

INTER-COUNTRY (INTERNATIONAL) ADOPTION



AN OVERVIEW PROVIDED BY:



Family Connections, inc.
WHERE FAMILIES ARE BORN



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INTRODUCTION TO INTER-COUNTRY (AKA INTERNATIONAL) ADOPTION

Orphaned children from around the globe are in need of forever adoptive families through inter-country (international) adoption. Children are waiting in orphanages and foster care around the world for mommies, daddies, sisters, and brothers. Can you be a family for a child?

Orphaned children waiting for families are:

- Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers, School-Age, and Teens
- Boys and Girls
- Single children and Sibling groups
- Children Abandoned or Orphaned by their birth parents
- Children Removed from their birth parents due to abuse/neglect
- Healthy Typical Children with the potential for normal growth and development
- Children with minor correctable medical needs (e.g. cleft palate, club foot)
- Children with on-going medical challenges (e.g. heart condition, GI difficulties)
- Children with developmental delays
- Children with minor special needs (e.g. limb deformity, cerebral palsy, hearing impairment, visual impairments)
- Children with special needs requiring life-long care (e.g. Down Syndrome, blind)
- Of diverse ethnic heritage (e.g. Eastern European, African, Asian, Hispanic)
- Living in orphanages or foster homes



These children are faced with unthinkable challenges as they strive to survive without a loving family. I will never forget the blank faces of the children lined-up on my daughter's orphanage patio strapped into bouncy seats and walkers staring at gray walls with no toys, music, books, pictures, or people to engage their developing minds. Loving families are needed for each of these children.



Is your family able to parent a child adopted through inter-country (international) adoption?

- ✓ Can you open your home and heart to a foreign-born child of a different culture and ethnic group?
- ✓ Can you give love, comfort, security, and stimulation for a child?
- ✓ Can you learn how to support the social/emotional needs of a child adopted after infancy?
- ✓ Can you learn how to support the medical and developmental needs for a child with less than a perfect start in life or for a child with special medical and/or developmental needs?
- ✓ Would you be comfortable that you may not have the medical or social history of your child?
- ✓ Can you be flexible and patient with the unpredictability in the international adoption process?
- ✓ Can you take the time needed to travel to your child's country of origin for the adoption?
- ✓ Can you expand your family's cultural identity and incorporate your child's native heritage into your family life?
- ✓ Can you love a child that doesn't not resemble you and help that child to develop a positive race identity?

If you answered Yes! to at least five of these questions, inter-country (international) adoption can be the path that leads you to your child. Inter-country adoption is a wonderful way to provide a family for a child without parents and to expand and enrich your family.



So where do you start?

Your first step is to consider the needs of the child you may adopt. Put yourself in their shoes and ask yourself - are you the “right family” for the child. For example, if you adopt an African child will the child feel welcomed and will his/her racial identity be supported? Or if you adopted a child with special needs, can the child's medical, developmental, and social/emotional needs be properly met within your family and community? You need to educate yourself and be honest with yourself so you can decide what type of child (e.g. age, ethnic heritage, special needs, siblings, etc) would be the “best fit” for the child and for your family. Adoption professionals at Family Connections, Inc. are available to help you explore your family's adoption plan. The Agency offers a free one-on-one consultation meeting for prospective adoptive parents to help you determine if international adoption is right for your family. Once you have envisioned your family and determined what is best for the child and for your family, you can then explore the numerous inter-country adoption programs that are available. A summary of inter-country (international) adoption programs is provided within this overview packet.

As you consider inter-county adoption program you will need to determine if ...

1. The inter-country adoption program meets your desires in regards to the child you wish to adopt - age, gender, ethnic heritage, race, single child or sibling group, typical child or child with special needs, etc.
2. You meet the eligibility requirements for adoptive parents in the country for which you wish to adopt
3. Your family can fulfill the travel requirements for the adoption program
4. You are able to meet the financial obligations of the adoption program
5. Can you accept the wait time for the adoption program

Investing in the life of a child - How can you afford inter-country adoption?

Costs associated with an inter-country adoption support an array of services including (1) professional services (e.g. home study investigation, child background checks, travel preparation, adoptive placement, post-adoption supervision/support); (2) document preparation (e.g. dossier authentication); (3) foreign government adoption fees; (4) child care fees (e.g. orphanage donation); (5) passport and visa fees; and (6) travel expenses (e.g. airline tickets, food and lodging). The cost estimates associated with your specific adoption plan will be provided to you by your International Adoption Placement Agency. Depending upon your adoption plan, inter-country adoption costs can range from an average of \$25,000 to \$40,000. All fees paid in relation to your inter-county adoption are for necessary goods and services.



So how can you invest in the life of a child and obtain the needed resources for your inter-country adoption?

- ✓ Save, Save, Save (find ways to save money within your current household budget)
- ✓ Delay unnecessary expenses (e.g. remodel the bathroom another year, drive your car for a couple more years)
- ✓ Have fundraisers (e.g. rummage and/or bake sale, t-shirt sale)
- ✓ Encourage your family to gift you with adoption money instead of gifts on your birthday and holidays
- ✓ Ask a family member to gift you a part of the adoption
- ✓ Secure a loan interest loan (e.g. home equity line of credit, bank loan)
- ✓ Apply for grant money - there are many organizations that provide grants to families adopting internationally
- ✓ Remember that there is a Federal Tax Credit for Adoption
- ✓ Visit the Family Connections, Inc. website for more ideas and links to loan, grant and fundraising opportunities at www.adoptfamilyconnections.org (listed under “Resources” - “How to Afford an Adoption”)

The adoption process includes:



The inter-country (international) adoption process can be a little daunting at first, but with the guidance and support of adoption professionals at Family Connections, Inc. and your International Adoption Placement Agency, the adoption process will result in a forever family for an orphaned child. The rewards for you and the child are endless.

Home Study Investigation - this must be conducted by a licensed/authorized and Hague Accredited adoption agency in the state where you reside. *Family Connections, Inc. is an authorized New York State agency that is Hague Accredited by the Council on Accreditation.* If your international adoption placement agency is in the State where you live, you may use this agency to conduct the home study. However, many families use an international adoption placement agency that is in another State and thus need to find another adoption agency within their State to complete the study. Family Connections, Inc. has been conducting home studies for inter-country adoption for over twenty years and has expertise in the adoption process and successfully transitioning international children into their adoptive families.

Selection of a Primary Provider / International Adoption Placement Agency - to adopt a foreign-born orphan you will need to work with an International Adoption Placement Agency (aka Primary Provider) that has the authority to work in the country from which you wish to adopt and that has achieved Hague Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. Family Connections, Inc. as your home study provider will work in collaboration with your International Adoption Placement Agency. A listing of potential International Adoption Placement Agency is provided at the end of this overview.

Citizenship & Immigration Services Pre-approval - all prospective adoptive parents must apply to Citizenship & Immigration Services (via forms I-600A or I-800A) to be pre-qualified to adopt a foreign born orphan. You must be approved to adopt a foreign orphan by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service prior to applying to adopt from the foreign country. Family Connections, Inc. can help your family with your application.

Submission of Dossier to Foreign Country - every prospective adoptive family must submit a dossier - collection of documents that constitutes your application for adoption - to the foreign country. Your dossier may include documents such as birth certificates, marriage certificate, medical reports, criminal clearances, home study report, pictures, etc. Family Connections, Inc. has assisted hundreds of families put together their foreign dossier.

The Wait - then the hardest part - the wait for a referral of a child(ren). The wait varies with the country, the age of child, the number of children, and the health and developmental status of the child. Currently the longest wait is for a healthy young child and the shortest wait is for an older child or a child with special needs.

The Referral - your International Adoption Placement Agency (aka Primary Provider) will present a child(ren) to your family for consideration. You may receive a picture(s) of the child, a medical report, and a developmental assessment of the child. It is strongly recommended that you have a pediatrician with expertise in international adoption medicine to review the child's referral before you make a decision regarding the child's adoption. Family Connections, Inc. can refer you to qualified medical experts and support you through your decision-making process. Your International Adoption Placement Agency must give you two weeks in which to make your decision regarding the referred child.

The Decision - after your careful consideration of the child, you will decide whether or not to adopt the child. If you decide to commit to the child, you will proceed to adoption. If you decide that you are not the right family for this child, your international adoption placement agency, will present you with another child in need of a family when another child is available. All agencies involved in your inter-country adoption want you to be comfortable with the child you choose to adopt and prepared to parent the child.

The Adoption - you will travel to your child's country of origin to complete his/her adoption. Your International Adoption Placement Agency will facilitate your trip and adoption.

Immigration of the Child to the United States - After you adopt your child in the foreign country you will immigrate the child into the United States through the approval of a Citizenship and Immigration Services (via form I-600 or I-800) and the issuance of a Visa by the U.S. Embassy located in the child's country of origin.

The Transition Home and Required Supervision - you and your new child(ren) will settle into a new life. Most countries require that your adoption be supervised by an authorized/licensed and Hague Accredited adoption agency for a period after your arrival home to ensure that the child is safe and your family is adjusting well. The specific requirements for supervision are dictated by your child's country of origin and your International Adoption Placement Agency. The staff at Family Connections, Inc. really enjoys visiting families and helping them successfully transition into a healthy family unit. We welcome your questions.

Life Long Support for the Child & Family - as your family grows and your child develops you may have questions or need support. Family Connections, Inc. supports families throughout the life of the child. The agency has an annual picnic where adoptive families can connect and support each other and where kids from around the globe have fun and share their adoption experience.



Is your family ready and able to embrace a new child through inter-county adoption?

SUMMARY OF INTER-COUNTRY (AKA INTERNATIONAL) ADOPTION PROGRAMS (as of September 2014)

This summary of international adoption programs is provided by Family Connections, Inc. a New York State authorized adoption agency that has achieved Hague Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. Family Connections, Inc. provides home study and post-placement/adoption services for New York families adopting internationally. The information provided is a general overview of international adoption programs that are available as of September 2014.

International Adoption is very dynamic! The information provided is true as of September 2014. Adoption programs may change their availability, their requirements, their wait times, their travel requirements, and the children who are available for adoption at any time. Please consult with the U.S. Department of State (Central Authority for Inter-Country Adoption) at www.adoption.state.gov and with International Adoption Placement Agencies to determine the most current information on the Adoption Programs that interest your family.

Country of Origin	Hague Convention or Non-Convention Country	Type of Children	Age of Children	Typical Time between Dossier Submission & Child Adoption	Required Parent Travel	Requirements for Adoptive Parents
Armenia	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs	6 - 14 Months for Healthy Children 6 Months and Older for Child with Special Needs	3 - 5 Years	Both Parents 2 Trips 1 st Trip 5-7 days 2 nd Trip 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married couples • Single heterosexual women • Single women must be at least 15 years older than child to be adopted • No more than 2-3 children in the home
Bulgaria	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Siblings Groups	18 Months - 5 Years	24-36 Months for Child Under 4 Years 18 Months for Older Child 1 Year for Child with Special Needs	One or Two Parents 2 Trips 5-12 Days Each Trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 1 year • Single heterosexual women • 25 - 55 years old • Must be at least 15 years older than child to be adopted
Burundi (Pilot Program)	Convention	Health and Special Needs Single Children and Siblings Groups	2 Years - 15 Years for Single Children 1 Year & Older for Sibling Groups	12 - 24 Months	Both Parents 1 Trip for 3 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 5 years • Single heterosexual women • 30 - 55 years old

Country of Origin	Hague Convention or Non-Convention Country	Type of Children	Age of Children	Typical Time between Dossier Submission & Child Adoption	Required Parent Travel	Requirements for Adoptive Parents
China	Convention	<p>Healthy and Special Needs (very active Waiting Child Program)</p> <p>Single Children or Can Adopt 2 Waiting Children</p>	18 Months to 13 Years	<p>Healthy Child Program 7+ years</p> <p>Waiting Child Program 9-12 months</p>	<p>One or Two Parents</p> <p>1 Trip 2-3 Weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married at least 2 yrs 30 - 50 years old for healthy children 30 - 55 years old for children with special needs No physical or mental health history Body Mass Index < 40 No drug or alcohol history No criminal history Fewer than 5 children under 18 years in the home Income at least \$10,000 for each family member (including adopted child) and \$80,000 in assets Single women have additional requirements
Colombia	Convention	<p>Healthy and Special Needs</p> <p>Single Children and Siblings Groups</p>	<p>3 or More Siblings - Any Age</p> <p>2 Siblings - One Child Must be 8+ Years</p> <p>1 Child 8+ Years</p> <p>Child with Special Needs - Any Age</p>	18 - 48 Months	<p>Both Parents</p> <p>One Trip for Average of 45 Days (one parent may leave after 14-20 days)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married at least 3 years Single heterosexual women 25 - 55 years old Must be at least 15 years older than child to be adopted
Costa Rica (Pilot Program)	Convention	<p>Healthy and Special Needs</p> <p>Single Children and Sibling Groups of 3+ Children</p>	8+ Years	15 - 30 Months	<p>Both Parents</p> <p>1 Trip for 4-6 weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married at least 5 years Single heterosexual women and men 25 - 57 years old

Country of Origin	Hague Convention or Non-Convention Country	Type of Children	Age of Children	Typical Time between Dossier Submission & Child Adoption	Required Parent Travel	Requirements for Adoptive Parents
El Salvador	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Sibling Groups	Boys 10 - 16 Years Girls 12 - 16 Years	18 - 36 Months	Both Parents 1 Trip for 4-6 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 5 years • Single heterosexual women • 25 - 55 years old • At least 15 years older but no more than 45 years older than child to be adopted
Ethiopia	Non-Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Sibling Groups	12 Months to 16 Years	14 Months to 4 Years Short Waiting Time for Older Children and Children with Special Needs	Both Parents 2 Trips of Approx. 1 Week for Each Trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 3 yrs • Single heterosexual women • 25 - 55 years old • No older than 40 years older than the child to be adopted
Haiti	Non-Convention	Healthy Single Children and Sibling Groups	6 Months to 6 Years	21 Months to 3 Years	2 Trips Both Parents for 1 st Trip for 2 Weeks One or Two Parents for 2 nd Trip for 3-4 Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 10 yrs • 35 - 55 years old • If married 10+ years and have no children one spouse may be under the age of 35 years • Must be at least 19 years older than child to be adopted • Single heterosexual women • No More than 2 Biological Children
Honduras	Non-Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Siblings Groups	2 - 14 Years Average Age 6 - 10 Years	Approximately 1 Year for Children with Special Needs 4+ Years for Healthy Children	Both Parents 3 Trips Both Parents for 1 st Trip 7-10 days Both Parents for 2 nd Trip 5-7 days One Parent for 3 rd Trip 2 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 3 years • Single heterosexual woman • No older than 50 years at the time of dossier submission

Country of Origin	Hague Convention or Non-Convention Country	Type of Children	Age of Children	Typical Time between Dossier Submission & Child Adoption	Required Parent Travel	Requirements for Adoptive Parents
Hong Kong	Convention	Children with Special Needs	1 - 15 Years Most children are 5+ Years Old Younger Children with Special Needs	12 - 24 Months	Both Parents 1 Trip for 7 Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married for at least 3 years • Single heterosexual women • 25 - 45 years old • No more than 45 years older than any child to adopt
Hungary	Convention	Healthy Male Children and Siblings Groups	24 Months and Older	13 - 26 Months	Both Parents 1 Trip for 35 - 40 Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married couples • 25 - 55 years old • At least 16 years older but no more than 45 years older than child to be adopted
India	Convention	Healthy Children Only Available for Oversees Citizens of India Children with Special Needs	5 Years or Older for Healthy Children 6 Months and Older for Children with Special Needs	18 Months	Both Parents 2 Trips for One Week each Trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 5 years • Single heterosexual women and men under 45 years old • Single men may only adopt a male child • 30 - 55 years (infants available only if under 40 years old) • Married couples combined age must not exceed 90 yrs
Kyrgyzstan	Non-Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Siblings Groups	24 Months to 15 Years Most Children are Older than 5 Years	18 - 24 months	3 Trips 1 st Trip both parents for 10 days 2 nd Trip at least one parent for few days 3 rd Trip at least one parent for 7-10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married couples • Single heterosexual women • Up to 3 children in the family • No cancer history • Must be at least 16 years older than child to be adopted

Country of Origin	Hague Convention or Non-Convention Country	Type of Children	Age of Children	Typical Time between Dossier Submission & Child Adoption	Required Parent Travel	Requirements for Adoptive Parents
Latvia	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Siblings Groups	9 Years or Older unless part of a sibling group or with special needs	Approximately 1 Year	3 Trips 1 st Trip Both Parents for 19-26 days (child will come home under guardianship) 2 nd Trip One Parent for 3 days 3 rd Trip One Parent and Child for 5 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 3 years • Single heterosexual women • 25 - 55 years old • Must be at least 18 Years Older than Child to be Adopted
Mexico	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Sibling Groups	5 Years or Older for Healthy Children Under 5 Years for Siblings Groups and Children with Special Needs	6 Months - 2 Years	Both Parents 2 Trips 1 st Trip for 3-5 Weeks 2 nd Trip for 2-4 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 2 years • Single women and men on case-by-case basis • Minimum age is 25 years • At least 17 years older than child to be adopted
Morocco	Non-Convention	Healthy and Special Needs	Healthy Infants and Older Children with Special Needs	Unpredictable	Both Parents 3 Trips 1 st Trip for 5-7 days 2 nd Trip for 20 days 3 rd Trip for 4-5 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moroccan heritage OR • Life-long practicing Muslims • Married couples • Single heterosexual women
Nicaragua	Non-Convention	Healthy Children	Infant to 15 Years	12-36 Months for Child Under 5 years; 6 Months for Child Older than 5 Years	Both Parents 1 Trip for 12 to 20 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married couples • 25 - 50 years old
Panama	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Sibling Groups	3 - 16 Years	18 - 24 Months	Both Parents 1 trip for 60 days One parent may return home after 1 week of bonding and the court hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 2 years • Single heterosexual women • 25 - 55 years old • At least 18 years older but no more than 45 years older than child to be adopted • Good Health • Positive Net Worth

Country of Origin	Hague Convention or Non-Convention	Type of Children	Age of Children	Typical Time between Dossier Submission & Child Adoption	Required Parent Travel	Requirements for Adoptive Parents
Philippines	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Sibling Groups	< 15 Years Old	42 - 48 Months	One or Two Parents 1 Trip for 1 Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 3 years • Single persons can adopted children 6-15 years old with special needs • 27+ Years Old • Adoptive mother no more than 45 years older than child to be adopted • 5+ years of family religious practice • Annual income > \$40,000 • BMI < 35 and no metabolic syndrome
Poland	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Sibling Groups	1 - 14 Years for Children with Medical Needs 6- 13 Years for Healthy Children and Sibling Groups	12 - 18 Months	Both Parents 1 Trip for 6 Weeks (one parent may leave after 3 weeks) Or 2 Trips - 1 st Trip 2-3 weeks and 2 nd Trip 1 week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 5 years • No more than 40 years older than child to be adopted
Republic of Georgia	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children and Siblings Groups	< 16 Years for Children with Special Needs 8 Years or Older for Healthy Children and Sibling Groups	6 - 24 Months	Both Parents 1 Trip for 3-4 weeks or 2 Trips of shorter duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married couples • Single women • Must be at least 21 years between parents and child • No mental health history • No drug or alcohol addiction history

Country of Origin	Hague Convention or Non-Convention Country	Type of Children	Age of Children	Typical Time between Dossier Submission & Child Adoption	Required Parent Travel	Requirements for Adoptive Parents
Republic of Moldova	Convention	Healthy Children	Older Children and Sibling Groups	14 - 18 Months	One or Two Parents 2 Trips 1 st trip up to 30 days 2 nd trip 5-7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married couples • Single women • 25 - 50 years old; one parent must be under 50 yrs • Physically and mentally healthy
Romania	Convention	Healthy Children	3 Years or Older and Sibling Groups	4 - 8 Months	Both Parents 1 Trip up to 6-7 weeks or 2 Trips of shorter duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one parent must be Romanian and a US citizen • Married Couples • Single Women • Must be at least 18 years older than child
Serbia	Convention	Children with Special Needs	1 - 16 Years	Varies Greatly	Both Parents 2 Trips 1 st Trip 5-6 days 2 nd Trip 3-5 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 18 years older but no more than 45 years older than child to be adopted • Married Couples • Single heterosexual women • No mental health history • No infectious diseases
South Korea	Non-Convention	Healthy Children	12 - 24 Months	14 - 18 Months	Both Parents 2 Trips 1 st Trip Both Parents for 5-7 days 2 nd Trip One Parent for 5-7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 3 years • 25 - 41 years old • Age difference between spouses less than 15 years • 4 or fewer children in the home • Annual income greater than the US national average (\$51,012 in 2012) • Strict physical and mental health requirements • BMI < 29.9 • No history of arrest

Country of Origin	Hague Convention or Non-Convention Country	Type of Children	Age of Children	Typical Time between Dossier Submission & Child Adoption	Required Parent Travel	Requirements for Adoptive Parents
Taiwan	Non-Convention	Healthy and Special Needs	2 - 16 Years	2 -3 Years for Healthy Children 1 Year for Children with Special Needs	Both Parents 1 Trip for 7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married for at least 2 years • 20 years older than child to be adopted • 25 - 55 years old • No criminal history • If adopting an older child no more than 3 children in the family • If adopting a child under 6 years no more than 1 child in the family
Thailand	Convention	Healthy and Special Needs	15 Months - 15 Years	24 - 36 Months	Both Parents 1 Trip for 1 Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married at least 2 years • Single persons • 25 + years old • At least 15 years older than child to be adopted
Ukraine	Non-Convention	Healthy and Special Needs Single Children or Sibling Groups	6 - 16 Years Health Children 14 Months and Older for Children with Special Needs	2 - 4 Months	Both Parents 1 trip for 4 weeks or 2 shorter trips (1 st trip 2-3 weeks and 2 nd trip 1 week)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married couples • 21 + years old • At least 15 years older but no more than 45 years older than child to be adopted
Vietnam	Convention	Special Needs Children Some Sibling Groups	5 Years and Older	To be Determined Program Re-opened 09/16/2014	1 Trip for 2 to 3 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married for at least 2 years • Heterosexual single persons • 25 - 55 years old • Must be at least 20 years older than child • No more than 5 children in the home

All information was obtained September 2014 from the Federal Department of State (Central Authority for the U.S.) at www.adoption.state.gov, the US Census Bureau, and the following International Adoption Placement Agencies: European Adoption Consultants, Children's Hope International, Children's House International, Chinese Children Adoption International, Dillon International, Family & Children's Agency, Grace International Adoption Agency, Helping Hand Adoption Agency, Hopscotch Adoptions, Wide Horizons for Children, and World Assoc. for Children and Parents.

THE ROLE OF FAMILY CONNECTIONS, INC. IN INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION

Family Connections, Inc. is a New York State authorized adoption agency that has achieved Hague Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. **All** agencies who provide adoption services for families who are adopting internationally must be Hague Accredited. This achievement demonstrates Family Connection's continuing commitment to children and adoptive families in New York. Hague Accreditation by the COA is a national qualification that attests to Family's Connections, Inc. compliance with the ethical and moral standards of practice in international adoption as set by the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption treaty and the U.S. Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000. The Hague Convention established specific practice standards in regard to international adoption which all Hague Accredited agencies must meet. These standards establish safeguards for children and prospective adoptive families to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child. The standards prevent the abduction, exploitation, sale, or trafficking of children and provides protections for prospective adoptive parents. Family Connections' policies and practices are compliant with Hague standards. The Agency provides quality, ethical services that are in the best interest of children, protect children from exploitation, and ensure quality service to prospective adoptive families.



Family Connections, Inc. has twenty years of experience supporting prospective adoptive families and then supporting the adoptive parents and their foreign-born children transition into loving forever families. The Agency has supported families who have adopted children with the potential for healthy growth and development and families who have adopted children with special needs. We serve clients anywhere in New York State and have social workers throughout the state.

Family Connections, Inc. is dedicated to finding adoptive families for orphaned children from around the globe. The Agency's social work staff has personally travelled to Russia, China, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Guatemala to bring home their own children, escort a child, or travel with prospective adoptive families. We can speak personally about the adoption process, traveling to adopt your child, and the adjustment of children adopted internationally. The agency has supported families adopting from China, Vietnam, India, Russia, Ukraine, Ghana, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Lebanon, Liberia, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Georgia, Poland, Azerbaijan, Uganda, Cambodia, Columbia, Mexico, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We look forward to adding your family to this growing list of countries.

Over the Agency's long history of services, we have developed strong relationships with excellent medical, social, therapeutic and psychological resources for families who have adopted internationally. Our staff advocates for children and families with the schools, medical providers, and intervention service organizations. Our staff has presented various international adoption topics at conferences and has published articles regarding international adoption in a national adoption magazine (*Adoption Today*). In addition, our Agency's bi-annual magazine (*Family Connections*) publishes educational articles for prospective adoptive parents and our Agency's weekly blog features international adoption topics - www.adoptfamilyconnections.org.

Family Connections, Inc. provides an array of international adoption services for families including:

- Home study investigation
- Guidance with international adoption paperwork (e.g. home study, CIS application, dossier)
- Referral to International Adoption Placement Agencies (aka Primary Providers)
- Assistance with the processes required by Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Emotional support during waiting time
- Education and training including one-on-one training, literature reviews, blogging, Agency bi-annual magazine (*Family Connections*), publication in national adoption magazine, and referral to conferences and on-line training providers
- Referral to adoptive family support networks and/or introduction to families who have adopted internationally
- Consultation regarding child referral
- Referral to medical, educational, and therapeutic experts to assist with the evaluation of child referral information and to support the child's need for services upon their arrival home
- Post-placement/adoption supervision services as required by the child's country of origin and the family's Primary Provider (aka International Adoption Placement Agency)
- Guidance in the adoption finalization process in New York
- Post-placement/adoption life-long support services for such matters as transitional family challenges, developmental adoption questions, inter-racial/inter-cultural identity issues, etc.



Family Connections, Inc. works cooperatively with International Adoption Placement Agencies (aka Primary Providers) throughout the country. Most International Adoption Placement Agencies are located outside of New York State. Thus most adoptive families must have the home study and post-adoption support services provided by a New York authorized and Hague Accredited agency like Family Connections, Inc. International Adoption Placement Agencies identify children for adoption in foreign countries, refer children for adoption to prospective adoptive parents, and facilitate the international adoption process. Family Connections has relationships with many International Adoption Placement Agencies and can work with any International Adoption Placement Agency of the adoptive family's choosing.

Family Connections would be honored to support your family's plans to adopt a child through inter-country (international) adoption. To learn more about international adoption please visit Family Connection's website at www.adoptfamilyconnections.org or contact Anita or Renee at 607-756-6574 or 1-800-535-5556 or info@adoptfamilyconnections.org. Our professional staff is available to meet with you one-on-one to explore your international adoption options (free consultation). Family Connections, Inc. looks forward to supporting your family's adoption plans.

TIPS ON CHOOSING AN INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENT ADOPTION AGENCY (AKA PRIMARY PROVIDER)



Prospective adoptive families must employ the services of an International Adoption Placement Agency that has achieved Hague Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation to complete an inter-country (international) adoption. International Adoption Placement Agencies identify orphaned children for adoption in foreign countries, refer children for adoption to prospective adoptive parents, and facilitate the international adoption process. The family's International Adoption Placement Agency will work in partnership with the family's home study provider and post-adoption supervisor agency (e.g. Family Connections, Inc.) that is authorized/licensed in the state of the family's residence and Hague Accredited by the Council on Accreditation. The International Adoption Placement Agency can operate in any State within the United States.

Finding an adoption agency can be daunting and frustrating with so many agencies trying to get the attention of adoptive parents via print advertising, social media, and internet sites. It is

important that a prospective adoptive family work with an agency where they feel comfortable and confident. As adoptive parents research International Adoption Placement Agencies they should consider the following. An adoption agency should:

- Ensure that the prospective adoptive parents have the right to make their own decisions regarding their plan of adoption without influence
- Educate the adoptive family regarding all their adoption options
- Have the authority and experience to place children from the country from which the prospective adoptive parents wish to adopt
- Offer diverse adoption options - working in more than one country of interest for your family
- Have the expertise in the type of adoption the prospective adoptive parents wish to pursue (e.g. infant/toddler adoption, older child adoption, the adoption of children with special needs)
- Provide training specific to the needs of the family and their adoption plan (e.g. attachment, adopting an older child, trans-racial adoption, parenting a child with special needs, family transitions, etc)
- Assist with the process of Citizenship and Immigration
- Support the preparation and submission of the dossier
- Arrange for the family's travel to adopt the child
- Facilitate the adoption of the child in the foreign country
- Guide the family through any post-placement/adoption requirements (e.g. register foreign adoption, obtaining birth data record)
- Support the adoptive family's emotional needs

Family Connections, Inc. would be honored to work collaboratively with any International Adoption Placement Agency chosen by the prospective adoptive parents.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PLACEMENT AGENCIES (AKA PRIMARY PROVIDERS) AS OF JULY 2014

Family Connections, Inc. is an authorized New York State adoption agency who has achieved Hague Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. The Agency provides home study and post-placement/adoption services for families adopting internationally. Family Connections, Inc. works collaboratively with International Adoption Placement Agencies throughout the United States to support families who are choosing to adopt foreign children.

To assist you in your search for an International Adoption Placement Agency, we are providing you with a listing of Hague Accredited Placement Agencies with whom Family Connections, Inc. currently has Inter-Agency Agreements for services. Family Connections, Inc. does not endorse nor recommend any particular International Adoption Placement Agency. Family Connections, Inc. believes in client self-determination and will respect your decision regarding the International Adoption Placement Agency you wish to work with to complete your adoption dreams. Please know that Family Connections, Inc. is able to collaborate with *any* International Adoption Placement Agency of your choice; the Agency *is not* limited to those agencies listed below.



*International Programs listed are available as of July 2014. Please understand that International Adoption is very dynamic and ever changing. You will need to confirm the availability of specific country programs at the time of your inquiry for services.

<i>International Adoption Placement Agencies</i>	<i>International Programs as of July 2014*</i>
AAC Adoption & Family Network, Inc. 735 East Highway 56, Berthoud, CO 80513 970-532-3576 www.aacadoption.com	China S. Korea
All Blessings International 3808 S. Griffith Ave, Owensboro, KY 42301 270-684-2598 www.allblessings.org	Haiti Taiwan
America World Adoption 6723 Whittier Ave., McLean, VA 22101 800-429-3369 www.awaa.org	China; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Haiti; Honduras; India; Kyrgyzstan; and Ukraine

<i>International Adoption Placement Agencies</i>	<i>International Programs as of July 2014*</i>
Child Adoption Associates, Inc. 200 Swanton Street, Winchester, MA 01890 781-929-1313 www.child-adoption.org	Latvia Ukraine
Children's Hope International 11780 Borman Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146 888-899-2349 www.childrenshopeint.org	Bulgaria China Colombia Ethiopia
Children's House International P.O. Box 1829, Ferndale, WA 98248 360-383-0623 www.childrenshouseinternational.com	Bulgaria; China; Colombia; Ethiopia; Haiti; Hungary; India; Mexico; Poland; Georgia; Moldova; Romania
Chinese Children Adoption International 6920 S. Holly Circle, Centennial, CO 80112 303-850-9998 www.ccaifamily.org	China Haiti Latvia Ukraine
European Adoption Consultants, Inc. 12608 Alameda Drive, Strongsville, OH 44149 1-866-586-5656 www.eaci.com	Bulgaria; China; Colombia; Haiti; Honduras; India; Poland; Uganda; Ukraine
Families Thru International Adoption, Inc. 401 SE 6 th St., Suite 202, Evansville, IN 47713 812-479-9900 www.ftia.org	Bulgaria China Panama
Family & Children's Agency 9 Mott Ave., Norwalk, CT 06850 203-855-8765 www.familyandchildrensagency.org	China South Korea
Grace International Adoption Agency 306 Chauncey Ave. East, Bradenton, FL 34208 941-400-6016 www.graceinternationaladoptionagency.org	Colombia Ukraine

<i>International Adoption Placement Agencies</i>	<i>International Programs as of July 2014*</i>
Great Wall China Adoption 248 Addie Roy Road, A102, Austin, TX 78746 512-323-9595 www.gwca.org	China
A Helping Hand Adoption Agency 767 Lane Allen Rd., Lexington, KY 40504 859-263-9964 www.ahelpinghandadoption.org	Bulgaria; China; Hong Kong; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Nicaragua; Panama; Taiwan; Ukraine
Hopscotch Adoptions 1208 Eastchester Dr., High Point, NC 27265 336-899-0068 www.hopscotchadoptions.org	Armenia; Bulgaria; China; Colombia; Georgia; Morocco; Serbia; Ukraine
International Child Foundation, Inc. 11449 N. Mandarin Lane, Tucson, AZ 85737 877-542-8813 www.childfound.org	Burundi Haiti Mexico
West Sands Adoptions 1240 E. 100 South #1, St. George, UT 84790 435-986-1617 www.asacredmission.org	China Ethiopia
Wide Horizons for Children 38 Edge Hill Road, Waltham, MA 02451 781-894-5330 www.whfc.org	Burundi; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ethiopia; South Korea; Philippines; Taiwan
World Assoc. for Children & Parents P.O. Box 88948, Seattle, WA 98138 206-575-4550 www.wacap.org	Bulgaria; China; Ethiopia; India; S. Korea; Taiwan; Thailand

