

A letter from Laura K- Korea 03/13

I am a recent adoptive mom and am writing to give Dr. Albers and Adopt Abroad my highest recommendation.

Two years ago, my husband and I decided we wanted to adopt a child from the U.S. foster care system. We were both serving on active duty at the time though, and were stationed overseas in Seoul, South Korea. Due to our overseas location, it didn't seem possible to adopt from the foster care system.

Through our research, though, we found out about Adopt Abroad and the work they do for U.S. military and civilian families who are stationed/living abroad. Adopting from Korea seemed like an improbable and impossible task, but we decided to sign up with Adopt Abroad and try. Shortly after signing up with her agency, Dr. Albers arranged for an American, U.S.licensed social worker who was living and working in Seoul to do our homestudy. The social worker spent several months getting to know our family, and did a fantastic job on our homestudy report. Part of his report highlighted the many things we had to offer a waiting child despite our overseas location.

Once the homestudy was done, we began the matching process. We did this primarily by reading about various waiting children on the AdoptUsKids.org website, contacting their social workers, and sending the social workers our homestudy and adoption agency's information for followup.

Dr. Albers and her staff at Adopt Abroad were very helpful throughout this phase. Dr. Albers personally attended matching meetings with us via Skype (my husband and I attended from Korea via Skype as well), advocated for our family, and had concrete answers to the logistical questions many caseworkers asked regarding how an overseas placement might work.

Six months after our homestudy was completed, my husband and I were selected as a pre-adoptive placement for a very sweet, very smart boy in Missouri who would eventually become our son. A month after being selected, my husband and I flew to Missouri to spend time with him. Our twoweek visit went so well that the his adoption team and the family court judge placed him with us immediately, and he returned to Korea with us to start the required six months waiting period before finalization can occur.

Dr. Albers and her staff worked with our son's state CPS/adoption workers and helped them with logistical and administrative aspects of the placement. She also arranged for a U.S.-licensed social worker to do the required monthly postplacement visits here in Seoul during the six months between placement and finalization.

Six months after our son was placed with us in a preadoptive status, we finalized his adoption. The family court judge in Missouri permitted us to appear in court for the finalization hearing from Korea (via Skype), saving us money and a very long trip from Seoul to Missouri and back.

From start to finish, Dr. Albers and her staff at Adopt Abroad were there for us. They promptly returned emails and phone calls, and guided us every step of the way. Dr. Albers knows her stuff, and did a fantastic job advocating for us when state/county social workers were reluctant to consider us due to our overseas location. She was also able to refer them to other state and county workers in their state who had worked with her on prior overseas placements, which helped.

If you are a military or expat family living overseas, who is considering adoption and looking for an agency specializing in helping these types of families to adopt, I recommend contacting Adopt Abroad to explore your options. I am so thankful that I did.

Should you have questions or want more information about our experience with Adopt Abroad, please contact Dr. Albers, who can provide my direct contact information.