

Adopting From China

An Overview of the Process

Phases	Primary Steps	Additional Notes
Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inquire with COTW • Introductory Emails and Phone Calls with Program Director 	<p>A senior member of the COTW staff will conduct several conversations (email and phone) to determine if eligible to adopt from China, based on CCCWA requirements.</p> <p><i>*CCCWA is the Chinese Adoption Central Authority</i></p>
Application Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Director Approval to Begin • Application and Disclosures 	<p>Once you are approved to move forward, the China Program Manager, MaryBeth Rouse, will provide you with your first steps and initial paperwork.</p>
Home Study	<p><i>Home Study Process:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile Home Study Materials • Meet with Social Worker • Home Visit • Adoption Education • Home Study Report Finalization <p><i>*The home study process can take an avg of 3-4 months - largely depends on how quickly applicants gather required materials.</i></p>	<p><i>Alabama Clients</i> – COTW will guide you through process and complete your home study report</p> <p><i>Non-Alabama Clients</i> – COTW will assist in finding a licensed home study agency in your state to complete your report</p> <p><i>Adoption Education</i> - minimum of 12 hours of Hague Approved adoption education, in addition to supplemental preparation required by COTW and possibly your home study agency.</p>
Immigration Phase I (i 800 a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i800a Application Submitted to USCIS • Biometric Fingerprint Appointment • i800a Approval from USCIS <p><i>*USCIS MUST be notified of ANY household changes made after submitting application / approval (ex: move, change jobs, birth, divorce, marriage, another adult moves in – even if temporary)</i></p>	<p>COTW will largely complete this process, and provide instructions for any steps that must be completed by the applicant.</p> <p>A copy of your approved home study report will be sent (along with supporting documents) for review by USCIS.</p> <p>USCIS will send you notification, by mail, of your fingerprint appointment – day/time/location.</p>
Dossier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather and Submit Documents • Authentication • Authenticated Dossier is Sent to China Facilitator • Authenticated Dossier is Submitted to CCCWA • Receive Letter of Acceptance (LOA) 	<p>You will be provided with a VERY detailed list of requirements for your China Dossier. The average dossier contains 12 documents that must be fully authenticated.</p> <p>COTW will authenticate your dossier – county certification, state certification, DOS authentication, and Chinese Embassy authentication.</p> <p>Once the dossier has been submitted, CCCWA may request additional documents.</p>

<p>Referral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Needs Research & Discussion • Potential Referral Identified • Referral Review • Acceptance • Receive / Return Acceptance Letters from CCCWA (LOA) <p>*China still requires an accept or decline decision be made within 72 hrs of a referral being identified and “locked” for an applicant.</p>	<p>Prior to this phase, you will have been provided with a list of common special needs to research and discuss.</p> <p>COTW China Program Manager, MaryBeth Rouse, will interview you again at this time to be sure which special needs you are willing to consider.</p> <p>Potential referrals are 1st sent to our preferred pediatrician for initial feedback. If feedback is positive, the referral and all medical information is shared with you for consideration.</p> <p>You will be asked to immediately submit the referral information to an adoption clinic (we recommend UAB) for thorough feedback to base your decision on.</p> <p>COTW will guide you through the official acceptance procedures once your determination is made.</p>
<p>Immigration Phase II (i 800 and DS260)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i 800 Application Submitted • i 800 Provisional Approval • Case Transfer (National Visa Center) • DS260 Process (Child’s Visa Application) 	<p>Like the (i 800 a) process, COTW will largely complete the (i 800) process.</p> <p>After provisional approval from USCIS, your case is transferred to the <i>National Visa Center</i> and then to <i>US Department of State in Guangzhou, China</i>.</p> <p>COTW will complete the DS260 process</p>
<p>Article 5 and Travel Invitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 5 Packet Sent • Article 5 is Issued • CCCWA Issues Travel Invitation • Travel Date is Set • COTW Makes In-County Appointments 	<p>Packet of original documents needed for Article 5 are delivered to US Consulate in Guangzhou, China.</p> <p>After Article 5 is issued, CCCWA will issue their Travel Invitation. This will determine travel date.</p>
<p>Travel</p>	<p><i>First Week – In Child’s Province</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gotcha Day • Orphanage Visit • Adoption Finalization • Receive Child’s Passport <p><i>Second Week – Guangzhou, China</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Appointment • Consulate Appointment • Receive Child’s Visa 	<p>COTW will provide you with sources to book your flights.</p> <p>Our China Facilitator will book all hotel and sight-seeing reservations.</p> <p>*Before this phase you will have been invited to attend one of our travel preparation workshops – in addition to receiving travel preparation guides.</p>
<p>Post Adoption</p>	<p>Welcome Home!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Re-Adoption in Your State • Post Adoption Reporting (PAR) (6m, 12m, 24m, 3yr, 4yr, 5yr) 	<p>Though not always required, it is HIGHLY recommended that you re-adopt in your state. Adoption attorneys are very helpful in this process.</p> <p>PARs are completed by your social worker at 6m, 12m, & 24m.</p> <p>Self-Completed PARs are due at 3yr, 4yr, & 5yr.</p>

