



MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

Please keep in mind that Children of the World only has two adoption programs at this time:

India and China

Please consult the US Department of State Website for criteria from other countries.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption.html>

Potential Children of the World clients must meet the following list of minimum criteria in order to pre-qualify for one of our international adoption programs, India and China respectively. This list is compiled from standards provided by USCIS (Immigration), Our licensing and accrediting entities, and by the adoption authorities in each country.

CRITERIA FOR INDIA ADOPTIONS

Registration occurs 3-5 months into the program

Single Adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum age to begin the program – 25 years (please do not apply unless you are at least 25) Maximum age *at registration* - 55 years Single Females may adopt either gender Single Males may only adopt male children 	Married Couples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum age to begin the program – 25 years (please do not apply unless both are at least 25) Couples must be married for a minimum of 2 years. (please do not apply unless you have reached your 2yr anniversary)
Child Age Range (Single Applicants) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum age difference between parent & child is 25 years Single Applicants 46 – 50 yrs may adopt a child 4 yrs or older. Single Applicants 51 – 55 yrs may adopt a child 8 yrs or older. 	Child Age Range (Married Couples) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India will examine the couples combined age *at registration* to determine minimum age child they can be matched with. If combined age *at registration* is over 90, the couple should expect to adopt an older child. If combined age *at registration* is over 110, the couple is not eligible to adopt. <p>Combined age is 91-100 – may adopt a child 4yrs or older. Combined age is 101-110 – may adopt a child 8yrs or older.</p>
Criteria for All Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently India Only accepts applications from heterosexual applicants At least one parent must be a US Citizen (either by birth or naturalization) Must be physically, emotionally, and financially stable enough to support a child Only one child may be adopted at a time (unless a twin/sibling group *keep in mind this can create a longer wait) 	

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building families for more than 20 years

CRITERIA FOR INDIA ADOPTIONS CONTINUED

Health

- No current life-threatening medical conditions.
- A medical professional must provide written documentation of health status.
- If previously diagnosed with a life-threatening condition, the condition must be considered stable or in remission for a minimum of 5 years.
- The Indian Adoption Authority (CARA) may still decide to deny applicants with extensive medical history.

Arrest History

- All applicants must be prepared to provide detailed account of ANY arrest history – regardless of length of time passed, severity of charge, and/or outcome.
- *Applications from individuals with past criminal records will be considered on a case-by-case basis if the individual has three or fewer minor criminal violations that did not result in severe outcomes (none in the last ten years) and five or fewer traffic violations with no severe outcomes.*
- Applicants with history of Domestic violence, sexual abuse, abandonment, or abuse of children; even if not arrested or convicted, and those with criminal history of recreational drug use substance abuse will not be considered eligible to adopt.
- Previous alcohol abuse, will be considered if the individual can show she/he has been sober for at least ten years.

Additional Children in the Home

- Youngest child in the home must be 1-year-old to begin the program. **Please do not apply until your youngest child is 1yr.*
- India typically prefers to keep children in “birth order” (according to age)

Additional requirements for families with previously adopted children

- *Previously internationally adopted* children must have their certificate of citizenship – C.O.C. – before you can proceed.
- *Previously domestically adopted* children must have an adoption decree and birth certificate.
- These are US Immigration requirements that **CAN NOT** be avoided.

CRITERIA FOR CHINA ADOPTIONS

Registration Occurs 3-5 months into the program

Single Adults

- Minimum age to begin the program – 30 years
(please do not apply unless you are at least 30)
- Maximum age *at registration* - 50 years
- Only single females are eligible to adopt

Marriage / Divorces

- A minimum of 2 yrs from a divorce finalization to begin the program
- China does not consider applicants with 2 or more divorces eligible to adopt

Income

- Minimum annual income of \$30,000 plus an additional \$10,000 for each child currently in the home.
- Net worth of \$100,000

Married Couples

- Minimum age to begin the program – 30 years
(please do not apply unless both are at least 30)
- Maximum age *at registration* - 64 years

Marriage / Divorces

- Couples must be married for a minimum of 2 years.
(please do not apply unless you have reached your 2yr anniversary)
- For couples where one/both spouses have a previous divorce, the applying couple must have been married for a minimum of 5 years. **(if this applies, please do not apply unless you have reached your 5yr anniversary *CCCWA will take in to consideration time you have cohabitated)**
- China does not consider applicants with 2 or more divorces eligible to adopt

Income

- Minimum annual income of \$30,000 plus an additional \$10,000 for each child currently in the home.
- Net worth of \$80,000

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CRITERIA FOR CHINA ADOPTIONS CONTINUED

Criteria for All Applicants

- Currently China only accepts applications from heterosexual applicants
- At least one parent must be a US Citizen (either by birth or naturalization)
- Must be physically, emotionally, and financially stable enough to support a child
- The age range between parent and child may be no more than 50 yrs.
- Only one child may be adopted at a time (unless a twin/sibling group **keep in mind that this is not a common occurrence in China**)

Health

- Applicants must be physically and mentally fit
- No current life-threatening medical conditions or infectious diseases
- Chronic / Severe conditions that have been successfully treated for a period of more than 5yrs may be exempt for couples, where one parent is healthy. (10 yr time period for organ transplant and certain types of cancer)
- Mild to moderate mental health conditions, including depression, mania, or anxiety neurosis may be exempt for couples with proof of effective treatment and psychological evaluation.
- Body Mass Index (BMI) less than 40

Arrest History

- All applicants must be prepared to provide detailed account of ANY arrest history – regardless of length of time passed, severity of charge, and/or outcome.
- *Applications from individuals with past criminal records will be considered on a case-by-case basis if the individual has three or fewer minor criminal violations that did not result in severe outcomes (none in the last ten years) and five or fewer traffic violations with no severe outcomes.*
- Applicants with history of Domestic violence, sexual abuse, abandonment, or abuse of children; even if not arrested or convicted, and those with criminal history of recreational drug use substance abuse will not be considered eligible to adopt.
- Previous alcohol abuse, will be considered if the individual can show she/he has been sober for at least ten years

Additional Children in the Home

- Youngest child in the home must be 3 yrs old to begin the program. **Please do not apply until your youngest child is at least 3yrs old.*
- *Married Couples* – may have up to 5 children in the home (not including the prospective adoptive child)
- *Single Females* – may have only 2 children living in the home (not including the prospective adoptive child)

Additional requirements for families with previously adopted children

- *Previously internationally adopted* children must have their certificate of citizenship – C.O.C. – before you can proceed.
- *Previously domestically adopted* children must have an adoption decree and birth certificate.
- These are US Immigration requirements that **CAN NOT** be avoided.

For additional criteria that applies to all International Adoption Clients.
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ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

The following criteria are not set “standards” to begin the international adoption process.
However, these are very important measures to help gauge if you are ready to begin.

Finances: Adoptive parents are tasked with furnishing an avg. of \$30-38,000 during the adoption process.

- **We ask that families save/fundraise a minimum of \$5,000 before they apply.**
- Home study fees and your first set of will be due within 90 days of starting. Grants are available for families that seek them out and apply – however, grants are typically only available to families with an approved home study report.

Time: International adoptions take time.

- **Adoptive parents should apply when they can dedicate at least 3 months to focus on the initial process.**
- During the first 90 days, adoptive parents are working through their home study and dossier phases. This includes gathering an extensive list of VERY particular documents, several appointments, research, & education; all which require focus & dedication.

Family: Adopting a child will bring changes and challenges to not only the adoptive parents, but to the existing family members too.

- **Families with existing children should consider the extensive amount of expense, care, and attention some special needs can require.**
- Are the existing children in the home at a point, developmentally, where introducing an adoptive sibling would enhance their upbringing?
- **Families that have recently adopted should consider waiting to begin another adoption until significant bonding and integration milestones are met.**
- Understand that some challenges may not present themselves for several months or even years into bonding.

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ADDITIONAL CRITERIA CONTINUED

Maturity: Adoptions are not for the “faint of heart”. One of the most challenging parts of international adoption can be “releasing the need for control.”

- **Adoptive parents should apply after they have determined they are prepared to handle the ups and downs of the process, demonstrate patience, and have healthy coping skills needed for setbacks.**
- At minimum, before applying, adoptive parents should research and/or speak directly to families that have adopted previously (to gain knowledge from their perspective of potential challenges)

Support System: Adoptions are beautiful – but can also be stressful.

- **Adoptive parents should apply when they have a well-established support system to call on when times get tough.**
- Support systems can look different for every person/couple. This may be close family/friends, church/prayer groups, or a network of adoptive parents.
- Having support located in close proximity is important as well.
- Keep in mind that the role of a support person is not to always “tell you what you want to hear”. Instead, look for individuals or groups that will provide you with mature/founded advice and encourage you to self-reflect & stay on track.

