



GREAT WALL

CHINA ADOPTION

CHINA ADOPTION INFORMATION GUIDE



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From the CEO

Dear Adoptive Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Great Wall China Adoption. Our outstanding performance over the last 20 years has made us the leading organization in Chinese adoption. I would like to begin by thanking you for your interest in adopting from China. This will be a unique and exciting journey, and Great Wall will be there every step of the way, as we have been for more than 9,000 adoptions nationwide and around the globe.

The Hague Convention was implemented in the United States in April of 2008, and Great Wall was proud to be a part of this treaty supporting the goal of protecting the children of the world who may not be able to speak for themselves. The Council on Accreditation (COA) recognized our excellence in service and high standards of practice and granted Great Wall China Adoption Full Hague Accreditation. We are very pleased with this accomplishment that enables us to continue assisting families for many years to come.

Great Wall prides itself on being an active promoter and advocate of international adoption programs across the United States. Great Wall's reputable contribution to the international adoption community has gained the attention of many world leaders who openly express their support for international adoption. Over the years, I have had the honor of meeting recognized leaders such as former Presidents George W. Bush and George Bush, Barbara Bush, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator Mary Landrieu, and Congressmen Jim Oberstar and Lloyd Doggett. In fact, the 2003 Congressional Angel in Adoption™ award I received would not have been possible without a Congressional nomination.

On China's political front, President Hu Jintao, former President Jiang Zemin, former Vice Premier of the State Council Qian Qichen, Minister Yang Jiechi of the China Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Minister Li Liguoguo of the China Ministry of Civil Affairs are just a few who consider Great Wall a leading authority and an integral component on China and Chinese adoption.

Our passion for and experience with Chinese adoptions have led us to develop strong bonds with the China Center of Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA), the governing agency overseeing adoptions in China. Our China Division is in close proximity to the CCCWA and remains in constant communication with the CCCWA officials. Our strong relationship with the Chinese Government has afforded Great Wall the honor of hosting three Chinese delegations at our Austin headquarters. The first delegation included the highest level CCCWA officials, who were impressed by our professionalism and dedication to children. The second delegation included top level Chinese government officials, who met with leaders in international adoption at a roundtable organized by Great Wall. Each year, there are many meetings between Great Wall and high-ranking Chinese adoption officials held in China and the U.S. These meetings allow Great Wall to obtain the latest Chinese adoption policies and trends directly from the Chinese government and gives us an opportunity to keep Chinese officials abreast of the U.S. adoption laws and adoptive family concerns. This level of friendly communication enables us to advocate for our families on a case-by-case basis. Our strong relationship and connection with China and the CCCWA fosters stable and successful placements of Chinese children with American families.

Great Wall, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is as dedicated to bringing a beautiful Chinese child into your ever growing and loving family as we are to assisting the children who remain in the Chinese social welfare system through our charity mission work. Great Wall's Libraries of Love, Angel Stitches, and Gifts of Love provide children with educational opportunities and needed medical attention. Adoptive Chinese children are some of the healthiest in the world, and Great Wall is proud to be involved in improving the conditions in the social welfare institutes across China.

Each Great Wall staff member is dedicated to assisting you step by step throughout your Chinese adoption journey. We will be overjoyed to see one more abandoned Chinese child join your family through our sincere efforts. "Gong He Xin Xi" (happiness and fortune to you) throughout your adoption journey!



Snow Wu, M.A., M.B.A., L.C.P.A.A.



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Welcome to the Great Wall China adoption guide. Below we have structured the table of contents so that you start with general information about our agency and move onto on specific adoption programs.

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About Great Wall

FAQ: How many children does Great Wall place each year?

Great Wall has a long-standing history as a leading Chinese adoption agency in the U.S. Founded in 1996, Great Wall places hundreds of children each year. In 2010, our agency placed 291 Chinese children with U.S. families! If you choose Great Wall, you will be working with a well-established, stable organization that will recognize your individual needs throughout your adoption journey.



Snow Wu, President of Great Wall

Leader in Chinese Adoption

Great Wall is an internationally recognized leader in Chinese adoption. We have been designated by the Chinese government as the authority for placing children from China. As a reputable and outstanding organization, Great Wall has also won the respect of the US State Department, Citizenship and Immigration Services, and US and foreign government leaders. We are considered a model organization and the leading authority that provides information to the government and the media. Many countries rely on Great Wall to communicate protocol for international adoption.

With its international headquarters located in Austin, Texas, Great Wall has international social workers in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, and the United States. Great Wall is a non-profit organization that offers adoption services to families in all 50 states and to Americans living abroad. Since its inception in 1996, Great Wall has had the unique privilege of helping thousands of families from all walks of life to adopt from China.

As the leading Chinese adoption and child welfare organization, Great Wall excels in:

- » Proactive client services
- » Exceptional level of client care
- » Service options and amenities
- » Affordable adoption costs
- » Advocating for families
- » Timely adoption news & information from China
- » Culture education and activities
- » Building relationships with important Chinese adoption officials

Over the years, we have continuously raised the bar for service standards and options in the adoption community. In fact, many of our peers have used Great Wall's exceptional practices and service standards as a model for their own organizations.

Great Wall's Mission and Goals

Great Wall believes that every child deserves a permanent home. Children should not grow up in an institution that does not offer the optimal conditions for their full emotional and physical development. At Great Wall, we aim to accomplish several goals:

- » Work with the Chinese government to find homes for abandoned children
- » Assist U.S. and foreign governments to improve both the international adoption process and laws to protect the children
- » Act as ambassadors to educate the public toward building a better relationship between the U.S. and China
- » Provide for the children who are left behind in China through charity mission work



Snow Wu with Jiang Zemin, former President of China

FAQ: We do not live in Texas or Florida, can we still work with Great Wall?

If you live outside of Texas or Florida, Great Wall is happy to assist you with your adoption. Although your home study agency must be licensed to perform home studies in your state, your adoption agency can be located anywhere in the U.S. This allows you to choose an agency based on experience and reputation, rather than location. If you already know which home study agency you are working with, just let us know. If you do not have a home study agency, we will refer you to a reputable Hague or COA accredited agency located near you. In Florida, Great Wall is also licensed to provide home study services for you.

Great Wall's President

Great Wall is under the leadership of Snow Wu, a native of China who has worked for more than 20 years on behalf of China's abandoned children. Her comprehensive knowledge of China's language, culture, government programs, and policy makes her a valuable asset to families. Snow has guided Great Wall to become an organization that is nationally and internationally recognized for assisting U.S. and foreign governments to improve adoption processes and the laws that protect these children. Because of her dedicated efforts for China's children, the U.S. Congress awarded Snow an Angel in Adoption™ award.



Snow Wu with former President Bush

Long-standing History of Placements

Since 1996, Great Wall has placed more than 9,000 children with families all over the U.S. We are extremely gratified every time a family entrusts their Chinese adoption to Great Wall, and more so when families return to adopt a second, third or fourth child.

Advocacy for Children's Issues

Great Wall, a non-profit organization, plays an active role in campaigning for better laws and regulations regarding international adoption. Great Wall advocates on behalf of families to the U.S. Congress, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of State. As a result of its status within the adoption community, Great Wall has been solicited for opinions about legislation including:

- » Child Citizenship Act of 2000
- » Hague Convention
- » Inter-Country Adoption Reform Act of 2003 (ICARE)
- » Senate Bill 2128: NBC Act



Snow Wu receiving an "Angel in Adoption Award" from the US Congress

Full Hague Accreditation

In April 2008, Great Wall's Full Hague Accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA) was announced with the U.S. Department of State's implementation of the Hague Convention. Because China is identified as a "Hague Country," only Hague accredited agencies can assist in Chinese adoption. Great Wall was among the first agencies to be evaluated and received the highest marks for our excellence in service and high standards of practice in international adoption.

Influential Government Relations

In addition to being a well-recognized organization in international adoption, Great Wall is a strong advocate for better relations between the U.S. and China. Our contributions toward improving U.S. - China relations have allowed our organization to forge strong and lasting ties with China's most respected and influential officials. We believe a better relationship between the U.S. and China and strong ties with government leaders will benefit adoptive children.

Local, National & International Service Coverage

As a well-established, secure international adoption agency, Great Wall will be there for your family as you embark on your exciting journey. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Great Wall has an established network of regional and international office representatives to provide families with local, national, and international support. Our toll-free phone number makes our personal services accessible from anywhere in the U.S.

Our complete service coverage enables us to work with adoptive families all over the U.S. and many parts of the world. It is no surprise that many of our families have made lifetime friends with other Great Wall families in their own community.

About Great Wall

FAQ: If children are abandoned, how do you know his or her birth date and her name?

Sometimes a birth mother leaves a note with the child with the child's name and birthdate. If not, the child is named after the orphanage director or the town where he or she was found. An approximate birth date is based upon physical development.

Experienced and Dedicated Professionals

Great Wall takes pride in its worldwide staff comprised of specialized service teams, including licensed social workers, child development experts, bilingual native Chinese and experienced adoption professionals. Many of our staff members hold advanced degrees and have extensive experience working for child advocacy. Most importantly, every staff member at Great Wall is dedicated to helping unite families through Chinese adoption.

Great Wall's China Division

Great Wall distinguishes itself by having an international office in the Chinese capital of Beijing. Very few adoption agencies actually operate offices in China. Great Wall's China Division is fully staffed by bilingual, permanent Great Wall employees. Our China Division office is located near the China Center of Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA), the government agency that oversees China's international adoption program.

Communication and Advocacy for Families

We have earned a reputation for advocating to the CCCWA on behalf of our families. Our China Division communicates daily with the CCCWA, enabling Great Wall Headquarters to receive the most accurate and up-to-date information from China. Keeping families well informed and maintaining our relationship with the CCCWA are just two of the reasons families choose Great Wall.

Reputation for Being China Adoption Experts

Great Wall has been placing children from China for many years. We specialize in finding loving homes for Chinese orphans. Since our focus is on China adoption, we pull all of our expertise, knowledge and resources into the constant

enhancement of our program. Our organization is always among the first to learn new China adoption policies and changes from the Chinese government. This advantage has benefited our adoptive families who rely on our dependable, timely updates to guide them through an otherwise very complex process. Our experience and reputation is so widely recognized; the US government even uses Great Wall's website as a resource for Chinese adoptions. Many peer China adoption agencies often consult with Great Wall on the latest Chinese government adoption policies and requirements. This reputation for being the expert helps families feel confident working with Great Wall.

Proactive Service and Communication

We practice proactive service and communication, which means that we reach out to provide information and answers to your questions before you even ask. You will receive communication from us frequently throughout the adoption process. We will inform you about your adoption every step of the way. For example, we will notify you when your application is accepted, your payment is received, your dossier is reviewed and sent to China, and through each step of the referral process. We will also send you extremely helpful weekly adoption tips and current Great Wall and China updates. Families rely on our proactive service and timely communication to give them peace of mind during this emotional journey. They tell us over and over again how much they appreciate our proactive service approach, which sets Great Wall apart from other agencies. We strive to:

- » Address your questions and concerns honestly
- » Return your emails and voicemails within 24 hours
- » Contact you so you are always informed
- » Send dossiers to China as expeditiously as possible



Great Wall staff with Minister Li of China's Ministry of Civil Affairs and Mr. Lu, Executive Director of the China Center of Children's Welfare and Adoption

FAQ: Is Great Wall registered to facilitate adoptions in China?

Since 1996, Great Wall has been registered by the China Center of Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA), the government agency that oversees all international adoptions from China. This is important because not all adoption agencies are registered with the CCCWA. Some U.S. agencies are brokers, meaning they don't actually submit your dossier to the CCCWA. Rather, they submit it to a registered agency, who will then submit it to the CCCWA.

Educational Webinars and Conferences

Great Wall is an internationally recognized leader in Chinese adoption, and we express our leadership in many ways. Foremost among those efforts are our community outreach events. Great Wall provides online adoption webinars, including a Waiting Child Webinar, hosted by a Great Wall China Adoption Representative, that serves to further educate prospective parents interested in adopting a waiting child by offering information on the current waiting child process as well as adoptive parents' personal experiences.

The Great Wall Community

When you adopt with Great Wall, you become part of the Great Wall Community for life. It is a community of Great Wall professionals, adoptive parents, adopted children and adoption supporters, and provides an opportunity to connect with each other in a multitude of capacities. You will participate, contribute, and benefit from the programs and events within the Great Wall Community, which will support, educate, and enrich your family throughout your lifetime, not just during your adoption. The creation of the Great Wall Community illustrates our continued commitment to our families and children and goes far beyond simply facilitating adoptions. Our community includes:

- » Great Wall Family Tree
- » Great Wall Legacy Journeys

Service Plans and Amenities

In an effort to meet the needs of our adoptive families, Great Wall leads the international adoption community in innovative service plans and options. Our service plans and amenities have been perfected through years of experience, often incorporating families' feedback. We give families a choice by offering multiple service plans.

» **Conventional Plan**– This plan allows families more control over assembling their own dossier. It best fits those who have the time and patience to gather the required paperwork with our guidance and advice. This is the plan that mirrors our previous Classic plan, which thousands of Great Wall families have used for more than a decade.

» **Preferred Plan**–This all-inclusive plan incorporates all of the amenities that Great Wall has to offer, including our Dragon Dossier Service. It is designed for families who prefer to let us tackle the cumbersome process of gathering the dossier, while benefiting from our other

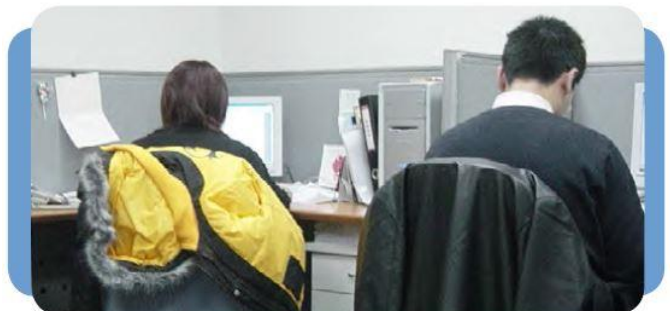


Members of Great Wall's China Division staff

helpful amenities. The Preferred Plan is a worry-free, full-service adoption experience, a big step up from the Conventional Plan.

» **Elite Plan**–This plan includes all the services offered by the Preferred Plan but with even more customized services. It is an extremely personalized plan that offers a higher level of security and privacy. If you are interested in using the Elite Plan, please contact our headquarters for details.

» Our Service Amenities illustrate Great Wall's desire to go the extra mile in providing services to our families. A more detailed description can be found later in this guide.



A Glimpse of China

FAQ: How does Great Wall help us find other families for support and community?

Great Wall has placed more than 9,000 children with families located all over the U.S. and overseas; there is sure to be a Great Wall family near you. Great Wall families are wonderful, but there are also other local support groups, such as Families with Children from China (FCC).

History

China, one of the world's most ancient civilizations, has a recorded history of more than 5,000 years. The nation was ruled by one dynasty after another until 1911 when Dr. Sun Yat-sen started a revolution overthrowing the last emperor. Communists led by Mao Zedong drove the nationalists headed by Chiang Kai-shek away to Taiwan in 1949. Thus, the People's Republic of China was formed on October 1, 1949. Mao was considered a hero of the Chinese people because he ended the 28 years of civil war between the nationalists and communists. However, Mao initiated the ten-year "cultural revolution" from May 1966 to October 1976, which brought great calamity to the country and people, causing the most serious setbacks and most damaging losses. An estimated 500 Billion Yuan (Chinese currency) was lost during that period. In 1977, Deng Xiaoping was reinstated from all the party and governmental posts he had been dismissed from during the "cultural revolution." In 1979, Deng instituted a policy of reform and opening to the outside world. The errors of the "cultural revolution" were rectified. The focus was shifted to modernization. Major efforts were made to readjust the economic structure and reform the economic and political

Land

The People's Republic of China is in East Asia, butting the Pacific Ocean. Its vast territory is richly endowed with natural resources. The majority of its people live in the basin and the fertile east where rivers and plains enable them to farm. China's many mountain ranges are well known throughout the world, including one of the most well known -- the Himalayas.

Climate

The four seasons are as distinct in China as they are in many parts of the United States. Northeast China has a short summer and a long, cold winter, while the southern part is tropical and summer remains year-round. The east coast is warm and humid and has striking seasonal changes, while the inland areas of northwest China experience hot and cold weather changes in a single day

Administrative Units

The country is divided into 23 provinces, much like the U.S. There are autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government. Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 when the 99-year lease with Great Britain expired.



Why Adopt from China?

FAQ: Can I request a child from a specific province?

Families can make special requests in their dossier in regards to specific regions or provinces that they wish to adopt.

Children Available

Chinese children are well cared for. Their birth mothers typically live a simple life on a farm in rural areas. Many take good care of themselves, hoping to have a boy. Drug and alcohol abuse amongst birthmothers is not common. Children are typically abandoned in a public location as this increases the likelihood of them being taken to safety in an orphanage. Once children are abandoned, the provincial Civil Affairs Office requires a finding add/orphan announcement to run in the local newspaper in an attempt to locate the child's birth family. After a prescribed period of time if the family does not come forward then the child is deemed an orphan. Typically, healthy infants are immediately placed for domestic adoption.

Most Chinese orphanages have a comparatively low nanny to child ratios, and the Chinese government makes every effort to ensure children receive good care at the orphanage. While there are both boys and girls in China's Waiting child adoption program, there are generally many more boys. Children in the Waiting Child program are 1-13 years old with special needs. These needs can range anywhere from very minor (like an extra digit) to more moderate or severe. There is a child that can fit into almost every family.

Parental Birth Rights Forfeited

Birth parents do not have the right to contest the adoption. When a child is abandoned in China, the birth parents relinquish all legal rights to the child. In fact, abandoning a child is illegal in China, so parents who do so risk criminal prosecution.

Quick Adoption Finalization

In most cases, adoptions are finalized in China. Unless you are married and travel without your spouse, or choose to re-adopt in the U.S., there is no additional adoption paperwork necessary. If both parents travel, your child will automatically become an U.S. citizen upon entering the U.S.

Predictable and Stable Process

The China Waiting Child program is one of the fastest, easiest international adoption programs. Most families are able to finish their entire adoption process in 12-18 months. The Chinese adoption process is an ordered and regulated process. Families need not worry about unexpected "money gifts" or payments during the adoption process in China. China's international adoption program is considered one of the best worldwide. The Chinese government has an established, standardized way of working with international adoptive families. Unlike other foreign countries that shut

down or suspend adoption programs from time to time, China has kept their adoption program open steadily for more than a decade.

Reasonable Fees

Adopting from China costs much less than adopting from other countries. This is especially true when working with Great Wall. Our philosophy is to make adoption affordable, so that more families will be able to adopt, and more children will be placed with parents.

Flexible Travel Schedules

If married, both parents are encouraged to travel to China to complete the adoption. The trip typically takes 12 to 14 days. We recommend that both parents travel, but if one cannot stay for the entire trip, it is not required. One of the options that we offer parents is to travel to the province to receive the child, then return home while the other parent goes on to Guangzhou to obtain the child's visa to enter the U.S. However, if this option is not possible, one parent can complete the adoption in China.

Mature Parents Preferred

Unlike domestic adoption in the U.S., the Chinese government allows older couples (age 30+) to pursue adoption from China. The Chinese believe that older couples make wonderful parents because they tend to be established in their careers and financially secure.

Positive Experience in China

The Chinese people are very appreciative of American citizens adopting their children. The native Chinese people will treat you with graciousness, respect and sometimes friendly curiosity. It is not uncommon for adoptive parents to be given the "thumbs up" while traveling in China. Traveling to China is a safe and wonderful experience for American families.



China Program Requirements

FAQ: What do the intra-China fees that we pay to Great Wall go towards?

The intra-China fees go towards all hotel accommodations, intra-China flights, airport transfers, transportation for adoption procedures in China, tours, tour guides, and a daily breakfast.

Call us today at (512)323-9595 with any eligibility concerns or email us at info@gwca.org.

Citizenship

At least one parent MUST be a U.S. citizen. For further information contact GWCA.

Age

- Both parents must be at least 30 years old.
- Married Couples: There can be no more than a 50 year age difference between the youngest parent and the child.
- Single Women: There can be no more than a 50 year age difference between the parent and the child.

Marriage

Married couples and single women are eligible to adopt from China. If this is the first marriage for both spouses, you must be married at least two years.

If you are a single woman, visit our Special Focus Adoption page for your requirements on pages 21.

Divorce

Neither spouse can be divorced more than twice. For marriages where one or both spouses has two previous divorces, you must be married at least 5 years. (*exceptions made on a case-by-case basis)

Income

Families must earn \$10,000 for each person in the household, including the future adopted child. For example, a married couple with no children living in the home must earn at least \$30,000 annually.

Financial

Families must show a positive net worth (assets vs. liabilities) of at least \$80,000. Singles must have \$100,000.

Education

Both parents must have a high school diplomas (or the equivalent.)

Religion

Religious beliefs must not prevent your child from receiving medical treatment of any kind.

Adults in Home

Subject to CIS approval.

Biological Children

Families with a biological child can submit their dossier to China when the child turns three-years-old.

Health

If either parent is not in excellent health, acceptance is on a case-by-case basis. Families may not be eligible to adopt if any of the following apply:

- Diagnosed with alcoholism within the last 10 years
- One or both parents use a wheelchair or mobility aid
- Any history or diagnosis of cancer
- Both parents have a seizure disorder
- Body Mass Index (BMI) over 40
- Any use or abuse of illicit drugs
- *Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis. Please contact an adoption counselor to discuss any specific eligibility concerns.

Criminal

All arrests and convictions must be documented for review on a case-by-case basis. Families may not be eligible to adopt if any of the following apply:

- *Current warrants or currently on probation*
- *Any drug charges*
- *Any arrest for violent crime (examples: assault, domestic violence, child abuse/neglect)*
- *Any felony arrests*

Parental History

If either parent has terminated parental rights after the age of 18, or if you have been investigated by Child Welfare Services, please contact our headquarters for a personal consultation.

Repeat Adoption

Families can identify and request to adopt a 2nd waiting child after 12 months of their finalization date for their previous adoption.

Children in Home

Married couples must not have more than 5 children in the home. Single applicants must not have more than two children.

Disclaimer - If you have any questions about the eligibility requirements, we invite you to contact Great Wall Headquarters in Austin for a case-by-case review before submitting an application. However, we cannot guarantee that case-by-case reviews will ensure your application is approved upon receipt. Anything not disclosed during a case-by-case review may cause an application to be declined at a later date. Approval by the CCCWA may be affected by one or more of the following including, but not limited to: previous marriages, criminal history, medications, medical conditions, substance abuse, financial instability, negative net worth, disability payments, retirement, religions prohibiting medical treatment, domestic violence, child abuse and/or neglect, and/or placing a child for adoption. Eligibility requirements are subject to change by the CCCWA without prior notice.

China Adoption Process Timeline

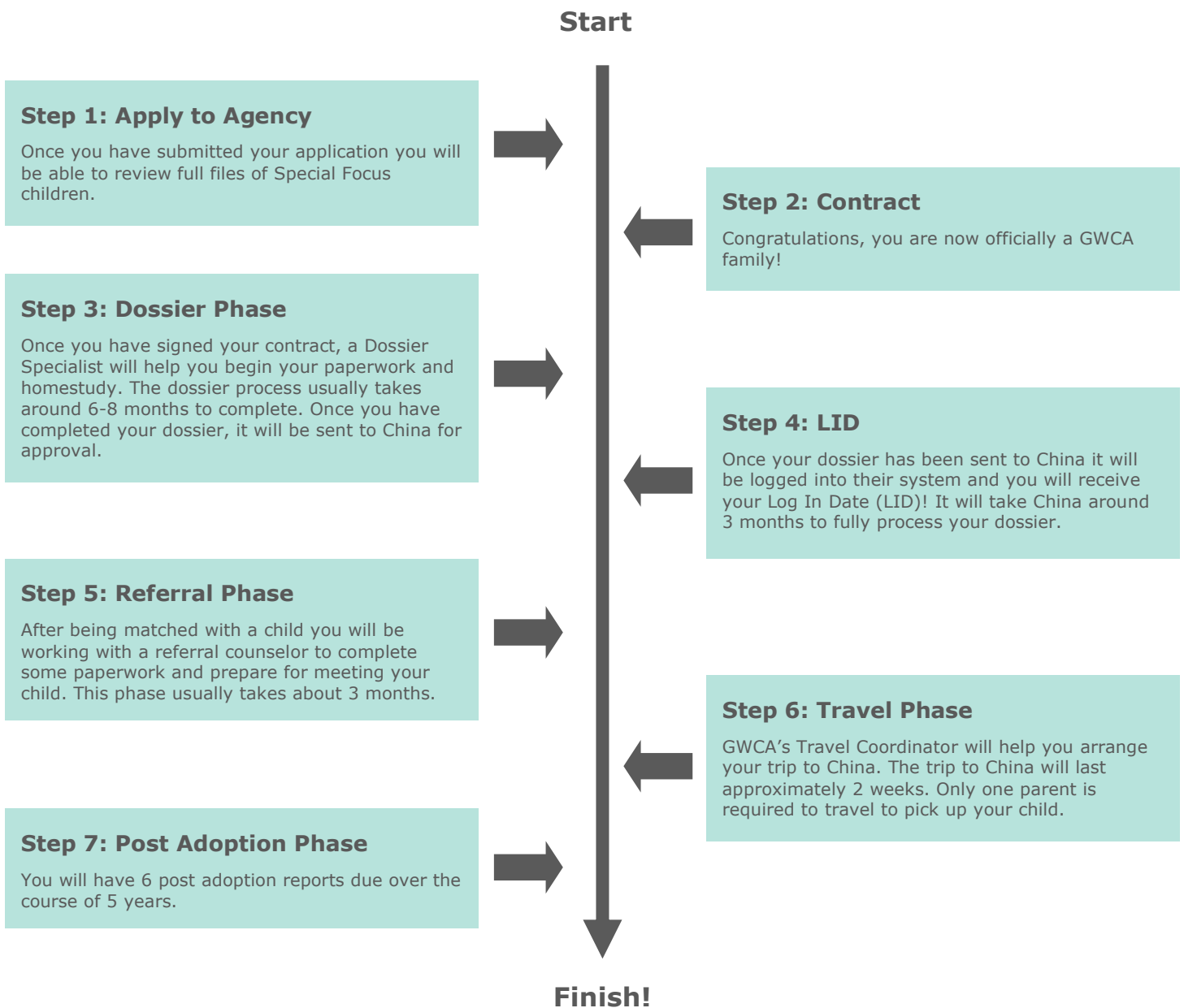
FAQ: How long does the adoption process take from start to finish??

On average, the China Waiting Child adoption process takes about 12-18 months from start to finish (not including your post-adoption reports). This timeline may vary based on several factors including how quickly your family is able to complete the dossier process.

China Waiting Child Matching

Special Focus – Families can be matched with a Special Focus child when they have an approved home study. Special Focus children can range in age anywhere from 1-13 years old and typically have needs ranging anywhere from minor to more moderate or severe.

LID – Families can be matched with an LID child only after their dossier has been submitted to China and logged in. LID children are typically younger and have more minor or correctable needs.



China Adoption Process Overview

FAQ: Can we use frequent flyer miles for our international flights?

We encourage you to use frequent flyer miles if at all possible. We will do everything we can to help you save money during your adoption.

The Process

Phase I: Research

Step 1: Speak with one of GWCA's China matching specialists about the adoption process and how you can get matched with a child that is a good fit for your family. Speaking with a counselor will help you understand the overall process better and provide answers to any questions you might have.

Step 2: We recommend all families who are considering the China Waiting Child program begin by researching more about the conditions, age range, and gender your family is open to. It is important to understand the best and worst case scenario with each special need to determine if your family has the resources to provide for a child with that need. Your family should also connect with your social worker regarding your desire to parent a child with special needs. When you are considering the age, gender, and medical conditions of your child, your social worker can help you look at all aspects to determine what would be the best fit for your family. It is also important to look into resources available in your area when considering which special needs your family would be able to handle. Most states have early intervention programs to help children who have special needs reach their full potential. If you are considering an older child, be sure to consult with your school district about their ability to assist an older child who is transitioning to life in the U.S.

Phase II: Application

Step 1: Submit your application for review and approval. You can apply online at www.gwca.org/application/new. The application review process is important because the application is used to conduct a preliminary screening of applicants. The screening process tells us whether or not the applicants are eligible to adopt, are in good physical and mental health, and what type of child is desired. It also allows us to do background checks as required by state and federal laws and regulations. It is our responsibility to ensure that the adoptive parents can meet the needs of a child. The information provided in the application also helps us determine if we will be able to assist you with a successful adoption. If not, we will gladly explain other options.

When Great Wall receives an application from a family, we carefully review it based on the guidelines outlined by the Chinese and U.S. governments. We look at each family on a case-by-case basis. If we have any questions about your

eligibility for a Chinese adoption, we will contact the Chinese government directly to get the necessary answers.

We cannot guarantee that your approved application will result in the Chinese government placing a child with your family. Great Wall understands that when we approve your application, your family is emotionally and financially committed to your adoption, and we take that responsibility very seriously and will support and advocate for your family throughout your adoption journey.

Step 2: Select a service plan—After successfully guiding thousands of families to adopt from China, Great Wall has individual adoption plans, depending on the amount or type of service needed. Great Wall offers a variety of services, and our adoption specialists would be happy to help you find the one that's right for your family.

Phase III: Matching

Once you have applied and selected your service plan, GWCA's matching specialists will begin working with you to find a child that fits your adoption desires. We recommend families continue to research what they might be open to, speak with other families, adoption and medical professionals, and complete required Hague training.

As a "matching program," families in GWCA's China Waiting Child adoption program have the opportunity to play a role in their matching process rather than simply receiving a referral for a child. This gives families the chance to review multiple children's files until they find their son or daughter. As such, the timeline for the matching process will vary depending on when you find the child that's right for your family.

LID and Special Focus

For the China adoption process, children's files are given one of two designations, either "LID" or "Special Focus." While families can be matched with a Special Focus child after they submit their adoption contract and have a current and approved home study, families can only be matched with a child who is considered LID after their dossier has been sent to China and logged in.

Special Focus children can range in age anywhere from 1-13 years old and typically have needs ranging anywhere from minor to more moderate or severe. LID children are considered easier to place based on the fact that they are typically younger and have more minor or correctable needs. In fact in some cases LID children's needs may be treated or corrected prior to being matched with a family.

China Adoption Process Overview

FAQ: Once we are ready to get started, how long is the entire adoption process?

The dossier process, which includes the home study, generally takes about 6 months to complete. At that point, if you have already been matched with a Special Focus child, you will be able to travel to pick up your child about 6 months after the date that your dossier is logged in (LID). If you are matched with a Special Focus or LID child after your dossier has been logged in, you will generally be able to travel to bring your child home in as little as 3-3.5 months after you've been matched.

In order to begin reviewing LID children's files, families must first complete their dossier and submit it to China. Once their dossier has officially been logged in, GWCA's China Matching Specialists will send them LID files to review based on the gender and needs that they're open to.

Shared Lists

The CCCWA provides information on children currently available for adoption in the Waiting Child program to agencies through a secured online system. This is commonly referred to as the "Shared List." Multiple agencies have access and work within this system to place these children who are older and/or with special needs. Great Wall is one of the honored agencies to have access to the shared agency listings.

Great Wall Individual List

In addition to the CCCWA "Shared" List, Great Wall China Adoption also places children from our agency-specific list.

Waiting Child team members review both our agency-specific list and the shared list for available children while searching for possible families who may be a good match. If there is a possible match for your family, you will be contacted to discuss the child's information. When a child does not have a potential family we will post their information to our photo list. If your family is interested in learning more about a child who is listed, we ask you complete the individual inquiry form located below the listing. Our Waiting Child team will contact you with more information about the child's availability and special needs. Should Great Wall staff and your family feel it is in the best interest of the child and family to continue with that child, your family will be provided with the child's full file for review.

Great Wall asks all families to review the child's medical information with a medical professional. We also recommend you discuss your decision with your social worker. Your family will need to be approved by your social worker to complete the adoption process of this child and bring him or her into your family. Great Wall encourages all families to contact doctors specializing in international adoptions.

It is important to note the following:

- » Families who do not have a log-in date can be considered for Special Focus children listed on Great Wall's Waiting Child photo listing.
- » Great Wall cannot match families who are logged-in with another agency unless they transfer to GWCA.

» Great Wall only matches children and families; the CCCWA determines final approval for all placements.

Once we have found your child on the Waiting Child list, our first step in your journey is to notify the CCCWA that you would like to be matched with this child. We do this by associating your family's name with the child's online file. This is the process referred to as "locking the file." We will also send additional documents to the CCCWA to complete a formal application to adopt this child.

If you are not a current GWCA client, you will be required to submit the GWCA agency application and contract before we will initiate your dossier into the expedited Waiting Child process.

Step 3: Sign and return agency agreement.

While exploring the matching process your family can choose which contract best fits your family's needs, then simply sign and date the agreement, return it to Great Wall, and your Chinese adoption will be underway. Great Wall's Program Fees provide families with the services outlined in this Information Guide including, but not limited to:



China Adoption Process Overview

FAQ: Are travel guides available? What services do they provide?

The Great Wall China Guides are well-known for their expertise and exceptional service to families. The guide will meet you at the airport in China and remain with you throughout your trip. He or she will stay at your hotels (not your rooms) and accompany you to all scheduled activities, acting as tour guide, interpreter and adoption facilitator.

- » Providing education and consultation throughout the adoption process
- » Assisting adoptive parents in completing China's required paperwork
- » Providing information about child development, bonding and attachment
- » Completing a home study (Texas and Florida families only)
- » Reviewing and approving all home studies
- » Updating families about changes in China's adoption program
- » Submitting a family's dossier to the proper Chinese officials
- » Advocating to CCCWA on behalf of families throughout the adoption journey
- » Translating referral information
- » Making travel arrangements in China
- » Following-up with families post adoption, as required by the Chinese government

Great Wall also works closely with families to provide information about local customs, items to pack, how to deal with Chinese government officials, and information about the characteristics of Chinese children. Services provided by Great Wall are subject to change based upon China's adoption program requirements.

We encourage you to contact the families on our reference list for more information. They are happy to share their adoption experiences with you.



Phase III: Dossier (*pronounced daw-see-eh*)

Step 1: Select a home study agency.

The home study is just one step in the Dossier Phase. It is the life story of your family. Your social worker will assist you in analyzing your strengths and possible challenges as future adoptive parents.

The home study is necessary to satisfy requirements for your state, Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), and the Chinese government. We recommend starting the home study after you have applied with our agency. China has specific requirements for a home study, and most importantly the home study agency must be Hague-accredited.

If you live in Texas or Florida, your Great Wall social worker will be in touch with you to get your home study underway. For residents of other states, you will choose a home study agency near you.

Step 2: Begin assembling dossier.

To get started, Great Wall sends families a detailed and easy to follow set of instructions that provide step-by-step instructions for collecting each document for the dossier. Our experienced and detail-oriented Dossier Consulting Team personally assists families with any questions that arise during this process. Our Dossier Consultants will quickly and accurately respond to your questions so the "Paper Chase" can proceed as smoothly as possible.

Step 3: File with USCIS.

Adopting internationally requires approval from the U.S. government's immigration department. For this step, families are required to submit a Form I-800A (Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition) along with the following supporting documentation: birth certificate or other proof of citizenship, marriage certificate and/or divorce decrees, and home study, along with the current filing and fingerprinting fees.

Step 4: Certify and authenticate dossier documents.

Once all of the necessary paperwork has been collected and notarized, it is now time to have the documents certified by the Secretary of State, where the document originated, and authenticated by the proper Chinese Consulate.

China Adoption Process Overview

FAQ: Can we request a specific gender/age range of our child? If we do, will we have to wait longer for our referral?

Yes, your family is able to decide which child is the best fit based on their gender, age range, and any special needs you might be open to. Our China adoption counselors will help you look at files of children who might be a good match for your family. We want you to feel completely comfortable before moving forward with a child.

For families choosing the Elite Plan, Preferred Plan, or the Dragon Dossier Service, Great Wall will take care of Step 5 and complete the certification and authentication for you. Our expert Dossier Specialists are familiar with all county, state and consulate requirements for obtaining accurate certification and authentication for your important documents.

Step 5: Send dossier to Great Wall.

When all of the documents have been collected, notarized, certified and authenticated, send us your completed dossier.

For families choosing the Elite Plan, Preferred Plan or the Dragon Dossier Service, Great Wall will notify you as soon as we have completed your dossier and are ready to send it to China.

Step 6: Carefully review dossier.

Great Wall will thoroughly review each page of your dossier before we send it to our China Division in Beijing. We inspect each document to be sure that China's requirements have been met. This vital step ensures that your dossier is as perfect as possible when we send it to China. We know that your dossier reflects who you are, and our dossier consultants take pride in helping your family present yourselves in the best way possible.

Step 7: Overnight dossier to Great Wall China Division.

We understand how important it is to get your dossier registered as soon as possible. Since Great Wall only works with China, we do not need to wait several weeks or months to collect enough dossiers to send a batch. We overnight dossiers to China each week, whether we have one dossier or many. Our China Division staff receives them within days.

Step 8: Hand-deliver dossier to the CCCWA.

This is where Great Wall really stands out. Our China Division staff will personally deliver your dossier to the CCCWA. By hand delivering your dossier, there is no doubt that your dossier made it safely from our headquarters in Austin, Texas to the CCCWA in Beijing.

Step 9: Dossier registered(LID) and translated by the CCCWA. Once the CCCWA accepts your dossier, they will register it. Your dossier is generally registered within 1-2 weeks (Time frame is subject to change please consult your dossier specialist for current time frame.) after arrival at the CCCWA. Once your dossier is officially logged in, the CCCWA will begin the translation. The CCCWA has their own translation department. This ensures all translations are consistent and meet the CCCWA's standards.

Step 10: Receive your LID.

Your "Log In Date" is the date that your dossier is registered by the CCCWA. You may also hear it referred to as the "registration" date. Once your dossier is logged in, you are then eligible to review "LID files" if you have not already been matched with a Special Focus child. LID files are generally the younger kids with more minor or correctable needs. Please speak with your China Adoption Counselor about current wait times to be matched with LID children.

Step 11: Review Room assesses your dossier.

The CCCWA Review Room is where your dossier documents are carefully reviewed for eligibility. If the Review Room officials have any questions about your documents or home study, it could delay your referral. This is one of the most important reasons to choose Great Wall. Our China Division staff is in contact with the CCCWA daily, so that we are the first to know if there's a problem, and we work to solve it as quickly as possible. Upon approval, the Review Room recommends child guidelines for each family.

Phase IV: Moving Forward

Once we have found your child on the Waiting Child list, our first step in your journey is to notify the CCCWA you would like to be matched with this child. We do this by submitting a Letter of Intent and associated documents to the CCCWA to complete a formal application to adopt the waiting child. Great Wall is happy to allow our families 1 week to prepare and submit all of the necessary items to move forward with a waiting child.

If your child's file was on the shared agency list, we will lock the child's file by placing your family's name into the system. This means, your child's file has been shifted to a list designated for GWCA only for a specific timeframe (currently 72 hours). We must then submit all of the necessary paperwork to apply to adopt this specific child. As long as we submit all of your documents within this timeframe, your child's file will be permanently locked for your family. If your child is on our Great Wall only list, we may wait to lock the child's file until we have all of the necessary paperwork from you.

Step 1: LOI

Once your family has made the decision to move forward to adopt your child, we must submit a formal "application" to the CCCWA requesting your dossier to be reviewed.

China Adoption Process Overview

FAQ: How do we know what documents to collect for our dossier?

Great Wall's experienced Dossier Consultants will assist you during this crucial stage so you can get your documents assembled and ready to go to China. We also provide you with step-by-step instructions on what documents are needed and what needs to happen to each document before you send it to us. If you still have questions, just pick up the phone or email us and we will get you an answer right away. We are always available to answer your questions.

The documents you will need to prepare are as follows:

1. Letter of Intent/Rehabilitation and Nurture Plan: The LOI is de-signed to let the CCCWA know the preparations you have made for your child's care upon their return to your home.
2. Parent Information Sheet: This information is used by the CCCWA to determine your general eligibility.
3. Passport Photos: We will need 3 passport photos of each spouse. 4. Referral Agreement: We will provide you a referral agreement which we ask you to sign indicating you have received your child's medical documents and you are prepared to move forward. Submission of your LOI fully commits your dossier to this child, and the Referral Agreement grants GWCA permission to submit your Letter of Intent to the CCCWA. MUST be received in order for us to submit your LOI.

Step 2: Waiting for Approval

Once your formal application to be matched with your child is submitted to the CCCWA, we wait for them to preliminarily re-view your information. All of the above documents are reviewed by the Review Room and the Matching Room. Once both departments have reviewed and approved the information we have submitted, the CCCWA will issue a Pre-Approval or your official Letter Seeking Confirmation (LSC). The Pre-Approval (PA) is typically issued within 2 weeks after the LOI is submitted and is uploaded into the CCCWA online system. When the PA is issued, this means the CCCWA has accepted your LOI and agrees to re-view your dossier on behalf of this child. Once we receive your Pre-Approval, you will have 6 months to submit your dossier to the CCCWA. Only families who do not have a completed dossier in China will receive a Pre-Approval. For families whose dossier has already been sent to China, you will begin your wait for your Letter Seeking Confirmation (LSC).

Step 3: Letter Seeking Confirmation

If your dossier has already been logged-in, the submission of the LOI will notify the CCCWA to pull your dossier from its current place and expedite you through the next stages of the adoption process. Once the dossier has been reviewed, the CCCWA must approve the match and formally refer the child to your family. This official approval of the match from the CCCWA is known as the Letter Seeking Confirmation- LSC. The CCCWA will need to review your Letter of Intent and dossier before issuing the LSC.

For families whose dossier is already through the translation and review process, the LSC is processed in approximately 3-6 weeks. For families who are matched within 6 months of the dossier being submitted to the CCCWA, the LSC may take 6-16 weeks.

The LSC will arrive directly at Great Wall headquarters. We will contact your family as soon as possible to notify you of its arrival. We will overnight the LSC to your family to sign. Please remember we must have the items noted in the Pre-Approval section prior to sending your LSC.

Phase V: Travel

Once you have completed your LSC package (referral acceptance), there are a few more steps before obtaining permission to travel. Though the time it takes Great Wall to receive Travel Approvals from the CCCWA after Referral Acceptance varies, you can expect to travel approximately 4-6 weeks after the US Consulate receives your complete LSC package.

Step 1: Article 5/CCCWA Receives Referral Acceptance Notification - Once your paperwork arrives in Guangzhou, it is delivered to the US Consulate. The Consulate allows agency representatives to pick up and drop off paperwork at certain times and days during the week. Once the Consulate receives this information from our China staff, they will then verify your USCIS approvals and issue an Article 5. Great Wall's courier picks up the Article 5 on one of the designated days and express mails it to our staff in Beijing. Upon receipt, our staff will then deliver your paperwork to the CCCWA. After the CCCWA has received both your family's signed LSC and Article 5 from the Consulate, the CCCWA will begin working with your child's provincial Civil Affairs office to gain permission for you to travel. We should receive your Travel Approval in 2-4 weeks from Article 5 pickup.

Step 2: Receive Travel Approval

Travel Approvals are delivered directly to Great Wall headquarters. Your Travel Advisor will notify you that your Travel Approval has arrived same-day.

Step 3: Request and receive consulate appointment date. Your travel dates are ultimately determined by the U.S. Consulate appointment to get your child's visa to enter the U.S, though your Travel Advisor is allowed to provide 5 scheduling options. The consulate appointment is one of the last things you will do in China, and it is from this that we determine your departure date.

China Adoption Process Overview

FAQ: How do I know if an agency is Hague Accredited?

The State Department's website provides a list of agencies who received their full or temporary accreditation and those who were denied.

Step 4: Book international flights.

Once your Consulate appointment is confirmed, Great Wall will provide you with a basic itinerary from which you can use to schedule your international flights to and from China. Your Travel Advisor will review any possible reservations to confirm itinerary matches with adoption schedule.

It is important to note that you will be required to stay in-country for about 2 weeks to finalize your child's adoption. Also, because children are referred from all over China, you may be the only family traveling to your child's province. We do not require families to wait and travel with a group, and will send you to China as soon as possible.

Step 5: Intra-China Arrangements

Great Wall makes all of your intra-China travel arrangements for you, including domestic flights, hotel accommodations, ground transportation, and guide service.

Great Wall has standard travel fees which include guide services, transportation, and travel coordination. These fees are charged per person and vary for an infant, child, and adult. Please note, a child 12+ is considered an adult for travel.

Step 6: Depart for China

It is now time to go to China to pick up your child(ren!) Here is a breakdown of what your travel itinerary may include:



Wednesday/Thursday

Depart from your home town

Friday

Arrive in Beijing by 9 pm (optional)

Saturday (optional)

Tour of the Great Wall of China, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the sites of the 2008 Beijing Olympics

Sunday

Fly to your child's province

Monday

Gotcha Day - meet your child for the first time!

Tuesday

Finalize adoption at provincial Civil Affairs

Wednesday

Cultural Learning Tour

Thursday

Cultural Learning Tour

Friday

Receive child's passport, complete forms, and check documents

Saturday

Fly to Guangzhou

Sunday

Cultural Learning Tour

Monday

Complete child's medical exam

Tuesday

American Consulate Appointment: Interview, Oath-Taking Ceremony

Wednesday

Obtain child's visa from American Consulate

Thursday

Depart from China to return home

Friday

Arrive home.

China Adoption Process Overview

FAQ: Does Great Wall arrange our flights for us?

Great Wall's experienced Travel Advisors will book the following flights for you in China: Beijing to the capital city of your child's province, province to Guangzhou, and Guangzhou to Hong Kong. Great Wall books all your hotels in Beijing, your child's province, and Guangzhou, as well as the Cultural Learning Tours, all transportation to and from the airport, and makes arrangements for you to have expert China Guides.

You are now home with your child. You have just had the experience of a lifetime and now it is time to get your child on his/her new routine while you overcome jet lag. Oh, the joys of parenting!

Phase VI: Post Adoption

Step 1: Once You Come Home

Bonding and Attachment

With the happiness an adoption can bring, families are sometimes caught off guard when negative feelings such as grief and loss occur. It is important to understand that it is very common for the child AND parents to experience feelings of grief and these feelings should not be ignored or blocked out. Not attending to the feelings of grief can delay and cause problems with the attachment process.

Doctor's Appointments

If possible, consult with your doctor and delay any non-essential major medical procedures/treatments for your child. Ensuring your child feels safe and secure with your family is a high priority when you initially return home. Your child may also have spent a lot of time in medical facilities due to their need, and sometimes children may feel threatened or insecure when they find themselves in medical facilities or hospitals because they may remind them of the institution. Show your child through your constant presence, calmness, and support you are their forever family and you will not leave them.

Step 2: Finalize adoption.

Now that you have been back for a few weeks, your child is getting comfortable in his/her routine, and it is time to wrap up any loose ends. Now is the time to begin the re-adoption process in the U.S. Not all states have a re-adoption process. Some states have a recognition ceremony, while other states offer both re-adoption and recognition. Great Wall recommends a full re-adoption. To learn more, please visit <http://www.gwca.org/china-adoption/readoption-service/>.

Now is also a good time to get your child all of the necessary U.S. documents, including his/her certificate of citizenship, birth certificate, social security number, and passport. Remember to keep all of your adoption expenses together so you can file for your adoption tax credit, if applicable.

Step 3: Post-Adoption Reports.

China now requires that your family submit six post-adoption reports following your return home with your new child.

These reports will be submitted at the following intervals after returning home: 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years and 5 years.

You will set up appointments with your social worker to discuss how your child is adjusting to family life, school, and other facets of his or her new environment. If they are school-aged, a letter from his or her teacher may be required, as well as a doctor's letter. If the child is over 10, then he or she will need to write a short essay as well.

The purposes of these reports are to show the CCCWA that their children are indeed benefiting by being adopted by foreign families and so they can continue to refine and improve the Chinese adoption process.



FAQ: How soon do we leave for China after we receive our referral?

Your travel is generally scheduled 6 to 8 weeks from the time the CCCWA receives your Letter Seeking Confirmation. The time frame between referral and travel can be reduced by returning your Letter Seeking Confirmation to Great Wall as soon as you review your child's medical information and sign the acceptance letter.

Special Focus

Great Wall feels that special focus children are the most vulnerable. That's why we're proud to be recognized by the CCCWA as the top agency for placement of these children. In 2011, the CCCWA named us #1 for placing Special Focus children, and we're so honored to be able to find forever families for these special kids.

A special focus child is defined as a child who is deemed more difficult to place by the CCCWA. These children are between the ages of 0-13 and they tend to have more moderate to severe special needs or they may have a combination of minor special needs. Families wishing to adopt a special focus child can be matched when they have an approved home study. Once matched with a special focus child, the CCCWA requires you to submit your dossier within 6 months. China only allows families to adopt one child at a time. If a family wishes to adopt another child, they must wait until one year has passed from their last adoption to begin the process again.

Eligibility Requirements for Single Women

The CCCWA accepts applications from single women.

Guidelines will apply for single women applicants, as listed here:

- » Applicants must be at least 30 years old. There cannot be more than a 50 year age difference between the parent and child being adopted
- » Applicants must be healthy and without criminal record.
- » Annual income must be \$10,000 per family member, including the child to be adopted. Applicant must have no more than two children living in the home.
- » Net assets must be a minimum of \$100,000.
- » The applicant shall provide her civil status certificate. As previously, unmarried applicants shall provide certification for being single and non-homosexual; divorced applicants shall provide the divorce certificate of the last marriage; and widowed applicants shall provide the death certificate of their deceased spouse.

Agency Comparisons

FAQ: Do we both need to travel to China?

China requires at least one parent to travel, and the trip can take approximately 12 to 17 days. You will pick up your child, finalize your adoption, and complete the medical exam, passport and visa for your child. While you are in China, Great Wall will also schedule Cultural Learning Tours so you can tell your child about her birth country at a later date.

Selecting an organization to help you complete your family is perhaps the most important step in the adoption process. Great Wall understands that there are many factors to consider when making this decision. We invite you to compare our organization's experience, expertise, services, reputation and relationship with China with those of other organizations.

Experience and Expertise

For more than 20 years, Great Wall has been dedicated to working exclusively with China's adoption program to place more than 9,000 children with families across the U.S. and abroad. We are honored to have approval from the Chinese government to fulfill our passion to help these special children find homes. With so many success stories, it is no wonder families return to Great Wall to adopt again and again. Unlike the smaller international adoption agencies, we have built a solid foundation over the years and are secure to help families for years to come.

Our expertise is the result of years of experience with China's adoption program. Our uniquely strong ties to Chinese officials, with whom we communicate daily, ensure that we are among the first to receive information from China, and among the first to inform our families. As Chinese regulations and policies change, we take the tasks of implementing new processes and notifying our families very seriously. The Great Wall staff receives China adoption education and training continually and has traveled to China to gain a better understanding of the adoption experience. These are just a few of many reasons Great Wall is often modeled by our peers in international adoption.

In-China Experience

Great Wall understands that you may feel overwhelmed by the adoption process and is here to help, providing in-China support that you will not find with any other agency. Our expert staff handles all travel arrangements, including flight

schedules and stays in 4- and 5-star hotels in China. Once you arrive, you are assigned an experienced team of adoption guides who will meet you upon arrival at every destination in China. These guides work with locals to provide families a smooth journey throughout all of their China destinations.

We encourage families to learn about their child's culture and heritage. Therefore, we have developed one-of-a-kind Cultural Learning Tours in each city you visit while you are in China. These tours give you invaluable insight into your child's heritage and homeland that you will appreciate for years to come. When your child asks you about his or her background, you can answer the questions confidently.

Unlike agencies focused solely on adoption, Great Wall is known for our advocacy work on behalf of adoptive families and abandoned children. Our staff travels to the U.S. Capital and State Department – even all the way to the Chinese government and the U.S. Consulates in China – in the interest of our families. Although Great Wall cannot control the Chinese government's decisions and policies, we are able to advocate on your behalf.

Service and Support

Over the years, Great Wall's passionate staff has helped raise the bar of service standards and practices. With our personal touch and eye for detail, we differentiate ourselves from others in the areas of client care, post adoption support, service amenities, the latest adoption policy updates, and charity missions. Compared to other adoption agencies, Great Wall goes above and beyond to keep you educated and confident throughout your adoption experience. We strive daily to provide exceptional resources including:

- » Multiple service plans to fit individual family needs
- » Warm and caring case managers to give you peace of mind by holding your hand every step of the way
- » Diligent and accountable staff with the ability to work successfully with families in the U.S. and abroad
- » A strong network of local home study agencies and case workers to answer all questions at every step
- » Expert Dossier and Home Study teams to coordinate, assemble, review, and process your important documents
- » Online education courses and national conferences to give you all the information you need
- » Bilingual employees and expert case workers that are in direct contact with CCCWA to help answer your case-by-case questions within 24 hours



Service Plan Overview

FAQ: How do we find a home study agency in our area?

For families in Texas and Florida, our Great Wall social workers are licensed to complete your home study. For families in all other states, Great Wall will be able to send you references for home study agencies in your area that our families have used in the past. The CCCWA has issued a new policy that all home studies for Chinese adoptions must be done by a Hague-accredited agency, so we will also send you a link so you can search for a Hague-accredited home study agency in your area, if none on the reference list in your area have this accreditation.

| | Conventional | Preferred | Elite |
|--|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Home Study Report (TX & FL families) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Home Study Review | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Dossier Document Review | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Referral Medical Translation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| All Post-Adoption Reports (TX & FL) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| PA Counseling | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Dragon Dossier Service | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Online Hague Training Courses | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| CCCWA Keepsake Book | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Child Medical Prescriptions | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Jade Seal with Family Name | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Travel Insurance | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mobile Phone in China | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Chinese Orphan Announcement | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Personalized Care Package | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Baby/Child Backpack | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| China Visa Service | • | ✓ | ✓ |
| Chinese-English Adoption Phrase Handbook | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Private Guide in China | ✗ | ✗ | • |
| Two Adult Tickets to GWCA Event | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |

✓ included

✗ not included

• optional

Conventional Service Plan

| PROGRAM FEES | | | <p>Optional amenities available for the Conventional Plan include: Dragon Dossier service, Hague online parent education courses, Hague filing service, CCCWA keepsake book, Chinese orphan announcement, Jade Family Seal, personalized care package, customized care package, connecting hearts care package, Chinese-English Adoption Phrase Handbook, baby/child backpack, orphanage photo album (if available), Dr. on call service, travel insurance, and mobile phone in China.</p> |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Application Fee | | \$250 | |
| 1 st Fee (paid with submission of contract) | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$3150 \$4250 | |
| 2 nd Fee (paid with signed home study agreement) | (All families) | \$700 | |
| 3 rd Fee (paid with dossier submission) | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$3150 \$4250 | |
| TOTAL | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$7250 \$9450 | |
| US GOVERNEMENT, CHINA, AND OTHER FEES | | | |
| Home Study (Non TX/FL families only) (paid prior to beginning homestudy) | | Per individual agency fees. | |
| I-800A Application & Fingerprinting (paid with application, estimated for 2 adults) | \$945 | | Paid to U.S. Department of Homeland Security |
| Adoption Paper Chase (paid at various times through paper chase) | \$800-\$1200 | | Paid to applicable counties, states, and Chinese Consulates. |
| Dossier Registration (paid upon completion of dossier) | \$1460 (matched with waiting child) \$1550 (not matched with waiting child) | | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Healthy Translation Fee | \$60 | | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Waiting Child LOI Submission | \$140 | | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Post Adoption Translation | \$390 | | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Post Adoption Report Deposit (Non TX & FL families) | \$1000 | | Paid to GWCA |
| DS-260 | \$680 | | Paid to U.S. consulate via GWCA |
| International Airfare | \$1500- \$4000 | | Paid to travel agency |
| Intra-China Travel (Estimated for 2 adults and adoptee) | \$6000- \$7000 | | Paid to GWCA |
| Orphanage Donation (Up to 35,000 RMB) | Voluntary | | Paid to Orphanage |
| China Legal and Process Fees | \$2000- \$2500 | | Paid to Proper Govt. agencies in China |
| Department of State Management & Oversight Fee | \$500 per child | | Paid to the Accrediting Entity through GWCA |
| TOTAL | | \$21,500 - \$25,990+ | |
| <p>This list is not exhaustive and ESTIMATED figures can vary due to number of adults traveling, time of year, size of group in China, state regulated paperwork fees, number of documents sent to China, changes in fees regulated by China, and home study and post-adoption service fees (if not using <i>Great Wall</i>). Fees are subject to change without notice.</p> | | | <p>\$600 discount for returning GWCA families</p> |

Preferred Service Plan

| PROGRAM FEES | | | Special amenities for the Preferred Plan include: Dragon Dossier service, Hague online parent education courses, Hague filing service, 2 tickets to GWCA event, CCCWA keepsake book, Chinese orphan announcement, jade family seal, personalized care package, baby/child backpack, orphanage photo album, Chinese-English Adoption Phrase Handbook, Power of Attorney Service (if available), child medical prescriptions, Dr. on call service, travel insurance, and mobile phone in China. |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Application Fee | | \$250 | |
| 1 st Fee (paid with submission of contract) | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$4500 \$5600 | |
| 2 nd Fee (paid with signed home study agreement) | (All families) | 700 | |
| 3 rd Fee (paid with dossier submission) | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$4500 \$5600 | |
| TOTAL | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$9950 \$12150 | |

| US GOVERNEMENT, CHINA, AND OTHER FEES | | |
|--|--|--|
| Home Study (Non TX/FL families only) (paid prior to beginning home study) | Per individual agency fees. | |
| I-800A Application & Fingerprinting (paid with application, estimated for 2 adults) | \$945 | Paid to U.S. Department of Homeland Security |
| Adoption Paper Chase (paid at various times through paper chase) | \$800-\$1200 | Paid to applicable counties, states, and Chinese Consulates. |
| Dossier Registration (paid upon completion of dossier) | \$1460 (matched with waiting child) \$1550 (not matched with waiting child) | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Healthy Translation Fee | \$60 | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Waiting Child LOI Submission | \$140 | Paid to Orphanage via GWCA |
| Post Adoption Translation | \$390 | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Post Adoption Report Deposit (Non TX & FL families) | \$1000 | Paid to GWCA |
| DS-260 | \$680 | Paid to U.S. consulate via GWCA |
| International Airfare | \$1500-\$4000 | Paid to travel agency |
| Intra-China Travel (Estimated for 2 adults and adoptee) | \$6000-\$7000 | Paid to GWCA |
| Orphanage Donation (Up to 35,000 RMB) | Voluntary | Paid to Orphanage |
| China Legal and Process Fees | \$2000-\$5000 | Paid to Proper Govt. agencies in China |
| Department of State Management & Oversight Fee | \$500 per child | Paid to the Accrediting Entity through GWCA |
| TOTAL | \$21,500-\$25,900+ | |

\$1000 discount for returning GWCA families

This list is not exhaustive and ESTIMATED figures can vary due to number of adults traveling, time of year, size of group in China, state regulated paperwork fees, number of documents sent to China, changes in fees regulated by China, and home study and post-adoption service fees (if not using *Great Wall*). Fees are subject to change without notice.

Elite Service Plan

| PROGRAM FEES | | | Optional amenities available for the Conventional Plan include: Dragon Dossier service, Hague online parent education courses, Hague filing service, CCCWA keepsake book, Chinese orphan announcement, jade family seal, personalized care package, customized care package, connecting hearts care package, Chinese-English Adoption Phrase Handbook, baby/child backpack, orphanage photo album (if available), Dr. on call service, travel insurance, and mobile phone in China. |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Application Fee | | \$250 | |
| 1 st Fee (paid with submission of contract) | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$14930 \$14130 | |
| 2 nd Fee (paid with signed home study agreement) | (All families) | \$14930 \$14130 | |
| 3 rd Fee (paid with dossier submission) | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$14930 \$14130 | |
| TOTAL | (Non TX & FL families) (TX & FL Families) | \$44790 \$42390 | |

| US GOVERNEMENT, CHINA, AND OTHER FEES | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Home Study (Non TX/FL families only) | Included | Paid to GWCA |
| I-800A Application & Fingerprinting | Included | Paid to U.S. Department of Homeland Security |
| Adoption Paper Chase | Included | Paid to applicable counties, states, and Chinese Consulates. |
| Dossier Registration | Included | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Post Adoption Report Deposit (Non TX & FL families) | Included | Paid to GWCA |
| Healthy Translation Fee | \$60 | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Waiting Child LOI Submission | \$140 | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| Post Adoption Translation | Included | Paid to CCCWA via GWCA |
| DS-260 | Included | Paid to U.S. consulate via GWCA |
| Orphanage Donation | Included | Paid to Orphanage |
| China Legal and Process Fees | Included | Paid to Proper Govt. agencies in China |
| International Airfare | \$1000- \$2000 | Paid to travel agency |
| Orphanage Donation (Up to 35,000 RMB) | Included | Paid to Orphanage |
| China Legal and Process Fees | \$2000- \$2500 | Paid to Proper Govt. agencies in China |
| Department of State Management & Oversight Fee | \$500 per child | Paid to the Accrediting Entity through GWCA |
| TOTAL | \$5,000 - \$6,500+ | |

\$2400 discount for returning GWCA families

This list is not exhaustive and ESTIMATED figures can vary due to number of adults traveling, time of year, size of group in China, state regulated paperwork fees, number of documents sent to China, changes in fees regulated by China, and home study and post-adoption service fees (if not using *Great Wall*). Fees are subject to change without notice.

FAQ: How much does it cost to adopt from China through Great Wall?

We estimate that the cost for adopting through Great Wall can start at about \$28,000 plus travel costs. If you live outside of Texas or Florida, the agency program fees are lower, but the cost of the home study is not included. Home study costs average about \$1,400 - \$1,800 depending upon your state of residence. Our estimate includes our application, agency program, paperwork, CCCWA dossier registration and translation, donation to the welfare home, and legal and processing fees in China. The CCCWA dossier registration and translation fee, the donation to the welfare home, and the legal and processing fees in China are the same for all agencies.

Adopting from China involves several types of fees: agency, U.S. government, Chinese government, and travel. Fees are due to the appropriate entities throughout the adoption.

Agency Fees

Agency professional fees are typically comprised of an application fee and program fees. The application fee is a nominal cost paid by the prospective adoptive parents so an agency may review a family's application information to determine eligibility for adoption. The actual services offered by an agency are covered in the agency's program fees. What services are covered should be detailed in the materials received from the agency. Carefully review the services offered by an agency to find the service plan that best fits your specific adoption needs.

Paper Chase Fees

Paperwork will need to be completed for your state, the U.S. government and the Chinese government. All of this paperwork is assembled into a dossier which will be sent to the CCCWA.

One of the first things to begin working on is the home study, which must be completed by a licensed agency in your state. For Texas and Florida residents, the home study is already included in Great Wall's program service fees. If you reside in another state, Great Wall will be happy to recommend a partner agency for your home study. Since Great Wall only completes home studies for Texas and Florida residents, our program service fees for residents of all other states are lower. Please keep in mind, a home study will still be required, so fees should be allocated for that expense.

During the Dossier Phase, families must order documents from various government agencies. These documents must then be certified and authenticated. Documents not ordered from a government agency must be notarized for authenticity, and then certified and authenticated. There are fees for ordering these documents, as well as fees associated with notarizing, certifying, and authenticating them. We advise families to use a shipping service that provides package tracking, as these documents are valuable, and cost time and money to replace if lost.

Great Wall's Dragon Dossier Service performs this portion of the Paper Chase. Once all of the documents are collected, certified, and authenticated, the dossier is sent to the CCCWA to be registered and translated. All families must pay the registration and translation fee, which includes processing the

application, screening family's qualifications, and is determined by and paid to the CCCWA (Great Wall charges an international wiring fee to deliver the registration and translation fees to the CCCWA).

Adoption Costs in China

Before traveling to China, you will pay your DS-260 filing and service fees. This documentation will provide the CCCWA with the approval to issue the Notice of Coming to China for Adoption, commonly referred to as the Travel Approval. An orphanage donation is voluntary, and prospective adoptive parent(s) may decide on the final amount they wish to donate. We do ask that families take into consideration that this donation goes towards the orphanage directly for the care of their adoptive child, as well as the work of creating more children's files so that they may also be adopted. However, ultimately, the decision on what to donate exactly is up to your family; GWCA may ask you, if requested by the orphanage, what you plan on donating ahead of the trip to China, but that is for the purposes of creating your receipt ahead of time.

Provincial legal fees are also required by the Chinese government to cover the expense of processing the adoption in China. These fees are required of all adoptive families and are paid directly to Chinese government agencies while you are in China. The local government services include conducting adoption registration and notarization, issuing a final adoption decree, and your child's passport, etc. The fee amounts may vary slightly from province to province. There are additional fees paid in China, which include your child's visa fee and a medical exam fee at the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou.

Estimated Travel Expenses

Travel expenses will depend on the time of year, the currency exchange rate, the number of people going, and hometown departure location. Travel notification is typically only a couple of weeks, so make sure you're fully prepared at this point in the process. Airfare can be expensive, especially for the domestic portion of the flight.

The Great Wall intra-China portion of the travel expenses includes the services of experienced adoption guides who will travel with you throughout China, accommodations in 4- and 5-star hotels, breakfast daily, flights in China, transportation to and from all airports, airport taxes and fees, transportation to adoption appointments, and Cultural Learning Tours. Great Wall eliminates most of the uncertainty with travel costs by negotiating annual rates for airfare and hotel accommodations. This allows our travel expenses to remain constant and protects families from seasonal fluctuations.

Service Amenities

FAQ: Who will help with our dossier?

The Great Wall Dossier (pronounced daw-see-ey) Team will assist you in gathering your dossier for China. Our Dossier Consultants are available to answer your questions and provide you with instructions and information. If you are using our Dragon Dossier Service, our Dossier Specialists will ensure that your documents are properly certified by the Secretary of State and authenticated by the Chinese Consulate. All Great Wall families also have access to the family login section of our website, which provides information and instructions 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Dragon Dossier Service*

Great Wall is very excited to offer our families the Dragon Dossier Service. With the Dragon Dossier Service, our Dossier Specialists will take over the time-consuming process of certifying and authenticating your dossier documents, as well as assembling the completed dossier for submission to China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA). Great Wall has over 20 years' experience in international adoption from China, and our Dossier Specialists are experts in preparing and reviewing dossiers to meet CCCWA's requirements. Families can feel confident that they will receive accurate and timely service from our Dragon Dossier Service staff. CCCWA requires families to submit dossiers consisting of at least 13 documents. Once obtained, these documents must be:

- » Notarized and, in some states, certified by the county
- » Certified by the Secretary of State
- » Authenticated by the correct Chinese Consulate

Certifying and authenticating your documents involves determining the correct government agency to send your documents to, as well as the proper forms, payment method and amount to send with them. If you or your spouse are currently living in a state other than in which you were born and/or married, it can take up to 25 mailings to complete the process. Great Wall sends your documents with the required processing fees to the appropriate county, Secretary of State, and the Chinese Consulate locations for certification and authentication. Great Wall Dragon Dossier Service also tracks your documents, follows up on their progress, and completes your dossier for you.

Once signed up for the Conventional Plan with Dragon Dossier Service or Preferred Plan, families need to deposit a \$1,500 expense retainer to be used towards the certification/authentication of documents. Any unused portion of the expense retainer will be refunded upon completion of the dossier.

Hague Parent Education Courses*

According to the Hague convention, every adoptive parent is required to complete at least ten hours of training, covering mandated topics. For your convenience, we offer online courses to help you meet your Hague requirements. You will have no need to spend time or energy searching for courses or worrying if they meet the strict standards established by U.S. State Department. Great Wall's online courses will

alleviate you of all your troubles, so you can enjoy learning about the adoption process at your convenience in the comfort of your own home.

Chinese Keepsake Book*

The China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) has created a very unique book specifically for parents who have adopted from China. Beautifully illustrated with artistic Chinese flair, this treasured book contains more than 40 stories told in the Chinese tradition. This book is a wonderful way to share China's culture and history with your entire family. It is sure to become a valued keepsake for generations of adoptive families. Great Wall is honored to be the only agency to currently have access to this precious, limited edition book for adoptive parents.



Medical Prescriptions*

In collaboration with our medical experts in international adoptive pediatrics, Great Wall families can purchase pre-selected medical prescriptions at a reduced rate. Many pediatricians will not prescribe medications without examining a child in person. But, with their expertise and experience as an adoptive parent it allows them provide this service for Great Wall families.

Travel Insurance*

Most medical insurance plans do not extend coverage when traveling overseas. Although the chance of an injury or medical emergency is relatively small, we offer our families the opportunity to purchase low cost travel insurance. This option allows your family to travel internationally with one less thing to worry about.

FAQ: What is the main difference between the Conventional and Preferred Plans?

Great Wall's Conventional Plan is the same great service families have come to expect from us. The Preferred Plan takes that great service and makes it even better. We have added our worry-free dossier service, the Dragon Dossier Service, free online Hague training courses and a few more complementary services to make your adoption journey as effortless as possible. The Preferred Plan also offers you a refund option not available with the Conventional Plan. We know life can be full of unexpected twists and turns; our new refund option is there for you should you need it.

Passport Name Bilingual*

Let Great Wall handle the arrangements with the proper officials to add your child's English name to his/her Chinese passport and provincial adoption paperwork when available. This service is highly recommended for families living overseas because the U.S. government only allows a small window of opportunity to obtain U.S. passports for children. However, all families benefit from this service when it is time to begin the state re-adoption process.



Personalized Care Package*

Send a care package with a camera, film, batteries, candies, blankets, and a pink or blue teddy bear, along with a translated note from you, to your child's orphanage. Great Wall will purchase and deliver all of the items directly to your child's orphanage. When you arrive in China to receive your child, the orphanage director will return the camera with photos of your child's life at the orphanage. These priceless photos may be your child's only tangible connection to the past.

Stork Goodies are not available at every orphanage, is not transferable, and cannot be redeemed for cash of the same value. Photo shown is a sample photo. The look of the actual items may differ.

Jade Family Seal / Chinese Chop

This stamp is carved in stone and will stand for your family's name in Chinese. It comes in a silk covered box with an ink pad to forever commemorate your adoption from China.



Baby/Child Backpacks*

You can reduce packing time and save space, while alleviating the need to decide what to bring your new child with the Great Wall Baby Backpack. This comprehensive package takes care of all your baby's needs with age-appropriate supplies, such as diapers, formula and cereal, bottles, bathing supplies, first aid needs and other helpful items. All this is delivered to your Beijing hotel in a stylish backpack.

Chinese Orphan Announcement*

When a child is found abandoned in China, the government puts an ad in the local Chinese newspaper announcing it. This is the Chinese Orphan Announcement, sometimes called a finding ad. Over the years, many adoptive parents have unsuccessfully attempted to obtain their child's orphan announcement in China. Great Wall is proud to offer our Chinese Orphan Announcement Service, which locates and obtains your child's orphan announcement, if available. The orphan announcement is sometimes the only tangible symbol of your child's life in China; this makes it a meaningful addition to a life-book.

Mobile Phone in China*

Our mobile phone in China offers a good solution. It saves you time and money. You will receive your China mobile phone number prior to your departure. You can provide this unique phone number to those you want to stay in touch with. Upon arrival in China, our Guide will hand you the Mobile Phone.

China Visa Service**

Great Wall's close relationship with China allows us the ability to provide an extra service to all families by processing any visa application through the Chinese Consulate, ensuring safe and expedited processing of your China travel visa.

- * For Conventional Plan, this service item is not included.
- ** For Conventional / Preferred Plans, this service item is not included.



Medical Referral Program

FAQ: Can we adopt more than one child at a time?

No, China only allows families to adopt one child at a time. If a family wishes to adopt a second child, they must wait one year after their first adoption to begin the process again.

After receiving your child's referral, our medical team will screen your child's medical reports for an affordable fee exclusive to GWCA. With our two different service level offerings, you'll even be able to have your medical reports screened over a weekend, if necessary.

Doctors with our Medical Referral Program are experts in the field of adoption medicine who have screened thousands of medical reports. They are among the leading medical professionals in the adoption medicine field. Many of them have adopted children themselves. GWCA is able to offer you an exclusive price that is lower than what you will find if you go directly through a medical clinic. We are very excited to offer these services to our families.

When you review a child's file, you are often under a deadline to make a decision. With our Medical Referral Program, we've done the work for you. We've selected the physicians so you don't have to waste precious time finding a medical expert. The Medical Referral Program is designed to give you peace of mind. We currently offer two different levels, allowing us to serve your family's specific needs.

Medical Referral Program

Prestige Medical Referral Program \$375

(Recommended for all files from China)

Services include:

- » Medical review of two children's files
- » Time frame: initial consultation can take up to one week
- » Plot measurements and blood work analysis
- » Discuss academic issues of the special need
- » Provide recommendation of specialists as needed
- » Review of updates as needed
- » Review x-rays and specialist reports
- » Provide recommended readings, websites, and articles

If you're interested in learning more about the Medical Referral Program or if you have questions, feel free to send an email to info@gwca.org, or give us a call at 512.323.9595.

China Program Testimony

The Story of Hannah

By the Exsted Family

We began our adoption process with the plan of adopting a child with special needs. We did not even consider the “healthy” child program. With that being said, we still had reservations about adopting a child with special needs into our family.

The list of medical conditions seemed overwhelming to us at first, but we talked through what specific needs our family was comfortable with. Great Wall then provided us with a referral of a little girl that fit our profile. We spent about a month researching her medical condition by speaking with a variety of medical professionals, and once we gathered all this information, the reservations we had first felt began to dissipate.

Our adoption timeline was 11 months from the time we submitted our initial application to Great Wall until we came home from China. We had a great experience with Great Wall and their staff. They all care so much for adoptive families and have a great understanding for what prospective adoptive parents are feeling and the craziness that ensues when entering the adoption process. About a month into the process, we received a referral from Great Wall. It was the first time we set eyes on Hannah. Jen knew right away that she was going to be our daughter because she was sent to us. God had handpicked this little girl for our family. We struggled with looking at the long list of kids and choosing one to be in our family. After all, we didn’t get to choose our two biological kids, Caedon and Norah. We investigated Hannah’s special needs and spoke with several physicians about her condition and how it may affect her life.

Our daughter, Hannah, has amniotic band syndrome, which resulted in several under-developed fingers and clubfoot. We have seen several medical professionals since we have come home and every pediatrician and surgeon has been so impressed by how advanced Hannah’s abilities are.

“We had a great experience with Great Wall and their staff. They all care so much for adoptive families.”

The day we met Hannah was a day we had imagined for almost a year. We were anxious, nervous, and excited all at the same time. We didn’t know how she would react to us. But it soon became apparent that she had seen the pictures of us that we sent. She was apprehensive at first to come to us, but when we pulled out some crackers and watermelon she let down part of her guard.



China Program Testimony

She grieved the loss of her primary caregivers for several minutes. And we grieved with her. We felt connected to her, but we knew that it would be time before we were actually bonded to her. Within the first 24 hours of meeting Hannah, she was calling us mommy and daddy (“baba” in Chinese), she was giving us high-fives, and laughing at the silly faces we made. She seemed to be adjusting so well. Her bond to us happened in a few short hours of us meeting her. We felt so blessed that she trusted us in such a short time.



Over the next two weeks, while still in China, we could see certain behaviors coming to the surface. We noticed she preferred Jen as her primary care giver. And Kyle was essentially shut off from her doing any of her cares (feeding, bathing, bedtime routine, etc.). Occasionally, we would see her let Kyle into the “inner circle of trust.” Other adoptive families had warned us about the potential for our child to immediately bond to one parent, so we were prepared when Hannah chose Jen to bond with initially.

When we got home, Hannah’s resistance to Kyle turned off like a light switch. She saw Caedon and Norah’s love for Kyle and Hannah was able to let down the barriers she had put up to protect herself. We have been home for 4 months. Life has been an emotional rollercoaster ride. We have some incredibly good days, and some days that are not so easy. Hannah has completely attached and bonded to both of us, and she is gaining stronger relationships with our biological children. Our family is still adjusting to having Hannah home, but we are confident that God will disarm all the defensive barriers in Hannah’s life, and that we will be able to give her precisely what she needs to succeed.

She is thriving in our family. Hannah is such a joy-filled, courageous little girl. She has taught us so much in the short time she has been a part of our family. Adoption truly is a miracle and we look forward to deeply growing in our relationship with our precious daughter.



“Jen knew right away that she was going to be our daughter...”

The Story of Ashlyn

By the Barton Family

At the time that we had decided that we wanted to adopt a child from China, the wait for a healthy, non-special needs child was going on 5 years, and we just did not want to wait that long. So we looked into what they considered "special needs" children, where the wait was about a year. Now when most people think "special needs," they think cerebral palsy or down syndrome. So does China, but they also categorize lots of medical issues a child has as "special needs." I, myself, was born with two congenital heart defects, one which with surgery has repaired. So, according to China, I would've been classified as a "special needs" child.



So, knowing the broad spectrum of "special needs," my wife and I sat down and listed what types of medical issues we felt we could handle. I was definitely honest about it and did not worry about what other people or my wife thought, and she did the same. After reading up on a lot of medical conditions, my wife and I decided that we could handle a child that had certain heart defects and/or cleft lip and palate. We contacted a cleft lip and palate team and a pediatric cardiologist, and had them on standby when a referral would come in. We also did the most important thing: praying to God for Him to match us with His ideal child for us. You see, we had decided that we were going to adopt a child 3 years and younger. We met a family while on a Disney cruise that had just adopted a VSD special needs child that looked about 4 years in age. We later learned after speaking to them that it had only been 6 months since the adoption and she was actually 6 years old. After talking with them about their adoption, we disembarked the very next day and saw that a new list of children had come out while we were on the cruise. We looked over the list and saw a 6-year-old child that was post-op VSD and we just knew it was a sign! We contacted Great Wall and told them to pull Huang Xiang Ling's file and then we contacted the pediatric cardiologist. After looking over her medical records, he gave us the news that she seemed healthy and normal. We knew at that moment that we were to be her forever family, so we started the paperwork to go and bring her home.

"We knew at the moment that we were to be her forever family."

China Program Testimony

Five months later, we flew to China to adopt Ashlyn Xiangling Barton and bring her home. She was so scared when we first met her, but as soon as we left the "Gotcha Day" room to head back to the hotel, she instantly became happier, especially when we brought out the M&Ms! She started instantly bonding with us and we felt that God had brought us to her and that we were meant to be her forever family!

"She has brought joy to not only our family, but to all who come in contact with her."

Since being home, we have dealt with some difficulties with schooling and the transition to the English language, but with the help from the school and tutor, and a lot of hard work at home, she has come a long way in just over two years. We have also found some other fixable, minor special needs that she had, such as another heart defect, a sub mucous cleft palate, and a cholesteatoma (cyst in one of her ears caused by untreated ear infections). The pediatric cardiologist has given her the green light to be able to do everything a normal kid can do with her other heart defect, and we just have to monitor her throughout her childhood and into her teenage years when she may or may not have to have another minor heart surgery. We have put her in speech therapy to help overcome the difficulties of speech due to the sub mucous cleft palate. She is now understood by her peers. We have also had two surgeries to remove the cholesteatoma from her left ear, and the doctors have reconstructed her bones of hearing, thus improving the hearing impairment she had.



In spite of all we have been through with the medical stuff, we are very blessed that we got to bring home our daughter from China, and we wouldn't have it any other way. She has such a wonderful spirit about her and has brought joy to not only our family, but to all who come in contact with her. Everyone is always telling us that she will have a testimony to tell one day and that she will do great things. I encourage anyone that is considering to adopt a child with special needs to just think about what it would mean to make a difference in a child's life; to not only bring them the medical attention they need, but also what it would mean for them to be loved and have that forever family they could call their own!

"We looked over the list... we just knew it was a sign!"

China Program Testimony

The Story of Joey

By the Gilpin Family

A slightly thin, slightly scared 2-year-old orphan boy, who stared longingly out at us from an adoption referral photo came suddenly into our lives in late July 2010. Although we had been in the adoption process for what felt like two long years (which is actually not that long considering most Chinese adoptions occurring today are running about 5 years, minimum) most of that time was just waiting around for something to happen. We had already been blessed to adopt an infant girl from China in 2006. Amanda, who was almost 5 at the time, had been asking when she was going to get a sister or brother. So when our international adoption agency sent us that photo, we were momentarily in shock. Adding to this feeling of fast moving events was the fact that the truly active phase of the adoption process had started and we felt carried away by events beyond our control. In short, we were ecstatically happy! And the more we looked at that photo, the more his yearning eyes bored into our hearts and we knew he was the one.

At that moment, he became Joseph Paul, or "Joey," and was part of our family! And in the culmination of that whirlwind of events, on October 12, 2010, halfway around the world in Nanjing, China we made it official, we signed the adoption papers and he was on his way with his new family to his new home.

"The more we looked at his photo...the more we knew he was the one."

The main reason for the rapid pace of Joey's adoption was the fact that he was part of the Waiting Child program. This is a program that expedites the adoption of special needs children from China. Joey was in that program because of a rare condition called "central deficiency of the hands," also known as "cleft palms." This is a congenital deformity of the hands that is marked by a deep cleft in the palm that separates the fingers onto opposite sides of the hand giving it a claw like look. One or more fingers can be missing and the thumb may or may not be present or completely developed. In some children, the feet may also be similarly affected. Fortunately, in Joey's case his condition was confined to the hands only. And to our continued amazement and relief, Joey's dexterity was so good it almost seemed miraculous. Not only did he have great dexterity considering his condition, his dexterity was virtually equal to any other non-special needs child! The incredible adaptability of the human body and mind had allowed Joey to make the most with what life had given him. He really is an inspiration to us. When asked about his condition, his sister tells people that is just the way he came.



China Program Testimony

Of course we were still concerned for Joey despite the way that he seemed to have overcome his condition of his hands. After we got Joey home, we made an appointment for him with our family pediatrician. She in turn referred us to orthopedic specialists. And while we will continue to monitor Joey's physical development with the help of these specialists, so far they have all said the same thing: that Joey will likely not need any kind of surgical or other orthopedic treatment for his hands. This has been a great relief for us.

"At that moment, he became Joseph Paul, or 'Joey,' and was part of our family!"

Just as we knew that we would need to get Joey special medical support, we were equally eager to get him the right kind of daycare. This was even more important since we both worked full time and Joey would be spending a lot of time in daycare. Given Joey's hand condition and the fact that he was starting out as English as Second Language, we knew that right off the bat we would have two major needs that would have to be addressed by any daycare provider we might find.

In the short time we had once we knew we were going to adopt Joey, we began our search for a daycare facility that would work for us. We checked with all our friends and contacts, did some research of our own and fairly quickly we got a recommendation for Emory Valley Early Learning Center or EVELC in Oak Ridge. We set up an appointment to meet the director of EVELC and we were very impressed. This daycare was a "mixed need" facility that could accommodate both special needs children and non-special needs kids.



This really appealed to us since Joey was technically a special needs child but as we have said, he has adapted so well to his hand condition he functioned pretty much the same any other child. We toured the school and met some of the staff and really liked what we saw. EVELC seemed like just the right place for Joey. We were lucky in that they had an opening that fit the timeframe for when we would get Joey back in the States and he started in January 2011.

Now it has been almost a full year that Joey has been enrolled at EVELC. He has thrived. His language skills are on par with his American born peers and considering he started with English two and a half years behind most of his classmates this seems extraordinary to us. Thanks in no small part to the wonderful care he has received at EVELC; Joey has made an amazing start in his new life.

China Program Testimony

The Story of Taylor

By the James Family

When I started my adoption journey in December 2005 I had no idea at the time where the journey would lead me. Through my journey I was incredibly fortunate to meet many families who were also waiting to adopt from China and who have become wonderful friends. As I continued to wait along with everyone else, many of my friends went down the path of the Waiting Child program and started bringing home their incredible children. Their experiences got me wondering if the Waiting Child program might be for me. As a single woman I had to really dig down deep to determine if this was something I could handle and if I could provide all that a child with special needs would need. After discussing my friends' experiences with them and going through a deep thought process I decided in January 2009 to apply to the Waiting Child program to see where it would lead me. Little did I know at that time it would change my life and be the best thing that ever happened to me.

"Little did I know at that time it would change my life and be the best thing that ever happened to me."



On October 21, 2009 I received the call about a beautiful 2 ½ year old little girl who was born with a cleft lip and palate that had been repaired in China and who needed a Mother. After having her file reviewed by doctors I accepted Dang Hui's referral. Three months later on January 21, 2010 I boarded a plane for China bursting with excitement.

"I can't wait to get home from work every day to see her big smile..."



China Program Testimony

On January 24, 2010 in Xi'an, China, Dang Hui and I became a Forever Family. The experience we had in China getting to know each other and bonding, could not have gone any better than it did. Dang Hui became Taylor Mae Hui James and she started responding to Taylor fairly quickly. Since we arrived home on February 6, 2010 Taylor has grown in leaps and bounds into a beautiful, happy little girl. She is an outgoing, personable, loving child who always wakes up with a smile and has a hug for everyone she meets. She makes my heart sing. I can't wait to get home from work every day to see her big smile and get a "big" hug. I can't imagine what my life would be without her.

"I couldn't have asked for a better experience than I had."



As for her medical needs, she is being monitored by a Craniofacial team at a nearby hospital and is getting all the medical care she presently needs and will need in the years to come as she grows.

Going down the path of the Waiting Child program was a leap of faith. I couldn't have asked for a better experience than I had. It was the right decision for me and I have no regrets with the decision I made and my experience with the program.

"I can't imagine what my life would be without her."



A Few Words From GWCA Families

FAQ: We hear great things about Great Wall; how can we trust that you will help us?

If we didn't do what we say we do, then we wouldn't be able to share all the testimonials on these pages. We understand that families come to the decision to adopt in many ways. Whatever your path to adoption, we want you to know what thousands of Great Wall families have already experienced it. Don't take our word for it. We encourage you to read what our families have to say and talk to the families on our reference list. We hope that their words will reassure you about entrusting your adoption to us.

We would like to share some of the feedback that we have received from our families. We included testimonies that specifically address questions commonly asked by adoptive parents at the beginning of the adoption journey. In addition to providing information to help you decide which agency is the best fit for your family, these comments will give you a glimpse into the happiness our families have experienced. We hope you enjoy reading these comments!



"Our daughter, Mia is the happiest, healthiest, brightest little girl we could have ever dreamed of having. Her pediatrician noted that her care in China was excellent as she continues to thrive in all aspects." – The Troyan Family

"Just like everyone else at Great Wall, our case manager was wonderful! We were 100% impressed and happy with everyone we have dealt with - from dossier to post-adoption. We never hesitate to tell our friends about the excellent service - and personal touch - we got through GW. IF we decide to adopt again, you'll be the first phone call we make!!! I'm a little sad that it's over - I'll miss you guys!" – The McMahan Family

"Our China guides in Beijing and in Guangzhou, were outstanding! This was our second adoption trip through Great Wall. The guides on our first trip were great, but these two were out of this world! Since our child was older (almost 3), they helped us communicate with him and really helped with the transition. They were also wonderful with our three-year-old daughter, who was making her first return trip to China with us. The guides gave us insight into what life is like in China. They took us on the tours, but they also allowed us to see the 'real' China, by

taking us to local markets and restaurants, where many times we were the only Westerners. We very much appreciated their openness to showing us China. It was a fantastic, stress free trip. Thank you!" – The Dorsey Family

"I found Great Wall on the Internet and then received very favorable reviews about Great Wall after asking other local adoptive families. We chose Great Wall because they gave us hope and help when we encountered an obstacle in the early Application Phase. The local agency just said 'no' and offered no flexibility or direction. We had China in our heart and did not want to give up." – The Pope-Petty Family

"A large reason for our choosing Great Wall is Snow Wu. She is experienced with Chinese adoption, and we feel like if we had an issue with our adoption in China, Ms. Wu would be a powerful ally and advocate." – The Ray Family, second adoption.

"As we did more and more research it became obvious that we should use Great Wall—believe it or not when I checked references given by other agencies, their own clients recommended Great Wall!" – The Boothe Family

"The entire team has been wonderful at Great Wall both in the U.S. and in China. I always tell anyone that is interested how wonderful my experience was. I also strongly recommend the Dragon package by those intimidated by the paper chase aspect! Thank you so much for helping to join me with my daughter. She is the light of my life and I can't imagine anyone more perfectly suited for our family, she truly makes our lives complete." – The Cheeseman Family

"This is our third adoption from China, but our first through Great Wall. Thus far, our experience has led us to wish that we would have used your agency the first two times. Our case manager was immensely helpful every step of the way!!!!" – The Ross Family

A Few Words From GWCA Families

FAQ: Can Great Wall guarantee my child will be healthy?

The children receive medical exams periodically in the orphanage and before being placed for adoption. China does not knowingly place children with serious illnesses. You are eligible for a healthy child, unless you specifically request a child with special needs. However, as with a biological child, Great Wall cannot guarantee the health of any child. Adoption is a leap of faith and we ask that you weigh all the risks before making a final decision.

"Despite living in Minnesota and Great Wall headquarters being based in Texas, I always felt I was treated as if I were family. My questions and concerns were always promptly addressed. After a wonderful experience the first time around, I couldn't imagine using any other agency for my second!" – Emily Mercil

"We are so glad we chose the Premier Plan! The best part about the Premier Plan includes Great Wall staff completing the dossier for you. We would not have been able to complete our dossier within 4 months without using the Plan. We highly recommend it." - The Johnson Family

"Our Referral Counselors were very helpful, kind, and supportive during this long wait. NO questions were 'too dumb' for them to answer. Although we are on the West Coast, we do not feel that we have 'sacrificed' any portion of the services offered due to the distance. The referral process for us has been seamless. Thank you so much!" - The Ikeda Family

"We chose Great Wall because they specialize in Chinese adoption and it has been the best decision we've ever made." – The Steiner Family.

"From beginning to end it has been a great experience. Great Wall was there for us 24-7 in our effort to bring Joci home. We cannot stress the gratitude we express towards Great Wall in all phases of the adoption process. Thank you, although the waiting period has been stressful at times, for making this experience a joyful one." – The Badessa Family

"Great Wall is well organized and leads you step by step through the process. They're always there to answer any questions and provide assistance. The way they break down the process into manageable steps and employ case workers that specialize in each step was really fabulous." – The Medeiros Family

"We adopted a little boy that was 18 months at referral! I can't say enough about Great Wall and how wonderfully they facilitated our journey to parenthood. Great Wall was attentive to us every step of the way. Mara, our social worker in San Antonio, was an absolute joy and answered every question we had with enthusiasm and knowledge. The guides in China handled every detail with care and kindness. Our son is a bright, happy, loving child. He's absolutely perfect!" – The Rodriguez Family

"Great Wall took care of everything when we were in China. Our guides bent over backwards to take care of our needs. One of our guides asked me if I wanted a chop for my daughter and so she told me where to go that afternoon and there was a chop waiting for me. The other guide assisted me in communicating and arranging a meeting with my relatives in China that I never even knew existed. My beautiful daughter is a perfect match. Everyone says she looks like me. She was destined to be mine." – The Chang Family

"Great Wall has been an answer to many prayers. We had the most amazing experience, thanks to Great Wall. Everything was perfect so far. There were no details left out. We were handled with the utmost respect and concern. We were so pleased that we signed up for Premier Plan. Through the paper chase, the staff working for Premier Plan families were there not only getting our dossier assembled perfectly, but gave us a lot of support the entire way. For our upcoming trip in China, we know we do not have to worry about anything except getting to know our daughter. All the amenities the Premier Plan includes are just amazing. We are covered with travel insurance, have a backpack full of supplies waiting for us at our hotel room, even a cell phone upon arriving in China. We just love all the extras the Premier Plan offers!" – Anne & Charles



A Few Words From GWCA Families

FAQ: How will we know where to go and what to do while we are in China?

Great Wall takes care of all the details for you throughout your entire journey. It is important to choose an agency based on experience, reputation, and their ability to take care of you during every moment of the trip to meet your child. Our bilingual China guides will greet you at the airport, accompany you and be available to you at all times and for all appointments, review and finalize your paperwork, and translate for you throughout the trip. More importantly, our China guides love children and believe in what they do.

"I used Great Wall for two of our adoptions. What I love about them is they are the only agency offering so many services and amenities. If you are overwhelmed by the paperwork, Great Wall has Dragon Dossier Service to get your dossier prepared. I loved their Stork Goodies, too." - The Smith Family

"The Waiting Child team was very helpful over the months we hoped to find our daughter. The Waiting Child Manager was a true blessing to have on our side. She was sensitive, caring, and always concerned about what was best for us as we tried to make decisions about our future daughter. Thank you for your faith in us, and for helping us to build our family." - The Hunsberger Family

"Great Wall could not have made the journey to find our daughter any easier. From the day we filled out the adoption application we have felt as if Great Wall has been holding our hand through each stage of the adoption process." - The Garza Family

"We adopted from Great Wall for several reasons but most important was the fact that Great Wall specializes only in international adoption from China. We were more comfortable knowing that our agency wasn't spread thin trying to learn about the ins and outs of adoption in many different countries." - The Fowler Family,

"We originally started with a local agency in our state. Great Wall was our second choice... because it wasn't located in Georgia. To our surprise, our calls and emails weren't returned until almost two weeks later. We didn't get that warm fuzzy feeling. We then elected to change to Great Wall and immediately it was blue skies again. Our calls and emails were returned within 24 hours and often sooner. It's been a great experience thus far thanks to the caring, dedicated staff at Great Wall!" - The Adams Family

"We started the adoption process in 1997. We researched many agencies but decided on Great Wall based on a conversation with Snow Wu, Great Wall's mission statement, and talking with families who had adopted through Great Wall. Living in a state other than Texas was not an issue during the adoption process; everything went smoothly and Great Wall's adoption manual was very helpful. The in-China guides were amazing and made the trip and adoption experience very effortless, we could totally focus on our child due to their expertise. We are truly blessed to be the parents

of four beautiful healthy daughters from China, all adopted through Great Wall." - The O'Neill Family



"We were so pleased with the entire process. From our first call to Great Wall, we knew we chose the right agency. Great Wall's staff ensured that every step went smoothly and as stress free as possible. The guides in China were exceptional—they were extremely knowledgeable, kind, and truly caring. And, our daughter is the joy of our lives!" - The McDonald Family

"I used another agency for my first adoption in 1999 as I did not know about Great Wall. While I was satisfied with my first adoption experience and absolutely overcome with love for my oldest daughter, my experience with Great Wall was lightyears above compared to the level of service from my first agency. I was certain that living in Pennsylvania would cause problems in communication and timing since Great Wall headquarters are in Texas. This was absolutely not the case. I received better articulated and much more frequent communication with Great Wall." - The Hoban Family

"We adopted our first daughter through another agency and when we decided we wanted to adopt again from China, our first agency wouldn't help us because we appeared at first glance to not be qualified. We appreciated the time Great Wall spent trying to make a second adoption work for us. Because of that, we were able to qualify with China and bring our darling angel home. Both my Chinese daughters Hope and Grayce are amazing children. Thank you Great Wall. Because of your dedication, our family is complete and we have an awesome daughter who is achieving her goals and dreams of happiness." - The Valentino Family

Great Wall Charity Missions

FAQ: Will our adoption be suspended if there is some sort of international incident involving the U.S. or China?

Through international crises, military conflicts, and differing political views, China has kept its adoption program running smoothly. Unlike the uncertainty facing other international adoption programs, China's government-run program has remained independent from the ever changing political events we read about and see on the news. China understands these children need homes and aims to keep its international adoption program a humanitarian program, not a political tool.

Great Wall facilitates more than adoptions. Charity and providing humanitarian aid to places in need are of the utmost importance to Great Wall. Currently, there are three programs available in which to donate.

Libraries of Love

The Libraries of Love program provides children still living in Chinese orphanages access to information, knowledge, and creative expression.

Donations of new or gently used books, school supplies, and learning materials have helped to make this program a huge success. Monetary donations have also been collected from families to fund the construction of libraries and purchase computers, tables, chairs, and other needed supplies.

Great Wall's first library was constructed at the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute and was opened on April 1, 2003. Shortly after, Libraries of Love became one of Great Wall's charity mission programs. Later that year, Datong Social Welfare Institute (SWI) became the first official recipient of a Great Wall Library of Love. The library was so well received by the Datong SWI that it became the model for other such projects.

Great Wall was honored to help build four Libraries of Love thanks to the generous donations from families. The Yangdong Social Welfare Institute in the Guangdong province, and the Beiliu Social Welfare Institute, Yuncheng Social Welfare Institute in the Shanxi province and Desheng Social Welfare Institute, both in the Guangxi province, each had a library built for them.

Angel Stitches

Great Wall Angel Stitches provides medical and surgical treatments to children in orphanages who otherwise might not receive the care they need. Great Wall Strives to help children in the orphanages who are too old to be adopted and will not have an opportunity to



receive necessary medical attention without outside support. One of the beneficiaries of Great Wall's Angel Stitches program was a 4-year old girl living in a social welfare institute in the Liaoning province since March of 2000. She was diagnosed with talipes equinovarus, one of the most common congenital abnormalities of the foot. She underwent surgery in October of 2003, but unfortunately this operation was unsuccessful. Six months later, a family made a generous donation to Angel Stitches. This donation, along with a donation from Great Wall, gave this child another chance. On July 1, 2004, a second operation was performed to correct her foot, and the results were overwhelmingly successful.

Great Wall is sincerely grateful for the donation that gave this little angel a chance for a healthier, happier life. If you are interested in assisting Great Wall, Angel Stitches needs donations from medical supply manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, and airlines. Physicians and surgeons who are willing to volunteer their time to these children are also needed.

Gifts of Love

Donations to Gifts of Love are used to purchase items for the orphanages such as microwaves, refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, autoclaves, and linens. This is one way for parents, families, and friends to thank the orphanage director, staff and nannies for caring for their child. The orphanages benefit greatly from the families' support as the items purchased help to improve living conditions. With the Great Wall Gifts of Love program, orphanage directors improve their facilities and provide better care to the children. To donate online, visit www.gwca.org.

Great Wall not only helps adoptive families reach out to their child's orphanage, but also organizations interested in donating. Many orphanages are in need of basic necessities such as refrigerators, air conditioning and heater units, washing machines, dryers, and cribs. Once a donation is made, Great Wall's China Division in Beijing purchases the items and delivers them to the requested orphanage.



The Great Wall Community

FAQ: Will Great Wall refer me to other adoptive parents in my town?

Great Wall families come together with other adoptive families in a variety of ways. We sponsor many events throughout the year all across the nation and abroad. The Great Wall community is all about bringing families and children together.

We understand that adopting a child is a lifetime commitment that requires patience, education, and support. Our organization places strong emphasis on education and support. We believe it is our obligation to empower our adoptive families with knowledge and create an environment where they feel connected with one another. These programs and events were created to support adoptive families throughout their lives, not just during adoption. The Great Wall community has evolved over the last decade and will continue to grow as our families' needs grow. When you join Great Wall, you are joining an organization that has made a lifetime commitment to you and your family.

Great Wall Beyond Borders International Adoption Conference

The Beyond Borders International Adoption Conference is the only national conference dedicated exclusively to educating prospective parents on international adoption. Our conference is intended for parents adopting internationally, regardless of the agency they are using. The Beyond Borders International Adoption Conference is designed to help families navigate international adoption programs in a well-organized and educated manner. The conference provides workshops and lectures by adoption professionals, leading researchers, physicians, and attorneys specializing in international adoption, and orphanage directors. Session topics have included bonding and attachment, assembling your dossier, the health of international orphans, re-adoption, and adoption tax benefits. Families have found that the Beyond Borders International Adoption Conference offers a wealth of information that has benefited and empowered them throughout their adoption. The conference is also a unique place for families to network with other families.

Great Wall Family Tree

As our newest service to our current and past Great Wall families, we're excited to let all of our families create their own Great Wall Family Tree!

Once created, your Great Wall Family Tree will be your own personal mini-site. On your Great Wall Family Tree site, you and your family will have the ability to create your own custom welcome page of content, update and maintain your blog, tell your family's adoption journey, maintain and upload your family photos to a gallery page, and connect via your own social media to other Great Wall families and potential families.

Simply by signing up to have your own Family Tree page, Great Wall China Adoption will make a \$25 donation in your family's name to one of our charity programs in China.

Great Wall Legacy Journeys

The Great Wall Legacy Journeys are intended to connect you and your child to China's modern culture and ancient history. We offer flexible itineraries for families interested in short, intensely focused trips or longer, more extensive travel. You will have a truer understanding of your child's Chinese heritage. Your child will come home with a sense of pride that can only be gained through experiencing their cultural heritage.

- » Visit your child's orphanage and locations in your child's province
- » Experience cultural events and historical monuments
- » Learn the significance of important Chinese festivals
- » Enjoy the beauty of Chinese art, storytelling, and music
- » Participate in traditional Chinese ceremonies and rituals



Lisa Ling, well-known reporter of *China's Lost Girls* visited Great Wall kids

Recommended Reading

FAQ: What is Great Wall's procedure for handling problems should they arise once my dossier has been sent to China?

If China has a question about a Great Wall family, we are notified within 24 hours. Great Wall staff work with the family and the China Center of Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

Recommended Reading List

The Waiting Child: How the Faith and Love of One Orphan Saved the Life of Another
Cindy Champnella

Daughter from Afar: A Family's International Adoption Story
Sarah L. Woodard

The Road to Rebecca: A Chinese Adoption Story
Susan King

A Passage to the Heart: Writings from Families with Children from China
Amy Klatzkin

The Lost Daughters of China: Abandoned Girls, Their Journey to America, and the Search for a Missing Past
Karin Evans

Peach Girl: Poems for a Chinese Daughter
Joan I. Siegel and Joel Solonche

Are Those Kids Yours? American Families with Children from Other Countries
Cheri Register

Dim Sum, Bagels, and Grits: A Sourcebook for Multicultural Families
Myra Alperson

I Wish for You a Beautiful Life: Letters from the Korean Birth Mothers of Ae Ran Won to Their Children
Sara Dorow

Wanting a Daughter, Needing a Son: Abandonment, Adoption, Orphanage Care in China
Kay Ann Johnson

Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew
Sherrie Eldridge

Adoption Lifebook: A Bridge to Your Child's Beginnings
Cindy Probst

Kids Like Me in China
Ying Ying Fry

Raising Adopted Children, Revised Edition: Practical Reassuring Advice for Every Adoptive Parent
Lois Ruskai Melina

Inside Transracial Adoption
Gail Steinberg and Beth Hall

Mei Mei, Little Sister: Portraits from a Chinese Orphanage
Richard Bowen and a brief introduction by Amy Tan

Parents and Attachment

Real Parents, Real Children Holly Van Gulden and Lisa Bartels-Rabb

Becoming a Family: Promoting Healthy Attachments with Your Adopted Child
Lark Eshleman

Attaching in Adoption: Practical Tools for Today's Parents
Deborah D. Gray

Toddler Adoption: The Weaver's Craft
Mary Hopkins-Best

Attachment Issues & Information
www.attach-china.org

A 4ever Family: Attachment, PTSD, Sensory & Resources
www.a4everfamily.org

Amazing Grace for Fathers
Jeff Cavins, Matthew Pinto, Mark and Patti Armstrong

Books about Chinese Culture

Good Luck Life: The Essential Guide to Chinese American Celebrations and Culture

Rosemary Gong

An Introduction to Chinese Culture through the Family (SUNY Series in Asian Studies Development)

Howard Giskin (Editor), Bettye S. Walsh (Editor)

Special Needs Glossary

FAQ: Will my adoptive child automatically be a U.S. Citizen?

If both parents travel, your adoption is finalized in China. You will receive your child's Certificate of Citizenship in four to six weeks. If only one parent travels, you must complete the re-adoption process and apply for your child's Certificate of Citizenship.

Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate

Cleft lip and cleft palate are congenital defects in the facial tissues of the lips, mouth, and nose where the tissues do not fuse together, leaving a space often caused by a genetic mutation or other developmental effects, such as drugs or alcohol.

A cleft lip occurs when the tissue of the upper lip does not fuse together. A cleft palate occurs when the roof of the mouth (palate) does not fuse together. The clefts can be unilateral (only occurring on one side) or bilateral (occurring on both sides). The severity of the cleft can range from a small slit or notch, to a large gap. Often cleft lip and cleft palate are associated with each other, but this is not always the case. It is possible to have only a cleft lip or only a cleft palate.

Congenital Heart Disease (CHD)

Congenital Heart Disease refers to a problem with the heart's structure and function due to abnormal heart development before birth. While congenital heart disease is present at birth, the symptoms may not be immediately obvious. Some congenital heart diseases can be treated with medication alone, while others require one or more surgeries.

Mild heart conditions are defined as only one defect being present. This would include defects such as ventricular septal defect (VSD) or atrial septic defect (ASD). It would also include a child who had a significant heart condition that had been surgically corrected, with a positive recovery.

Moderate heart conditions would be defined as either more than one defect (for example, having VSD and ASD) or a more severe defect, with a surgery having already been completed (tetralogy of fallot, post Glenn shunt surgery).

Severe heart conditions would be defined as any defect that would require significant medical intervention and the child has had no correction completed. Defects that would fall into this category include: endocardial cushion defect, transposition of

the great vessels, and tetralogy of fallot with pulmonary atresia.

Deformity of Fingers/Toes

This can take on many forms. Each deformity may affect one or multiple digits. Please keep in mind with children from China, they will typically have multiple deformities that involve more than one hand or foot or may also have other

limb differences. Most often, digital deformities are caused by amniotic band syndrome, which occurs in utero. Damage to the amnion(part of the placenta) may produce fiber-like bands that can trap the arms, legs, fingers, or toes of the fetus. These bands reduce blood supply to the areas and cause them to develop abnormally. These children may also have deformed or missing limbs, clubbed feet or permanent "band" or indentation around a limb.

- » Adactayly refers to missing digits.
- » Brachydactyly refers to shortened or underdeveloped digits.
- » Polydactyly refers to one or more extra digits.
- » Syndactyly refers to fused or combined digits. This may be surgically correctable, or the bones may be permanently fused or absent.

Clubbed Foot/Feet

Clubbed feet refers to an inversion of the foot at the ankle. The foot is twisted inward and downward so that the child cannot place the sole flat on the ground but must walk on the ball, the side, or even the top of the foot.

During development, the posterior and medial tendons and ligaments (in the back and inside) of the foot fail to keep pace with the development of the rest of the foot. As a result, these tendons and ligaments tether the posterior and medial parts of the foot down, causing the foot to point downward and twist inward. The bones of the feet are therefore held in that abnormal position.

Over time, if uncorrected, the bones will become misshapen. Treatment can involve serial casting, splits or braces and/or surgery. Children can have either a unilateral clubbed foot, which means only one foot is affected, or bilateral clubbed feet, which means both feet are affected



FAQ: How old do I have to be to adopt from China?

If you're adopting from the regular track program, both parents must be between the ages of 30 and 49. You must submit your dossier before turning 50. If you're adopting from the Waiting Child program, you can be between the ages of 30 and 55. If you're between the ages of 55 and 60, you will be considered on a case by case basis for the Waiting Child program.

Microtia

Microtia is defined as an incomplete development of the ear. In most cases, it only affects one ear. It can range in severity, from a malformed outer ear, to absence of the outer ear and ear canal opening. Children may or may not have hearing loss in the affected ear.

Spina Bifida (SB)

Spina Bifida (SB) is a birth defect that involves the incomplete development of the spinal cord or its coverings.

SB occulta is the mildest form and typically has no long-term effects. It is usually only discovered if the child is being screened for other issues.

Meningocele occurs when the membranes responsible for covering and protecting the brain and spinal cord (meninges) protrude through a hole in the vertebrae.

Myelomeningocele is when both the meninges and the spinal cord push through the vertebrae. Children with myelomeningocele also typically have hydrocephalus as well and are at risk for paralysis. All children are at risk for some nerve damage and possible incontinence.

In the children from China, the terms meningocele and myelomeningocele are typically used interchangeably due to translations. However, most of the children will fall under the category of meningocele. Most often, these children are able to recover from surgery and lead full and active lives.

Hydrocephalus

Hydrocephalus is a condition in which the primary characteristic is excessive accumulation of cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) in the brain. The excessive accumulation of CSF results in an abnormal dilation of the spaces in the brain called ventricles. This dilation causes potentially harmful pressure on the tissues of the brain.

Hydrocephalus can be congenital or acquired through injury. In young children, typically the first symptom is an increased head size. In older children, symptoms may include an abnormal gait, nausea, incontinence, vision and balance issues, and changes in cognition. Treatment is most often a shunt, which is placed in the brain to allow the fluid to drain into another part of the body. A third ventriculostomy is also a potential surgery where a hole is made in the brain ventricle to drain the fluid so it can be reabsorbed by the brain. Many children diagnosed with the disorder benefit from rehabilitation therapies and educational interventions, and go

on to lead normal lives with few limitations.

Developmental Delays

Developmental delays are diagnosed when a child does not reach developmental milestones at the expected times. Developmental milestones are determined by the average age at which children attain each skill.

Statistically, about 3% of children will not meet them on time, but only about 15-20% of these children will actually have abnormal development. The rest will eventually develop normally over time, although a little later than expected. Nearly all children adopted internationally will have some level of developmental delay due to being in an institutional setting.

If a child from China is diagnosed with a developmental delay as a special need, this indicates they are delayed in comparison to other children in the orphanage.

Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is an umbrella term for any group of disorders caused by abnormal development or damage in one or more parts of the brain that control muscle tone and motor activity (movement). The effects of CP can range from mild and subtle to very profound. Some issues linked to CP may include difficulty controlling and coordinating muscles, breathing, vision and hearing issues, seizures, breathing problems, and mental retardation.

There are several different types of CP, characterized by how the disorder affects the muscles. It is important to note that CP is typically non-progressive, meaning it will not get worse over time. Most children will not have a defined type of CP, however, would fall under the mild-moderate categories. For the purposes of the Waiting Child application, the severities are defined as follows:

- » **Mild:** the child may have some diminished function of one or more limbs, such as walking with a limp or mildly decreased strength. The child is able to walk and function independently, but may require some therapy to strengthen muscles.
- » **Moderate:** The child may require some levels of assistance to function in daily life. They child may have more mild to moderate global delays, such as gross and fine motor and language skills.

Special Needs Glossary

FAQ: I've been divorced before. Can I still adopt?

As long as either spouse has not been divorced more than twice, you are eligible to adopt from China.

» **Severe:** The child may have significant global delays and would require continual, long-term assistance.

Albinism

Albinism is a recessive genetic condition characterized by reduction or complete lack of pigment in the skin, hair, or eyes. There are several types of albinism that have different characteristics, but most common characteristics are very light skin, white to light blond hair, and light eye color ranging from light blue to purple.

Physical characteristics may vary depending on the individual and type of albinism. Individuals with albinism lack protection from UV rays and are susceptible sun burns, skin cancer and other skin problems. The eyes are also greatly affected by albinism. Individuals with albinism usually suffer from eye conditions ranging from mild nearsightedness to complete blindness.

Albinism itself is incurable, but sometimes eye and skin issues associated with albinism can be corrected with UV protection, corrective lenses, or surgery. With proper care, this condition is generally non-life threatening, and individuals with albinism can live long, productive lives.

Hearing Loss Partial/Complete

This category refers to all hearing issues, including deafness. Hearing impairment can be caused by a variety of reasons, including:

- » congenital defect
- » disease
- » environmental causes

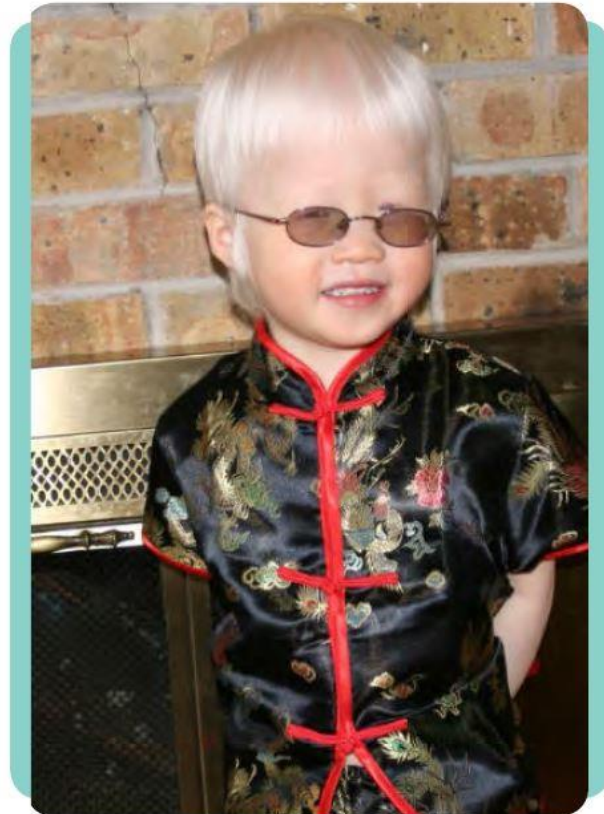
Depending on the underlying cause, some types of hearing impairment can be corrected with hearing aids, surgery, or other therapies. If the individual suffers from complete deafness, many therapies and learning techniques such as Sign Language, lip reading, and animal assistance programs are available to help the individual be independent.

Vision Impairment

This is a very broad category that covers any vision issue which has not caused vision loss in the child. Typical vision impairments include:

- » mild or corrected cataracts
- » ptosis (drooping eyelids)
- » strabismus (crossed eyes)
- » amblyopia (lazy eye)

These conditions would be ones considered correctable or manageable with minimal intervention.



Vision Loss Partial/Complete

This category includes any level of explained or unexplained vision loss. Typical diagnoses would include:

- » glaucoma (increased eye pressure)
- » severe cataracts
- » microphthalmia (abnormally small eyeball)
- » atrophy of the eye (one or both)

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a virus that affects the liver. When the virus is active, it can cause symptoms similar to that of the flu. Someone who has been exposed to Hepatitis B may have symptoms one to four months later. Some people with Hepatitis B don't notice symptoms until they become quite severe. Some have few or no symptoms, but even someone who doesn't notice any symptoms, can still transmit the disease to others. Some people carry the virus in their bodies and are contagious for the rest of their lives.

FAQ: Children of what age are available for adoption?

Children up to the age of 14 years may be adopted from China. Most of the children placed through the Waiting Child program are between the ages of 12 months to 48 months.

Acute Hepatitis needs no treatment, other than careful monitoring of liver function, which involves blood tests. The acute illness usually goes away after two to three weeks. The liver usually returns too normal within four to six months in almost all patients who are infected.

Some people develop chronic hepatitis. People who have chronic Hepatitis B stay infectious. Patients with chronic hepatitis are treated with antiviral medications. Hepatitis B cannot be cured, but these medications may help lessen the infection. They are considered carriers of the disease, even if they do not have any symptoms.

Most of the children referred from China with a Hepatitis B diagnosis would be considered carriers, meaning they are infected with the virus, however, have no outward symptoms.

Thalassemia (Mediterranean anemia)

Thalassemia (Mediterranean anemia) is an inherited blood disorder characterized by less hemoglobin and fewer red blood cells in your body than normal. Symptoms include fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, paleness, jaundice, slow growth, protruding abdomen, dark urine, and facial bone deformities.

There are two major types of Thalassemia: alpha and beta, named for the two protein chains that make up normal hemoglobin. Some children will have a Hemoglobin test in their file, while some orphanages and hospitals do not have the resources to provide the test to determine which type the child has. Both types can range from mild to severe. It is important to note that for children who receive blood transfusions, excessive amounts of iron can build up in the blood and internal organs. Chelation therapy helps remove the buildup of iron; however, this therapy is not often available in the child's home country. Without chelation therapy, early mortality is inevitable.

α Thalassemia trait is characterized by mild anemia and typically has no severe effects. This type is rarely diagnosed in the children referred from China.

Hemoglobin H disease is a subtype of α Thalassemia. Children with this disease may require regular blood transfusions.

β Thalassemia is characterized by mild anemia and typically has no severe effects. This type is rarely diagnosed in the children referred from China.

β Thalassemia intermedia creates mild to severe anemia. These children do not typically require regular blood

transfusions, however may need one during illnesses or later in life during pregnancy.

β Thalassemia major is also referred to as Cooley's anemia. Children with this type will require regular blood transfusions to survive.

Ambiguous/Underdeveloped Genitalia

Ambiguous or underdeveloped genitalia refers to any genital malformation that does not include a chromosomal abnormality. Ambiguous genitalia may include an enlarged clitoris or concealment of the vagina in girls and severe hypospadias or an abnormally small penis in boys. Treatment may include reconstructive surgery or hormone replacement.

Arthrogyrosis

Arthrogyrosis is the name given to a group of disorders characterized by multiple joint contractures throughout the body present at birth. It is usually caused by decreased fetal movement in utero.

Decreased movement can be caused by central nervous system malformations, such as spina bifida, brain malformations, neuromuscular disorders, maternal infections or fever, or too little amniotic fluid. The particular joint contractures vary in each child, however, there are several common characteristics: the legs and arms are affected, with wrists and ankles being the most deformed, the joints in the legs and arms may not be able to move at all, muscles in the legs and arms are thin and weak or even absent, and/or the hips may be dislocated.

Some infants with arthrogyrosis have facial deformities, curvature of the spine, genital deformities, cardiac and respiratory problems, and skin defects. There is no cure for arthrogyrosis, but early vigorous physical therapy can help stretch out the contracted joints and develop the weak muscles. Splints can also help stretch joints, especially at night. Orthopedic surgery may also be able to relieve or correct joint problems.

Imperforate Anus

Imperforate anus is a congenital (present from birth) defect in which the opening to the anus is missing or blocked. The rectum may end in a blind pouch that does not connect with the colon. Or, it may have openings to the urethra, bladder, base of penis or scrotum in boys, or vagina in girls.

Hague Disclosure

Grievance Policy

Complaints by any Birth Parent, any Prospective Adoptive Parent(s), adoptive parent(s) or adoptee about any services or activities of the agency or person, including supervised providers, that he or she believes raises an issue of compliance with the Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) or the regulations implementing the IAA are initially discussed and mediated between the assigned Great Wall China Adoption DBA Children of All Nations case manager and aggrieved party. The following level of staff will address the complaint before a written complaint is filed: Assigned Case Manager, Case Manager Supervisor, and Client Service & Relations Director.

If the complaint is not resolved amicably or to the satisfaction of the aggrieved party, the complaint, signed and dated, may be filed by any prospective adoptive parent(s), adoptive parent(s) or adoptee directly with GWCA/CAN about any services or activities of the agency or person, including supervised providers, that he or she believes raises an issue of compliance with the Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) or the regulations implementing the IAA. GWCA/CAN provides a Complaint/Grievance Form on the Family Only section of our website. This form is also sent to families upon request. Complaints may be submitted online or registered in writing by mail to: Children of All Nations, Attn: Client Service & Relations Director, 248 Addie Roy Rd, A104, Austin, Texas 78746. Unresolved complaints may also be filed by any Prospective Adoptive Parent(s), adoptive parent(s) or adoptee directly with the U.S. State Department via The Hague Complaint Registry (<http://adoptionusca.state.gov/HCRWeb/WelcomeForm.aspx>), about any services or activities of the agency or person, including supervised providers, that he or she believes raises an issue of compliance with the Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) or the regulations implementing the IAA.

All formal complaints received by Great Wall China Adoption DBA Children of All Nations will be reviewed by the Grievance committee and responded to in writing within 30 days. Grievances alleging fraud or deemed time sensitive by the committee will be expedited.

In addition, GWCA/CAN will maintain a written record of complaints received, and follow the steps outlined in the above section to investigate the complaint, and provide response per time frame specified in this policy and procedure. All complaints will be made available to Council on Accreditation or the Secretary upon request.

GWCA/CAN will not take any action to discourage a client or prospective client from, or retaliate against a client or prospective client for: making a complaint; expressing a grievance; providing information in writing or interviews to an accrediting entity on our agency's performance; or

questioning the conduct of or expressing an opinion about the performance of our agency.

GWCA/CAN will provide to Council on Accreditation and the Secretary, on a semi-annual basis, a summary of all complaints received during the preceding six months with information on number of complaints received and how each complaint was resolved and an assessment of any discernible patterns in complaints received against our agency, along with information about what systemic changes, if any, were made or are planned by our agency in response to such patterns. Upon request by Council on Accreditation or the Secretary, GWCA/CAN will provide any information about complaints received.

GWCA/CAN has a quality improvement program to systematically improve our services by providing client satisfaction surveys to the client(s), conducting regular staff meetings to review practices and improve procedures, reviewing complaint data and evaluating employees performance.



Prohibitions Against Child Buying

Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations strictly prohibits its employees and agents from giving money or other consideration, directly or indirectly, to a child's parent(s), other individual(s), or an entity as payment for the child or as an inducement to release the child. If permitted or required by the child's country of origin, an agency or person may remit reasonable payments for activities related to the adoption proceedings, pre-birth and birth medical costs, the care of the child, the care of the birth mother while pregnant and immediately following birth of the child, or the provision of child welfare and child protection services generally.

Permitted or required contributions shall not be remitted as payment for the child or as an inducement to release the child. Any employee that is found to have offered money or other consideration, directly or indirectly, to a child's parents or other individuals or an entity as payment for a child or to release a child will be terminated immediately. This policy is strictly enforced.

Disruption Policy and Procedures

A disruption is defined as the decision by the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) to interrupt the placement of a child for adoption during the post-placement period, once they have taken custody of the child and accepted the referral in writing but before the adoption of the referred child has been finalized. Client(s) understands and agrees that it is the right of all children in a disruption or dissolution to receive full protection and services and the child is deemed the primary client by GWCA/CAN and Client(s).

GWCA/CAN ensures that all appropriate measures for the transfer of a child take place with qualified escorts and in the company of the Client(s). This is ensured through the regulations and procedures outlined by the child's country of origin. GWCA/CAN also ensures this by assigning a bilingual guide that travels with the adoptive families throughout the adoption finalization trip. Client(s) understands and agrees that, if they are considering disruption of the child prior to the adoption finalization, Client(s) must inform their GWCA/CAN Guide or In-Country Representative and/or GWCA/CAN Staff. CAN Staff are available to client(s) 24 hours per day while client(s) are in-country. GWCA/CAN staff may provide resources and information for pediatric experts, social workers, and child development specialists as needed to discuss professional opinions of client concerns.

GWCA/CAN staff cannot provide advice on proceeding with the adoption of the child. Steps to assess the child will be taken within the scope of available resources, such as assessing the child for physical or mental concerns. Please note that should a disruption occur while in-country, the future placement of the adoptive child involved in the disruption and the decision to issue a second referral is completely and ultimately made by the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations has no control over this decision making process. If the decision for disruption remains, the GWCA/CAN Guide or In-Country Representative and/or GWCA/CAN staff will provide assistance to coordinate with client(s), the Central Authority of the child's country of origin and the orphanage or local government, the safe return of the child.

During the post placement period, the foreign government adoption authority will remain the legal guardian of the child. Client(s) understands that if there is any disruption, as that term is defined herein, any costs for care, including medical treatment, are the responsibility of

the Prospective Adoptive Parent until the time the custody of the child is remanded to the orphanage.

Client(s) understands and agrees that in the event of an emergency or in the case of a disruption while in-country, at no time ever, will a GWCA/CAN Guide or In-Country Representative assume custody of the adoptive child. Client(s) understands and agrees that the child will remain in the custody of the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) until the child can be returned to the custody of the orphanage. In the event of an emergency and the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) cannot adequately care for the child, local or government officials and the adoptive child's orphanage may be contacted by GWCA/CAN to attempt to arrange for an official or a staff member of the orphanage to come to the care of the adoptive child, in local government or official's sole discretion. GWCA/CAN shall not ever assume responsibility for the child during the in-country post placement phase.

Client(s) understands and agrees that Client(s) will not execute any documents, in-country or otherwise, without fully understanding the meaning and consequences of such execution. It is Client(s)' sole responsibility to understand or have all such documents explained.

Client(s) understands and agrees that the adoption documents signed in-country are legal documents granting legal rights to Client(s) as the adoptive child's parent(s). Completion and signing of the adoption documents assigns and formalizes Client(s) as the child's legal guardian(s). CLIENT(S) UNDERSTANDS AND AGREES THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE PERMANENT AND LASTING CONSEQUENCES.

Client(s) understands that once the adoption is finalized in-country and in accordance with local/government law, the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) become the legal parent/guardian of the child and the child acquires all the rights, privileges and immunities of a child born to the client(s). The Client(s) understand and agree they will then have all responsibilities, legal obligations and duties to the child as though the child was born to the Client(s). GWCA/CAN cannot reverse this legal and binding relationship. Any child that has been placed for adoption in the United States, cannot return to their country of origin as an orphan without the consent of the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. Client(s) understands and agrees that GWCA/CAN shall inform the Central Authority of the child's country of origin and the Secretary of any disruption. GWCA/CAN shall comply with the all procedures required by the Secretary and the Central Authority of the child's country of origin to ensure that all actions are taken in the best interest of the child, without regard to Client(s).

If applicable and the adoption is not finalized in-country, should the family return to the U.S. or their country of residence during the post placement phase, GWCA/CAN will continue to monitor and supervise, with the assistance

of the home study agency as applicable, the required home visits by the State and the foreign government, and the placement of the child prior to the adoption finalization to ensure that the placement remains in the best interests of the child. During the post placement period, the foreign government adoption authority, will remain the legal guardian of the child.

GWCA/CAN and the Client(s) will seek to avoid disruption of prospective adoption during placement period prior to final adoption if that is in the best interests of the child. Client(s) will notify CAN promptly if there are significant problems in the relationship or situation of the Client(s) and the child during such time. To the extent it has knowledge and resources, GWCA/CAN shall support and provide resources and appropriate referrals regarding available external assistance such as counseling that Client may engage in at Client's expense.

In the event that counseling and outside resources are not successful in resolving serious difficulties and there is a mutual agreement that the continued placement of the child is not in the child's best interest, it shall be expressed in writing that continuing the post placement period and subsequent final adoption of the child are not in the child's best interest. GWCA/CAN and the Client(s) will establish an agreed-upon date to affect a change in the custody and physical home of the child. The legal responsibility for transfer of custody in a disruption will remain with the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. GWCA/CAN will cooperatively work with the Secretary of State of the United States and the Central Authority of the child's country of origin who will place the child as they determine is in the child's best interest.

The child's age, wishes, length of time in the United States and the availability of other suitable matching placements are factors that will be taken into account by the Central Authority of the child's country of origin when they determine where to place a child. In considering future placement of the child, GWCA/CAN will consider the child's views when appropriate in light of the child's age and maturity and, when required by State law, obtain the consent of the child prior to change in physical home or custody. The Central Authority of the child's country of origin has sole responsibility to determine what placement is in the child's best interests. The child may not be returned to their country of origin as an orphan without the Secretary of State of the United States and the Central Authority of the child's country of origin giving written permission to do so. Returning a child to their country of origin will only be done when the Central Authority of the child's country of origin determines that it is the best suitable option.

During any disruption or crisis involving placement, the Central Authority of the child's country of origin and The Secretary of State of the United States will be notified in writing using email and by telephone contact followed up in writing. When GWCA/CAN is notified by the Client(s)

regarding Client(s) intent to disrupt a child or that there are problems that might lead to a disruption, GWCA/CAN will work with Client(s) to resolve these problems and will notify the Secretary of State of the United States and the Central Authority of the child's country of origin as immediately as possible and within no more than 3 business days of the problems and of any attempts to resolve them.

If a placement is disrupted in an emergency situation (where the child or family's safety appears to be at risk), as assessed by GWCA/CAN and in a state where GWCA/CAN is licensed, GWCA/CAN Staff, will go to the Client(s) home to remove the child. GWCA/CAN Staff will alert the appropriate officials, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, CPS, and emergency medical personnel, if the situation warrants this action. If a placement is disrupted in a state where GWCA/CAN is not licensed but uses a Supervised Provider, the Supervised Provider will provide counseling to the Client(s) and written records and recommendations to the GWCA/CAN Staff, and cooperates in all manners reasonable and necessary to arrange for transfer of the custody of the child to a suitable custodian or foster home. If it is in the best interest of the child, the Client(s) will maintain custody until such suitable placement is made. Financial and medical care of the child will remain the responsibility of the Client until custody is transferred per the decision of the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. Should this not be in the best interest of the child, GWCA/CAN and/or the Client(s)' home study agency will contact Child Protective Services or other such entity named in the State of Client(s)' residence for emergency placement of the child.

Notwithstanding removal of the child from the Client's home and custody, the Client(s) shall continue to have financial responsibility for all costs required for child's care until such time as CAN is able to effect other placement or return of the child to the foreign country as set forth above, and Client(s) will pay such costs upon billing by GWCA/CAN.

Client(s) must adhere to the post-placement reporting requirements set forth by the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. Client(s) are required to provide all necessary information for the reports and cooperate with social workers to meet all state, convention country post-placement requirements before the adoption is finalized.

GWCA/CAN will supervise the placement until such time GWCA/CAN receives an order declaring the adoption as final. During the post-placement services, GWCA/CAN will send regular reminders to the Client(s) regarding the non-finalized status of their adoption and stress the importance of adoption finalization. Once GWCA/CAN receives the order declaring the adoption as final, GWCA/CAN Hague Coordinator will inform the Secretary in

any manner requested by the Secretary within 30 days of receipt of order.

Dissolution Policy

A dissolution is defined as the decision by the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) to dissolve the adoption of the referred child after the adoption has been finalized. In accordance with the standards of the Hague Convention for International Adoption, please review our Dissolution Policy below:

In the event that dissolution occurs once the adoption is finalized in the United States, the matter becomes a domestic matter that would follow U.S. Federal and State guidelines for domestic adoption. In the event of dissolution, at no time ever will Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations assume custody of the adoptive child.

Once the adoption is finalized in accordance with regulations set forth by the child's country of origin, the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) become the legal parent/guardian of the child and the child acquires all the rights, privileges and immunities of a child born to the client(s). Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations does not and cannot have any influence regarding the steps within this legal matter. The act of leaving your newly-adopted child in-country or attempting to return the child to their country of origin, after you have signed the adoption paperwork, is highly illegal. Failure to comply could result in civil and criminal penalties for such behavior and CAN cannot be responsible for the actions of the government officials both in the U.S. and the child's country of origin. This act would be considered second abandonment, and action may be taken by government officials both in the U.S. and the child's country of origin for individuals who engage in this activity.

In the event of dissolution, all post adoption reports MUST still be submitted to the Central Authority of the child's country of origin on behalf of the child. We request cooperation in submitting these reports to ensure the well-being of each child.

In the event of dissolution, all post adoption reports MUST still be submitted to the Central Authority of the child's country of origin on behalf of the child. We request cooperation in submitting these reports to ensure the well-being of each child.

The following information is available upon request: number of placements in the last 3 years including % of disruptions/dissolutions; number of applications on a yearly basis based on the past 3 years; number of children eligible for adoption.

Policy for Charging Additional Expenses

Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations will not charge for services outside of the adoption service agreement. Should unexpected expenses arise in the country;

Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations will adhere to the following policy:

- » Notify the client in writing of the updated fees and expenses via email and/or mail.
- » Obtain written consent prior to expending any funds regardless of whether the fund in excess of \$1000.00, that is standard with the Hague requirements.
- » Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations will not charge any additional fees without obtaining a written consent. Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations will not ask for waiver from the prospective adoptive parents because written consent from the prospective adoptive parent ensures that prospective adoptive parents are fully aware of the additional fees, and agree to the additional fees.
- » Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations will provide written documentation upon request to prospective adoptive parents for fees and expenses paid directly by Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations and retain documentation.

