
Adoption News Around the World

China

Families of Children from China reported recently that The China Center for Adoption Affairs had sent letters to adoption agencies announcing a new quota system. The overall quota for each China adoption agency would be set at the average of their China adoptions for the years 1998, 1999, and 2000.

For each agency, only 5% of the placements would be to single parents. This is in contrast to the estimated 30% of current placements that had gone to single parents previously. Because of this quota system, will we see more single women adopting in Latin America?

Southeast Asia

The Associated Press reported on January 18 that the INS had indefinitely suspended issuing adoption visas for Cambodian children in December 2001, amid concerns that some children were bought or stolen. In addition, more government officials have been dispatched to Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam to review pending

adoptions to ensure that the children are indeed orphans according to the INS definition.

Bolivia

Bolivia signed the Hague International Adoption Act. It was ratified by their legislature and became a law on December 24, 2001. On January 16, 2002, the first lady of Bolivia announced that international adoptions would resume with the United States and Europe.

Guatemala

On January 31, the U.S. State Department reported major delays in processing passport applications for adopted children in Guatemala. The delays are due to procedural changes in the Guatemalan passport office. Adoptive parents must now submit notarized copies of their passports through their attorneys as well as a statement from the Guatemalan Attorney General verifying the adopted child's identity. For more information, see <http://travel.state.gov/guatepassports.html> ❖

Child Citizenship Act of 2000 and Readoption

All internationally adopted children become automatic U.S. citizens upon their arrival in the United States, if the child was fully adopted abroad. To qualify as "full adopted abroad," the adoptive parent(s) (both, if married) must have seen the child before the adoption was finalized. If this is the case, your child will have an IR-3 visa stamped into his or her passport. If the adoptive parent(s) did not see the child before the adoption was finalized, the child will have an IR-4 visa stamped into his or her passport. If the child has an IR-4 visa in his or her passport, the child

will not become a U.S. citizen until he or she is readopted in the United States.

So, if you are considering adopting from Guatemala, make sure you see the child during the adoption process. Your adoption agency can advise you about the best time to make the trip. If you travel to Guatemala just to get the U.S. immigration visa, your child will receive a IR-4 visa and you will have to readopt in the states. Depending on which county you live in New York, the readoption process can take up to two years. ❖

Immigration Fees to Increase on February 19, 2002

New fees for Immigration services will go into effect beginning February 19, 2002. The I-600A Petition will increase from \$405 to \$460; the fingerprinting fee will increase from \$25 to \$50 per person. The N-643 Application for Certificate of Citizenship in Behalf of an Adopted Child will increase from \$125 to \$145. To see all fee changes, visit the INS website: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/formsfee/feechart.htm> ❖

LAPA extends its condolences to Mary and Don Schuellein and their son, Timothy. Mary's father died in November. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their extended family.



The LAPA family would like to congratulate Andrea and John Quatralo on the birth of their daughter, Anna Lynn, on October 27, 2001, who is enjoying life with her big brother, John Felipe.