi-monthly report on the pre-adoption placement have been received and if the placement case to the Child Adoption Board for approval of finalization of such adoption under the Thai Law by registration.
18. It is obligated that the prospective adoptive parents have to register their adoption under Thai Law within the period of six months after acknowledging such notification. The registration can be carried out either at the respective Royal Thai Embassy/Consulate or at a District Office in Thailand. The adoption is then finalized under Thai Law. After this, the legalization of the adoption under the concerned Law of the respective country shall be carried out, the outcomes of which shall be informed to DCY by the Competent Authority.
19. Please be advised that it is unable to apply for more than one child at one time, except twins, siblings or in the case of the adoption of the applicants' Thai

spouse. Generally, children who are available for adoption will be between 6 months to 4 years old. Children who are older than 4 years old or have medical problem or disabled are considered as special needs children. As regards the period of the processing an adoption application, it is unable to specify such length. In general, it approximately takes more or less than two years depending on such related factors i.e the completion of the required documents as above-mentioned and the availability of a child to suit each individual family of the prospective adoptive parents.

#### 20. Fee

Adoption is provided free of charge. The prospective adoptive parents have to be responsible only for the expenses to be incurred by the travelling of the child to be adopted such as passport fee, air fares, transportation, and concerned medical fee.



**CHILD ADOPTION CENTER  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
ADDRESS: 255 RATCHAWITHI ROAD  
BANGKOK 10400, THAILAND**

Tel. 662 3068834, 662 306-8801 -8809

662 306 8821

Fax. 662 354 7511

E-mail address : [adoption@dcy.go.th](mailto:adoption@dcy.go.th)

Website : [www.dcy.go.th/webnew/oppnews/](http://www.dcy.go.th/webnew/oppnews/)

