

Adopt Abroad Mission

Adopt Abroad, Inc., a federally recognized, non-profit 501(c) (3), charitable organization, is dedicated to helping families and children find each other. We are committed to providing more affordable, quality adoption services in the warmest and most professional fashion, thereby emphasizing quality instead of quantity.

Adopt Abroad History

Adopt Abroad Inc. was founded by Dr. Carol Albers, LPC. Dr. Albers has worked extensively with families in both the US and abroad, guiding families through the adoption process and helping them realize their dreams. Through this work, she became aware of the need for affordable adoption services.

Adopt Abroad was created to help the U.S. military family and other U.S. citizens adopt while living overseas. Since 2003, we have been helping families living abroad realize their adoption dreams.

While this population remains a significant portion of our clientele we work with families in all 50 States as well as those living abroad who want to adopt.

Adopt Abroad Commitments

Admissions, the provisions of services, and referrals of clients shall be made without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability ancestry, age, sex, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age or sex.



Adoption Policies and Practices

Adopt Abroad's Programs and Accreditations

Adopt Abroad Inc. is a Hague accredited and fully licensed adoption agency in the State of Pennsylvania.

Our services include: Home Studies; International Adoption Programs; Pre- and Post-Adoption Counseling; Adoption Services for Americans Abroad; and Adoption Services for Military Families.

Adopt Abroad offers International Adoption Programs in Armenia, Bulgaria, Cambodia (on hold), The Dominican Republic, Morocco, the Philippines, Russia, Ukraine.

Adopt Abroad has adoption caseworkers to assist you with your adoption needs in Pennsylvania, as well as Germany, the UK, Italy, the Benelux, The Middle East, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Indonesia and Africa. We will also travel to your location to help assist you with your adoption needs.



Adopt Abroad's Complaint Policy

Adopt Abroad, Inc. wants to provide the highest quality service possible for our clients, therefore, if during your relationship with our agency you believe you have been wronged or had an unfair judgment made against you either by Adopt Abroad, Inc. or by persons representing Adopt Abroad, Inc., we would appreciate your communicating that conviction to us.

Adopt Abroad, Inc. maintains an open door policy for client grievances. Any client may, without repercussion, ask for a formal review of any matter he/she believes to be unfair or in regards to actions taken by Adopt Abroad, Inc. It is understood that client standing with Adopt Abroad, Inc. shall not be adversely affected in any way by the client's use of the complaint procedure.

Send a written request to Adopt Abroad, Inc. for a grievance review within 60 days of the date of the events as you see them, for which the complaint is being made.

Within 30 days of receipt of the written request by the Agency, the Executive Director and/or Social Work Supervisor Adopt Abroad, Inc. will review the grievance.

Adopt Abroad Inc. will provide written notice of any resolution or decision within 30 working days.

Adopt Abroad, Inc. will provide information on the Hague Complaint Registry when the Department of State makes it available.

* A full text version of the Complaint Policy will be reviewed and signed by all prospective adoptive parents at the time the adoption services contract is signed.

Adopt Abroad's Child Trafficking Policy

Adopt Abroad, Incorporated does not engage in any services that include incentives for child placement with an adoptive family nor does Adopt Abroad engage in any practices that provide incentives financial or otherwise, to families for placing children for adoption. This practice is strictly forbidden. Any employee or facilitator found to be engaging in such behaviors is subject to immediate dismissal.

Reasonable payments for costs associated with the adoptions such a pre-birth and medical costs, care of the child, care of the birth mother while pregnant and immediately following the birth as well as provisions for the child's welfare and protection are acceptable. Payments for such expenses may not be used as an inducement for placing a child for adoption or in any way implies such an obligation.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Families applying to adopt internationally will need to submit an I-800A or I-600A (Advance Processing for Orphan Petition) to the National Benefits Center. There is an application fee and a fee to process biometric fingerprinting. Anyone 17 years old or older; ; currently living in the home must be fingerprinted for CIS.

Families with a current CIS approval that will expire before travel may receive one free extension of their approval by filing a new I-800A or I-600a before the first expires. The CIS approval (I-171H or I-797C) is valid for 15 months from the approval date. More information can be found at: <http://www.uscis.gov>.



Against Preferential Treatment Policy

Adopt Abroad prohibits the giving of preferential treatment to Adopt Abroad board members, contributors, volunteers, employees, agents, consultants, or independent contractors with respect to the placement of children for adoption. In order to prevent preferential treatment,

1. Pennsylvania Minimum Standards does not allow Adopt Abroad, Inc. to perform a home study assessment for any Adopt Abroad, Inc. employees, officials, board members, volunteers or relatives of the aforementioned or anyone else who has direct affiliation with the agency.
2. Adopt Abroad does not accept any charitable contributions from prospective adoptive parent(s) while in any part of the adoption process in which a determination of a child's placement or an assessment of the prospective adoptive parent(s) by Adopt Abroad staff is made.
3. If there is suspicion that preferential treatment has been given to any prospective adoptive parent(s), an investigation will be conducted by the President and the Director of Social Work Services. Giving preferential treatment to any prospective adoptive parent(s) is grounds for dismissal.

Charitable Donations

Program services shall be made accessible to eligible persons with disabilities through the most practical and economically feasible methods available.

Any client may make a charitable contribution to Adopt Abroad or any of its humanitarian projects. The family will be informed that this contribution can only be made after completion of their adoption.

Adopt Abroad's Parent Education

As part of your Adopt Abroad's Pre-Adoption Education, we want to take time to make sure that certain areas are covered in your home study pertaining to international or domestic adoption and the children you are seeking to adopt. This training is meant to give you a comprehensive look at adoption and the country specific information you should expect. Your home study and/or dossier will not be completed and forwarded to the appropriate entities until you have completed all required training and discussed it thoroughly with your social worker.

Adopt Abroad, Inc. recognizes the importance of this training and the difficulty some of our families may have in attending trainings offered on site. Therefore, these parent education trainings are offered online with additional discussions/follow-up support from your home study social worker.

This training will cover: an overview of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, the intercountry adoption process, general characteristics and needs of children adopted internationally, explanation of the referral process, multiculturalism and the child's transition into the home, post adoption and post-placement reporting.

Adopt Abroad, Inc. is dedicated to educating adoptive parents as much as possible. This education is crucial to the success of the adoption both for the adoptive family and most importantly, the child.

Adopt Abroad's Clients Rights

*Clients have the right to expect their concerns will be heard and, if the agency cannot provide the service they are seeking, they can expect a referral to the appropriate service providers.

*Clients have the right to expect they will be treated courteously and professionally.

*Clients have the right to refuse services.

*Clients have the right to expect that all records and communications shall be confidential and disclosed to others only with written consent.

*All clients shall be free from abuse and neglect. Clients shall be served with respect and in a professional manner.

*Clients shall not be deprived of any legally or constitutionally guaranteed rights, benefits or privileges.

Adopt Abroad's Post Adoption Services

Adopt Abroad is committed to helping families have a successful adoption experience from the time an application is received, to long after the family has come home. Adopt Abroad seeks to demonstrate this commitment by providing post-adoption services and support for families. Adopt Abroad has social workers in various locations all over the world committed to providing post-adoption services and organizing post-adoption support efforts. This includes post-adoption support groups at various military bases around the world.

Fee Refunds

Special circumstances sometimes require that a family or Adopt Abroad, Inc. must withdraw from an adoption process before the child arrives home. Fees are paid in increments as needed or at the time a service is provided therefore once paid are not refundable. Families are eligible to receive a refund of any post placement fees paid should they decide not to continue with their adoption plans.

Adopt Abroad's Agency Fee Information

Each payment under the category of agency fees applied to work and/or expenses that have already or will be incurred, cannot be avoided, and therefore, will be non-refundable. This basic schedule of agency fees will not change during the term of this agreement and will be the only fee collected by Adopt Abroad, Inc. unless extraordinary expenses are incurred. Such extraordinary expenses would include a home study update fee or a re-- adoption paperwork fee, should the adoptive parents choose to readopt. All agency fee payments should be made payable to "Adopt Abroad, Inc." Payments to Adopt Abroad, Inc. may also be made by PayPal or by credit card there will be a fee of 4% on all charges.

Adopt Abroad, Inc. provides an estimate of typical expenses associated with adoption. Adopt Abroad, Inc. discloses all known charges to clients. However, actual costs may vary and unknown charges can arise. All state to state costs within the U.S. cannot be estimated. Costs for dossier preparation will vary. Official charges for the adoption process in the child's county of origin are set by each province and are subject to change. Travel fares from the U.S. to the child's country of origin will vary. The In-Country Travel Package within each program is also subject to change. These estimates are provided for planning purposes only and Adopt Abroad, Inc. is not responsible for any variances that may actually be incurred beyond our control.

* See Refund Policy.

REFUND NOTE: If a family fails to properly disclose information or in any way puts the agency and its interests at risk, Adopt Abroad, Inc. retains the right to terminate adoption process without providing any refund. If there are special circumstances that require a family to withdraw temporarily or suspend their adoption, Adopt Abroad, Inc. will apply 100% of the family's previously paid fees to the reactivated adoption if it takes place within 1 year of the withdrawal/suspension. If more than six months have elapsed the family will need to comply with all fees at the then current rates. The President retains the right to assess individual cases and determine refunds for atypical cases. Obviously many of the expenditures that occur are outside of the services of Adopt Abroad, Inc. and are all non-refundable once paid unless the client personally arranges that with the individual entities. Any funds, to which the client may be entitled due to overpayment, will be returned to the client within 60 days of the completion of the delivery of services.

Adoption Tax Credit

Taxpayers who adopt a child may qualify for the adoption tax credit. This tax credit has been enhanced for the years 2010 through 2012.

Adoptive parent(s) qualify for the adoption tax credit if they adopted a child and paid out-of-pocket expenses relating to the adoption. The amount of the tax credit one could qualify for is directly related to how much money you spent on adoption-related expenses. This differs for children who have been identified with a special need.

Adopt Abroad's U.S. Foster Adoption Program

At present there are some 134,000 children waiting for permanent homes within the U.S. Foster-Care system. Adopt Abroad Inc. wishes to help these children find their forever families.

As a full-service, licensed adoption agency, our families can register with the various adoption exchanges and networks. This is of special interest to Americans living abroad, who seek to adopt. Previously, without the help of a licensed agency, adopting U.S. waiting children was difficult at best. U.S. child placing agencies are willing to work with an agency because they are ensured of licensing and post placement services.

The foster care adoption program requires a joint effort between the agency and the adoptive family. Adopt Abroad's social workers will help advise you on the programs and give you a realistic overview about foster care adoptions. Our workers will perform your home study and be there for the required post placement services.

Waiting children are of all ages and races. There are many sibling groups looking for forever families as well. Most states offer some benefit packages to help with the costs associated with raising children. Our clinical staff will help you with this.

Adopt Abroad's Waiting Children

Adopt Abroad, Inc. has the opportunity to help assist waiting children from different countries find forever families. For a full list of the countries Adopt Abroad, Inc. works with that have a waiting children list and the children that are waiting please visit our website at: www.adopt-abroad.com

Additional Adoption Information Adoption Risks

International adoption is unpredictable at best. There may be circumstances that are out of Adopt Abroad's control that can prevent a successful adoption. These circumstances may include, but are not limited to, changes in the laws in the child's country of origin, changes in the laws of the United States, changes in the adoption process or other intercountry diplomatic issues. Should there be changes during your adoption process that prevents a successful adoption, Adopt Abroad, Inc. cannot guarantee that the family will receive a refund for payments made during the process.

There are certain health and medical risks that adoptive families will assume in pursuing international adoption. Children adopted internationally will certainly have some type of mental, physical and emotional developmental delays. Depending upon the country or particular region in the country, medical information will be limited. Adopt Abroad's in country facilitators will do whatever is possible to obtain accurate and up-to-date medical information, but we can make no guarantees.

The Adoption Process

There are many outside factors that affect your adoption experience and each family will have a different experience. Flexibility and patience throughout the entire process are going to be very important in having a good adoption experience. Adopt Abroad families may face additional challenges based on their location; Adopt Abroad is positioned to assist our families with their unique challenges. Our staff will do everything possible to make the experience as seamless as possible. We look forward to assisting you with your adoption!