

Thank you for your interest in FAC's adoption programs. FAC is a child placement resource, licensed in Michigan and Ohio. FAC offers adoption opportunities for children in the USA and in various countries throughout the world, and to parents who would like to add to their family by adopting a child. Selecting the adoption professionals to work with as you travel through the "journey" of adoption is an extremely important decision. Our *information packet* includes extensive information about adoption in general and the specific services offered by FAC. All of the information provided is important and we hope you will carefully review it, but we believe that, from the few facts listed below, you will agree that FAC can provide you with all or part of the services you need to successfully adopt.

- FAC is a multi-service adoption agency, providing adoption services since 1982 in the following areas:
 - International adoption programs
 - Domestic adoption opportunities—infants and older children/waiting children
 - Birth parent counseling and assistance with adoption planning
- FAC "networks" with other agencies and adoption professionals to provide maximum opportunities for children in need of families and families seeking to adopt
- FAC has considerable experience with *interstate* adoptions—processing adoptions of infants as well as children in the foster care system throughout the US
- FAC is authorized by the Council on Accreditation as a Hague Accredited agency. (Most international adoptions must be processed by a Hague Accredited agency)
- FAC is a member of the Joint Council on International Children's Services

We encourage families pursuing adoption to inquire about all types of children in need of adoptive families. In addition to our own programs described in this packet, FAC provides various other adoption opportunities. If you plan to work with another placement resource to adopt a child from another country or another state in the US, FAC can provide all the local services you will need. FAC can assist you with your adoption study, immigration processing, ICPC (interstate) and/or court processing if required, and work together with the another agency or attorney to assist you in completing an adoption.

We hope you will choose one of FAC's adoption programs or use FAC as your local adoption study agency. We encourage you to attend one of FAC's orientation meetings regularly presented in various locations. It will provide very valuable information which will help you understand the process on which you are about to embark and also may help you decide which adoption program is best for you. If you are ready to proceed, please submit a preliminary application. This can be done by mail or directly on our website. We will immediately review your preliminary application and, upon determination that you meet the basic requirements of the adoption program for which you are applying, we will provide you with instructions on how to access the formal application documents and initiate the next steps in the adoption process.

Please call us if you have any questions. We are more than happy to talk with you and help you as you make decisions about adopting. Our goal is to answer your questions honestly and factually and respond to your concerns.

We at FAC look forward to assisting you as you work toward realizing your dream of adopting a child.

Family Adoption Consultants International Programs

COUNTRY	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	CHILDREN	REFERRAL TIME	TRAVEL
CHINA	Couples married at least 2 years (5 years if either spouse has been divorced); 30-50 years old. Stringent physical and mental health requirements. No recent history of arrests. BMI <than 40. At least one parent must have stable employment and there must be at least \$80,000 in net assets. No more than 4 children already in the family.	Infants 10-12 months, toddlers, school-aged children available; primarily girls, but some boys in need of adoptive families	60 months + after submission of dossier	One trip for 10-14 days - 6-10 weeks after acceptance of referral.
CHINA – SPECIAL NEEDS	Couples married at least 2 years (5 years if either spouse has been divorced); 30-55 years old. Stringent physical and mental health requirements. No recent history of arrests. BMI <than 40. At least one parent must have stable employment and there must be at least \$80,000 in net assets. No more than 4 children already in the family. Single women eligible to adopt. Must be employed in a child-related field and have net assets of \$100,000+. No more than 2 children under age 18 in the home; youngest child must be at least 6 years of age.	Boys and girls available; Infants, toddlers, school-aged children Identified special need(s)	Varies according to level of openness about special needs; most families are matched with a child in just a few months	One trip for 10-14 days - 6-10 weeks after acceptance of referral.
PHILIPPINES	Couples married at least 3 years, 5 years if either spouse has been previously married, single women may be considered for children over 6 years of age; at least 27 years old and no more than 45 years difference between parent and child	Toddlers, school-aged, siblings	18-24 months after acceptance of dossier by ICAB	One trip for about 7 days for 1 or both parents, 6 months after acceptance of referral

FAC maintains networking/partnership relationships with many agencies to provide varied opportunities for parents hoping to adopt children. One of our **partner agencies*** could be a good placement resource for you. Please read **WORKING WITH ANOTHER AGENCY OR RESOURCE** for information about FAC's partner agencies.

FAMILY ADOPTION CONSULTANTS CHINA PROGRAM FACT SHEET

- Married couples only - must be married over 2 years; only 1 previous divorce per applicant; if either applicant was previously divorced, the current marriage must be over 5 years.
- Applicants must be between 30-50 years of age; maximum age of 45 to adopt an infant; applicants may be up to age 55 to adopt a child with special needs.
- Minimum income of \$10,000 per family member, including adoptive child, and \$80,000+ in net assets.
- Any serious or chronic physical health history and any mental health history should be discussed with FAC prior to application to ensure eligibility. All applicants must have a BMI (body mass index) of 40 or less.
- Restrictions regarding criminal history – contact FAC to discuss individual history prior to application.
- Children of all ages available. Youngest children are about 9 months of age at time of placement.
- Children referred are primarily girls.
- Primary reason for adoptive placement – “one child” rule of Chinese government to control over-population. Chinese boys care for parents in old age, so many girls in need of adoption. This rule is becoming more liberal, but many children still in orphanage care.
- Most children abandoned; no family background or birth information.
- Limited medical information available.
- Adoption process monitored by central government authority – China Centre for Children’s Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA). Children referred from over 900 orphanages in China & “matched” with family by CCCWA.
- Mild developmental delays due to orphanage care are common.
- Wait time for assignment of a child after dossier (paperwork) is submitted to CCCWA is unpredictable. Current wait times have reached 5+ years.
- CCCWA allows families to pursue concurrent adoptions as long as the adopted child has been home one year prior to the family receiving a referral from CCCWA.
- Two months after referral, travel to China required for one or both parents for two-week stay.
- Escorted throughout China by FAC in-country liaison.
- Adoption legally completed in China.
- Experienced China Program with personal, “hands on” service.
- FAC is fully authorized by the Chinese Government and has been working in China since 1990.

FAMILY ADOPTION CONSULTANTS

CHINA WAITING CHILD PROGRAM FACT SHEET

- Married couples must be married a minimum of 2 years; if previously married, couples must be married a minimum of 5 years. No more than 2 divorces per spouse are permitted.
- Single female applicants are eligible to adopt a “special focus” child listed on the Special Needs System of the CCCWA.
- Married applicants must be between the ages of 30-54. For single applicants over 50, there must be no more than a 45 year age difference between the parent and child to be adopted.
- Minimum income of \$10,000 per family member, including adopted child. Net assets must exceed \$80,000 for married couples, or \$100,000 for single female applicants.
- For married couples, no more than 4 children already in the home. For single applicants, no more than 2 children under the age of 18 and the youngest child must be at least 6 years of age.
- All applicants must have a BMI (body mass index) of 40 or less, and have a normal life expectancy and/or no restrictions to their daily living.
- Any serious or chronic medical history and any mental health history should be discussed with FAC prior to application to ensure eligibility.
- Restrictions regarding criminal history -- contact FAC to discuss individual history prior to application.
- Some exceptions may be made regarding eligibility requirements on a case-by-case basis. Contact FAC to discuss your particular circumstances.
- Boys and girls from 12 months to 10+ years of age at the time of placement.
- Children have varying degrees of medical/developmental needs ranging from mild/correctable to severe. Extensive medical information, photos, and occasionally videos are available.
- Children are abandoned: no family background or birth information available.
- Waiting times for placement vary depending on the family’s openness to gender, age and medical need. Most families are successfully matched with a child within a few months of paperwork completion. FAC facilitates the match of the child with the prospective parents.
- Information on waiting children can only be accessed on the CCCWA website by agencies that have been approved to place China’s special needs children. All approved agencies have access to the same list of waiting children.
- Once a child is identified as a potential match for a waiting adoptive family, the child’s file is “locked” by FAC for a period of 72 hours. During this time, adoptive families consult with professionals regarding the individual needs of the child. If a family wishes to apply to adopt, FAC must complete the online application process prior to the 72 hour deadline. If a family does not wish to move forward, the child’s record becomes available for other agencies/families to review.
- Families interested in this program must identify a physician that can review the referral quickly to provide a medical assessment and guidance about the immediate and long term needs of each child.
- Families typically travel to China 6-8 months after they are matched with a child. The trip is approximately 2 weeks in length. One or both parents may travel.
- FAC’s China staff accompany adoptive families throughout their stay in China. They assist with all of the required paperwork and steps in the adoption process, as well as any personal needs which might arise during a family’s stay in-country.
- FAC has been fully accredited by the Chinese Government to complete adoptions since 1994. We are approved to place children presumed to be healthy, and also have an additional accreditation for placement of special needs (waiting) children.

FAMILY ADOPTION CONSULTANTS

PHILIPPINES PROGRAM FACT SHEET

- Married couples; single applicants may be eligible for a child of either gender over the age of 6.
- Married 3 years; 5 years if either spouse has one previous marriage.
- Applicants must be age 27 to 43; some flexibility if one spouse is older.
- Maximum age gap to be considered between the child and the prospective adoptive parents (PAPS) is 45 years (preferably the gap in age between mother and child).
- Childless or Filipino/American couples preferred, but couples with 1-2 children may also apply. Larger families accepted for preschool/older children.
- Applicants BMI must be 35 or less. Any past or present chronic or serious medical condition should be discussed with FAC prior to application to determine eligibility.
- Applicants with a history of any mental health diagnosis or treatment should discuss circumstances with FAC prior to application to determine eligibility.
- Christian couples/clergy reference required by Philippines government.
- Full psychological evaluation required as part of applicant's dossier.
- Children over 3 years of age are available; individual children & siblings.
- No sex preference permitted by Philippine government. Many more boy children available. Children in care throughout the country, in public/private child care facilities. Some children are in foster care. Child care conditions vary by location.
- Intercountry Adoption Board (ICAB), a Hague accredited central government agency in the Philippines, approves all adoptive families and all adoption referrals.
- Referrals have detailed family history/other information, plus one photo. Updates and additional photos are available in most cases.
- Primary reasons for placement include unwed mothers, poverty and neglect.
- Current wait between 12-24 months for assignment of a child after ICAB approves the family's materials in the Philippines. Filipino/American families receive priority for child assignment. Shorter waits for school age children, longer wait for toddlers and pre-schoolers.
- Children arrive home about 6 months after assignment. One or both parents travel to Philippines to escort child home. Average length of stay - 7 days. Assisted during in-country travel by FAC liaison in the Philippines.
- Adoption legally completed in local Probate Court, 9 months after child arrives home. Social worker visits monthly until adoption is finalized.
- FAC has been accredited by ICAB to place Filipino children for adoption since 1987.

Working with FAC & Another Resource or Agency

After reviewing the material on our intercountry adoption programs, you may prefer a country other than the ones in which FAC currently has programs. For that reason, you may want to consider working with FAC to adopt through another agency or adoption resource. If you know you want to adopt from a particular country, but do not know of a placement resource, contact us. We have networking relationships with other agencies that could be a good resource for you.



As a Hague Accredited agency, FAC can complete the adoption study, provide administrative coordination of an adoptive placement, and any necessary post adoption services in a placement facilitated by another agency/resource. We regularly assist families with these services. Parents may choose to utilize another agency or resource for many reasons:

- We want to adopt from our native country or another specific country. We need to coordinate services with an out of state agency and need a local and experienced agency to assist us.
 - We have personal contacts to assist us in pursuing an intercountry adoption.
 - We have located an adoption resource to facilitate an intercountry adoption, but need an adoption study and other services from a local licensed agency.
- We want to adopt a relative's child who resides overseas and need a licensed local agency to assist.
 - We enjoy doing things ourselves, and are not intimidated by the extra time and energy required in working with more than one agency/resource.

Before making a decision to pursue an adoption through any agency or resource, we strongly encourage you to carefully assess them in terms of completeness of information furnished to you, cost and payment factors, previous success in facilitating adoptions, estimated time frames for child matching and placement, Hague Accreditation status, and the procedures and documentation required in the particular country of interest to you. Ask for the names of persons they have recently worked with that you may contact for references. Be sure to check www.travel.state.gov and the U.S. State Departments website detailing adoption information on every country worldwide. Further, thoroughly read the materials we have provided, as well as those sent to you by the other agency, to determine if overseas adoption with all of its risks, unknowns, and challenges, is a viable option for your family.

Procedures to complete an overseas adoption are complex and time consuming. They vary significantly depending upon the rules of the child's country of origin, those of U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, and those of your state of residence. In many cases, travel to the foreign country by both adopting parents or the single applicant, to legally complete the adoption will be required. Length of stay is determined by each country. In some cases, you will travel overseas but the adoption will not be legally completed there; post placement and legal completion of the adoption in your state of residence will be required. In these cases, requirements of the child's birth country, your state of residence, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, and the local Court must be met. Some adoptions, whether completed overseas or in the U.S., require post finalization reports, to be sent to the foreign country at regular intervals for several months to several years. Your agency/resource should provide you with detailed information of the procedures that will apply to your adoption.

Getting started with FAC:

1. Submit a preliminary application to FAC. Please include the name, address and telephone number for the other agency/resource.
2. FAC reviews the preliminary application and contacts you within 10 days.
3. A complete formal application packet is mailed to you.
4. Ask the placement agency to communicate with FAC and share all available information regarding the process, requirements, adoption study format and any additional forms FAC must complete.
5. Submit all formal application materials to FAC to initiate an adoption study.
6. The formal application is reviewed. FAC contacts you within 10 days.
7. If accepted, an FAC adoption specialist is assigned to conduct the home study interviews and to work with you through the adoption process.

Nearly all intercountry adoptions require a dossier, which is a set of documents compiled by the family, then notarized, authenticated, translated if necessary and forwarded to the foreign country for review and approval. Your placement agency will supply you with a detailed list of required documents and procedures. FAC can provide some technical assistance as you prepare the dossier. The completed adoption study from FAC will be an integral part of the dossier. FAC coordinates with your placement agency to provide a written home study report that meets all the foreign country requirements.

All intercountry adoptions require approval by U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. Information and instructions about this process will be furnished to you, and reviewed during the adoption study interviews. The Immigration process varies depending upon whether the adoption is completed abroad or in the United States. While your placing agency provides general information about Immigration processing, FAC provides information specific to your state of residence rules.

Family Adoption Consultants has worked with many families to successfully adopt a child. International adoption is constantly changing. The number of children available for inter-country adoption placement often changes – at various times increasing or decreasing, depending upon many factors occurring within a country. Some countries have ceased placing children abroad altogether. Others have only recently begun to place children.

FAC has formal working relationships with the following agencies to provide maximum adoption opportunities for families. Please feel free to contact them for information on their programs. FAC is also able to assist you in working with other agencies not listed below.

Children's Home Society & Family Service

1605 Eustis St
St Paul MN 55108-1219
PH: 651-646-7771
Main FX: 651-646-8676
Adoption FX: 651-646-0436
www.chsfs.org

Spence Chapin

410 E 92nd St
New York, NY 10128-6804
PH: 212-369-0300
FX: 212-722-0675
Toll Free: 800-632-9312
www.spence-chapin.org

World Association for Children & Parents (WACAP)

PO Box 88948
Seattle WA 98138
PH: 206-575-4550
FX: 206-575-4148
Email: wacap@wacap.org
www.wacap.org

Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc. (All Blessings International)

3808 South Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301
PH: 270-684-2598
FX: 270-684-6748
Email: contact@allblessings.org
www.kentuckyadoptionsservices.org

Additional Information and sources:

Adoption Resource Center of Connecticut Report on Intercountry Adoption

78 Eastern Blvd
Glastonbury CT 06033
PH: 860-657-2626
Email: info@arcct.org
www.arcct.org

Adoptive Families Magazine

Editorial & Advertising Offices
42 W 38th St., Ste. 901
New York NY 10018
PH: 646-366-0830
FX: 646-366-0842
Email: letters@adoptivfam.com
www.adoptivfamilies.com

Adoption Today Magazine

541 E Garden Dr. Unite N
Windsor CO 80550
PH: 1-888-924-6736
Email: louis@adoptinfo.net
www.adoptinfo.net

Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS)

117 South Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria VA 22314
PH: 703-535-8045
FX: 703-535-8049
www.jcics.org

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse (NAIC)

Administration for Children and Families
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov

