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Great Wall
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美國華爾領養中心

Post Adoption Guide

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Welcome Letter

Dear *Great Wall China Adoption* Families,

Welcome home and congratulations on your “new addition”!

This packet is designed to be your guide through this fun and exciting time. Included is information and resources for post adoption issues such as recommended medical tests, legal resources, and support groups. It also includes guidelines for the six (6) post adoption reports your family must complete over the course of five (5) years after the adoption date.

Here is some information on the resources enclosed:

1. Recommended Medical Tests and Doctors

Several medical experts with experience in international adoption provided a list of recommended tests for your child. I recommend bringing this list along with you to your child’s first pediatrician visit.

2. Legal Issues

I have included very basic information about the various legal matters that your family may come across. I strongly encourage you to research your local laws and procedures because every state and county has different rules involving international adoption. I have also included a list of attorneys who have been referred by *Great Wall* families to assist you through the legal process.

3. Post Adoption Information

The China Center for Children’s Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) requires that six (6) post adoption reports be completed for each child adopted from China. A Hague Accredited or COA Accredited Agency must complete a report one (1), six (6) and twelve (12) months and two (2), three (3) and five (5) years after your adoption finalization day (day after the “Family Day”). An outline for the reports is included with this packet. It is very important that these reports are turned in on time with the required eight (8) photos and any supplemental documents. Failure to complete these reports will result in the Non-compliant Post Adoption Policy being enforced. A copy of the policy is included in this packet.

4. Other Helpful Resources

I have compiled an array of resources that may be helpful to you in this post adoption phase. Translations services, support groups, and even charity opportunities are all included as a way to ease your transition of a new family member.

Great Wall China Adoption has been very proud to be a part of your adoption journey. On behalf of the agency, I would like to thank you for your trust and patience. Please feel free to contact us anytime with your questions.

The Post Adoption Team
Great Wall China Adoption

Recommended Screening Tests

You should have your child have a check up as soon as possible upon their arrival in the U.S. to be sure that your child is healthy and any medical issues are addressed immediately.

It is important that your child's health be monitored during the critical first year. Expect to see your pediatrician frequently during the first year. Several experts recommend you follow the same schedule of doctor visits as you would with a newborn. Take the following recommended screening tests to your child's pediatrician, who will work out a schedule for the tests. These tests are not required, but they are strongly recommended. Please consult with your insurance company before tests are conducted to determine if they will be covered.

- Complete blood count and differential, platelet count, and erythrocyte indices
- Urinalysis
- Hepatitis B profile, to include hepatitis B surface antigen and antibodies to hepatitis B surface and core antigens. (If positive for hepatitis B surface antigen, child was evaluated for the presence of hepatitis B antigen, transaminase evaluation and hepatitis D serology.)
- Hepatitis C antibody test
- RPR or VDRL
- HIV-1 antibody test for all children and HIV-1 culture or PCR for infants under 15 months of age.
- Lead level testing (for all children regardless of age)
- Standard tests for newborns
- Thyroid function tests (if not included in newborn screen)
- Stool for ova and parasites. (If symptomatic, child also should also receive stool culture for salmonella, shigella, yersinia, and compylbacter.)
- Tuberculin skin test
- PPD (Mantoux) test
- Start immunizations. (If child is >2 years, may check titer first. Otherwise, repeat all series.)
- Hearing and vision screening
- Development assessment
- Hemoglobin electrophoresis and G6PD screening
- Dental screening

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has issued an informative brochure titled, "A Healthy Beginning: Important Information for Parents of Internationally Adopted Children." Should you wish to view the recommendations and tips of the AAP, feel free to check out this brochure at:

<http://www.aap.org/sections/adoption/healthtopic/BrochureEasy-to-read.pdf>.

Developmental Assessment Resources

Do not be alarmed if your child seems delayed in growth and development. It is very common for institutionalized children to be a little behind in hitting growth and developmental milestones. Usually the children catch up very quickly, but occasionally, it may be necessary to have your child assessed for developmental delays. I recommend consulting with your pediatrician and social worker, if you feel that assessment is needed. The following organizations assessment services for your child, if necessary.

Early Childhood Intervention is also a good resource for developmental assessment. They will conduct free assessments of children up to 3 years of age. The phone number is 800-628-5115, or you can access the website at www.eci.state.tx.us

For Non-Texas families: contact your local Easter Seals organization at 800-221-6827. Additionally, you may want to contact the Department of Social Services (or an agency of similar standing) in your home state. You may also go to www.nectas.unc.edu for information in each state. Your social worker may also have resources available.

Recommended Healthcare Providers

Here is a list of clinics and doctors specializing in international adoption healthcare as well as special needs health care (waiting child):

Alabama

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A well-known specialist in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and children adopted internationally. She has been evaluating children adopted internationally for over ten years, formerly at the University of Minnesota International Adoption Clinic.

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Information taken from the AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS at
<http://www.aap.org/>.

Legal Matters Once You Are Home

There are several legal issues to consider upon your return to the U.S. Most families will work towards the following goals when you return home: complete re-adoption or affirmation in their state, legally change their child's name, get a state-issued birth certificate, obtain a Certificate of Citizenship, get a Social Security card, get a passport, and apply for an adoption tax credit.

The type of visa your child entered the U.S. on will effect how you go about obtaining legal documents for your child. Below is a table to help determine which steps will need to be taken.

| | Visa Received | Re-adoption Required? | Certificate of Citizenship |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Both Spouses Travel | IR- 3 (non-Hague families)/ IH-3 (Hague families) Immediate Relative | Not required, but highly recommended | Mailed directly to family in about 45 days upon return (since Jan 2004) |
| Only One Spouse Travels | IR-4 (non-Hague families)/ IH-4 (Hague families) Permanent Resident | YES | Have to complete re-adoption, then apply for COC using N-600 |
| Single | IR-3/ IH-3 | Not required, but highly recommended | Mailed directly to family in about 45 days upon return (since Jan 2004) |
| Living Abroad | IR-3/ IH-3 or IR-4/ IH-4 Depends on who traveled to China. | Have to land on U.S soil within 6 months of placement. The child will need to be in the United States temporarily to complete naturalization processing. Re-adoption dependent upon visa | Will file the Form N-600K at any <u>USCIS District Office or Sub Office</u> in the United States. Family will need to travel to the United States to complete this application process. |
| Military | IR-3/ IH-3 or IR-4/ IH-4 Depends on who traveled to China. | Most bases are able to complete the re-adoption process on base | Special provision, in which the COC is provided (this to be confirmed by particular station/base) |

RE-ADOPTION/RE-AFFIRMATION:

During the adoption registration at the U.S. Consulate, the adopted child is eligible for two types of visas; the **IR3** visa and the **IR4** visa. When both parents are present when the adoption registration is finalized in the child's province, the child is given an **IR3** visa. If only one parent traveled to China the child was granted an **IR4** visa.

Please note: If you are a “Hague Family” (meaning that you filed the I-800A and received approval on form I-797C), then your child will travel to the US on an IH-3 visa or an IH-4 visa.

For Adoptive Parents whose child entered the U.S on an IR-4/ IH-4 Visa:

Do we have to Re-adopt? **YES!**

Please be aware that your child must be re-adopted in the U.S. before automatic citizenship can be fully granted and for you to apply for the Certificate of Citizenship. Since your child was only seen by one parent, she was only classified as a Permanent Resident not a citizen.

For Adoptive Parents whose child entered the U.S on an IR-3/ IH-3 Visa:

Do we have to Re-adopt? **NO, but it is highly recommended!**

According to USCIS regulations, if the child was seen by all adoptive parents prior to an overseas adoption and traveled home on an **IR3** visa, the foreign adoption is considered final and the child was classified as an Immediate Relative. Re-adoption/Recognition is not mandatory, and automatic citizenship applies as soon as the child enters the U.S (according to the Child Citizenship Act of 2000) All IR-3/ IH-3 Visa adoptions since January 2004 will receive the Certificate of Citizenship directly in the mail (within 45-60 days of U.S arrival).

We don't have to, but Should we? **If your State allows, Yes!**

If the child was issued an **IR-3/ IH-3** immigrant visa, you are not required **under Federal law** to readopt the child, although your **State adoption law may allow** you to do so. Some States automatically affirm or recognize the adoption from China without a legal court proceeding. It is very expensive, difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain duplicate copies of your child's Chinese documents. **Many couples choose to re-adopt in order to leave a legal paper trail in their state and to obtain documents in English that will legally protect their child in the future.** The following are reasons why families should re-adopt/affirm in the U.S.:

- **Name Change:** Your child's name is not necessarily legally changed when you get to the U.S., depending on if the proper paperwork is filed your child's "American" name will be considered a legal alias. When you do recognition in your state, you will have the opportunity to legally change your child's name. Most adoptive couples choose to change the child's Chinese name either in part or completely. A name change should be completed

before new adoption documents are created. This will ensure that the rest of the documents processed have your child's new legal name.

- **Birth Certificates:** A birth certificate in English will also be issued when your adoption is recognized. This may be needed for future documents, such as passports and school registration. Most states will not issue a U.S. birth certificate unless a re-adoption or affirmation is completed. We highly recommend that families obtain a US Birth Certificate for their child as it will show both the child's information (American name, DOB, place of birth) but it will also so that you are your child's legal parents.
- **Assurance of Validity:** When a re-adoption or affirmation is completed, the U.S. state courts issue an adoption decree. This decree provides some additional peace of mind and protection should China or other parties challenge the validity of the adoption of your child or adoptions from China in general. This will assure that your child is yours and has the same rights as a biological child under the law.

How do we Re-Adopt?

To re-adopt your child in the United States, depending on your local laws, you may need an attorney. The legal fees charged for a re-adoption are usually quite modest. It's important to look for an adoption attorney who specializes in international re-adoptions. Some states allow families to do the paperwork on their own. **Please check with your social worker and local county courthouse regarding your State laws on the re-adoption/recognition process.**

Overall, the re-adoption itself is a festive event. Judges often conduct the re-adoption in their chambers, with the whole family invited to participate and take photos. Re-adoption day is yet another reason to celebrate on your international adoption journey

On the next page you will find a list of recommended attorneys by state. These attorneys have all been referred to us by *Great Wall* families or are adoptive parents themselves.

You can also go to the website of <http://www.adoptionattorneys.org/>

Special information for California Families: We have recently learned that an All County Letter (ACL) was issued for the entire State of California which confirms that an international adoption from any Hague country qualifies for a streamlined re-adoption procedure. This is an improvement from the original legislation, which only recognized adoptions from a few select countries as qualifying for streamlined re-adoption. For more information on this process, please talk with your legal representative.

Recommended Attorneys

The following attorneys have been recommended by *Great Wall* clients to handle re-adoption and other post adoption matters.

Texas:

Rick Kennon

Austin, Texas
P: 512-472- 2431

Ruth Laseski

Bellaire, Texas
P: 713-663-6714

Lonnie Hank Robin

Fort Worth, Texas
P: 817-870-1450

Debra E. Hunt

Houston, Texas
P: 713-522-4282
F: 713-522-9604

Jana Olson Baker

San Antonio, Texas
P: 210-525-0640
F: 210-525-8062

Mary Kay Reed

Houston, Texas
P: 713-984-2733
F: 713-461-1954

Sharon Ramage

Frisco, Texas
P: 972-562-9890
E: smramage@attbi.com

Michelle Sharp

Temple, Texas
P: 254-780-9370

Susan Paquet

Weatherford and Fort Worth, Texas
P: 817-596-3337
F: 817-599-0822

Daniel & Harrison, PLLC

Terri Daniel (*adoptive parent*)

McKinney, Texas
P: 972-984-1332
F: 972-984-1344
Tdaniellaw@aol.com

Daniel & Harrison, PLLC

Terri Daniel

Allen, Texas
P: 469-519-1023
F: 214-495-7740
Tdaniellaw@aol.com

Kimberly Sumrow

(International Adoption Attorney & Adoptive Parent)
6605 Park Lane
Dallas, Texas 75225
(214) 361-7367 (telephone)
(214) 403-4003 (cell)
E-Mail: ksumrow@aol.com

Florida:

Randy Sterns

Tampa, Florida
P: 813-224-9255

Paul Consbruck

(Travels the entire state & adoptive parent)
Jacksonville, Florida
P: 904-436-6102
P: 904-626-1084
www.adoptfla.com
paul@adoptfla.com

Georgia:

Irene Steffas

Roswell, Georgia

Adoption finalization GA only; immigration and inter-country adoptions worldwide

P: 770-642-6075

F: 770-587-3475

E: ISTeffas@mindspring.com

New Jersey:**Donald Cofsky**

Haddonfield, New Jersey

P: 856-429-5005

F: 856-429-6328

www.209law.com

Pennsylvania:**Robert Marks** *(for the state of Pennsylvania)*

P: 570-275-3541

F: 570-275-3759

Rmarks3677@aol.com

Mary Ann Petrillo

Victorian Common

Irwin, Pennsylvania 15642

P: 724-861-1833

F: 724-861-9594

Mellon, Webster, & Shelly

Samuel C. Totaro

87 N. Broad St.

Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901

P: (215) 348-7700

Toll Free: 800-348-7705

STotaro@MellonWebster.com

Sarah E. Davies *(Adoptive Parent)*

Cozen O'Connor

1900 Market Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

P: (215) 665-2768

F: (215) 701-2468

sdavies@cozen.com

West Virginia:**Dave Barnett** *(adoptive parent)*

Charleston, West Virginia

P: 304-340-1000

All 50 states and overseas:

Irene Steffas *(adoption and immigration)*

P: 770-642-6075

F: 770-587-3475

E: ISTeffas@mindspring.com

You can also go to the website of <http://www.adoptionattorneys.org/>

For families that we do not have references for yet this will really help you. This is a national association of attorneys that practice or have distinguished regards in the field of adoption. You can access this link to find an attorney in your area

http://www2.adoptionattorneys.org/directory_map.asp

Post Adoption Services include: Re-adoption, wills, guardianship designations and powers of attorney. For non-Texas families, if you have an adoption attorney you want to recommend, please email the attorney's name and contact information to your Post Adoption Counselor. We are building a database of nationwide adoption attorneys. Thank you!

OBTAINING OTHER U.S DOCUMENTS

Certificate of Citizenship:

For children entering the U.S on an **IR3** visa after January 20, 2004, their Citizenship is automatic and the Certificate of Citizenship is directly mailed to the family, within 45-60 days of entry. ***Your child will not receive a Permanent Resident Card.***

For children who traveled on an **IR4** visa or were adopted between February 2001 and January 2004 you will need to apply for the Certificate of Citizenship using the N-600. It is very important for you to obtain a Certificate of Citizenship for your child.

The *Child Citizenship Act of 2000* states that once you bring your child to the U.S. he or she is considered a citizen. It does not however, give you any proof of citizenship. The following are reasons why you must receive a Certificate of Citizenship:

- Many Social Security Offices will not classify your child as a citizen without proof of citizenship. This becomes important in the unfortunate event that your child must file a claim for your Social Security benefits.
 - It is a document that is issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.
 - It does not expire and may be useful in the future for legal matters.
- To get more information about the Certificate of Citizenship, please go to:
<http://www.immigration.gov>
- If you have not received the COC past the 45 days allotted, you can inquire about your status by calling 1-800-375-5283.
- More Child Citizenship Information
USCIS is working to update its processes to implement the Child Citizenship Act and decrease the time it takes for children to obtain their Certificates of Citizenship. There is new information at the following website: <http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/natz/citizen.htm>

Specifically, there are documents posted under the "Children and Citizenship" header. They are entitled:

- Child Citizenship Act Program Update
- Information for Adoptive Parents with Children Residing Abroad
- Information for Adoptive Parents of Foreign-Born Children Residing in the U.S.
- Information for Parents of Foreign-Born Biological Children Residing in the U.S.

"CHILD CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 2000"

The following was issued by the U.S. Department of State on February 26, 2001. This is information about the Child Citizenship Act that enables children adopted internationally to become automatic U.S. Citizens upon arrival in the United States. Updated information is occasionally posted on the CIS website, located at: www.uscis.gov. This website refers to procedures for receiving certificates and other pertinent information regarding Citizenship.

The *Child Citizenship Act of 2000* became effective on Tuesday, February 27, 2001. This law, which had the strong support of the Department of State, greatly streamlines the process by which foreign-born children of U.S. citizen parents can become U.S. citizens when they did not acquire citizenship at birth. The Child Citizenship Act, which applies to both adopted and biological children of U.S. citizens, amends Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA") to provide for the automatic acquisition of U.S. citizenship when certain conditions have been met. Specifically, these conditions are:

1. One parent is a U.S. citizen by birth or through naturalization
2. The child is under the age of 18
3. The child is residing in the United States as a lawful permanent resident alien and is in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent
4. If the child is adopted, the adoption must be final

Under the previous law, internationally adopted children of a U.S. citizen did not automatically become citizens upon their admission into the United States as immigrants. Parents of these children were compelled, after having already completed the rigorous immigrant visa process, to apply to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for a Certificate of Citizenship. This process could take months, if not years.

Similarly, some foreign-born biological children of U.S. citizen parents were unable to acquire U.S. citizenship at birth because their parents did not meet the legal requirements for transmission of citizenship. While the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 does not alter these transmission requirements, it does provide for the automatic conferral of U.S. citizenship on these children once the first three criteria listed above have been met.

Children under age 18 who have already fulfilled the above four conditions will acquire U.S. citizenship automatically on February 27, 2001. Children who have not yet fulfilled these conditions will acquire U.S. citizenship on the day the last of these criteria has been met, provided the child is still under 18 at the time.

This new law is important not only because it eases the process the U.S. citizen parent must go through in order to gain U.S. citizenship for his/her foreign-born child, but also because it seeks to address the problem faced by families when a foreign-born child becomes subject to removal from the United States. Under prior law, foreign-born adopted children, in particular, could be subject to removal if they did not acquire U.S. citizenship after being brought to the United States - even if they had lived since infancy in the United States. While this Act will not remedy past cases in which such children were deported, it will ensure that this unfortunate possibility will be eliminated for most non-citizen adopted children under the age of 18 and all non-citizen children adopted by U.S. citizens into a household in the U.S. in the future.

February 27, 2001, some 75,000 children already residing in the United States with their U.S. citizen parents will automatically become U.S. citizens with the entry into effect of this Act. Thousands more children will automatically become U.S. citizens every year as they enter the United States with their U.S. adoptive parents.

U.S. Proof of Citizenship

The *Child Citizenship Act of 2000* became effective on February 27, 2001. Beginning on that date, **certain, not all**, foreign-born children – including adopted children – currently residing in the U.S. acquired citizenship automatically. These children immigrated to the U.S. under an IR-3 visa. Since that time, all children arriving in the U.S. under an IR-3 visa are automatically U.S. citizens the moment they pass through Immigration. If your child arrived in the U.S. under an IR-4 visa (meaning that the single parent or both parents did not physically see the child before the adoption), then U.S. Citizenship **was not** granted (this also applies to any child who immigrated before February 27, 2001, under an IR-4 visa). In order for your child to become a U.S. citizen, he or she must be readopted in your home state.

On March 1, 2003, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (“INS”) began reporting to the Department of Homeland Security and its name was changed to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (“BCIS”).

If your child entered the U.S. on an IH-4/ IR-4 Visa, and you completed the re-adoption process, in which citizenship is granted, you still need to obtain **proof of citizenship** for your child. CIS revised the citizenship process and now requires parents to file Form N-600 in order for an adopted child to receive a Certificate of Citizenship. You, as the child’s parent (one or both of whom are U.S. citizens), must file CIS Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, (<http://uscis.gov>) on behalf of your child.

If your child entered the U.S. on an IH-3/ IR-3 Visa after January 20, 2004, your child received automatic citizenship. His/Her Certificate of Citizenship will be mailed directly to you within 45-60 days of arrival, instead of receiving a Permanent Resident Card. *If your child was adopted between February 2001 and January 2004 you will need to apply for the Certificate of Citizenship using the N-600.*

For Adoptive Parents with Children Residing Abroad, the U.S. citizen parent must still apply for naturalization on behalf of the child (using N-600K). The naturalization process for such a child cannot take place overseas. The child will need to be in the United States temporarily to complete naturalization processing and take the oath of allegiance. **For Military Citizens abroad, there is a special provision that may automatically provide the Certificate of Citizenship to your child.**

To view the requirements and guidelines for families abroad, please visit http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/natz/residing_abroad.htm

In addition, you should be aware that the 1996 Immigration and Naturalization Act included, among other things, a provision requiring automatic deportation of non-citizen immigrants who are convicted of a felony charge. This means that an adopted child, arriving on an IR-4 visa, of U.S. citizens who fail to get the child U.S. citizenship by the time he or she is 18 years old, could be sent back to his or her country of origin following any felony conviction.

OBTAINING OTHER U.S DOCUMENTS continued...

Social Security Card:

To apply for a Social Security card you will need to have received your child's Certificate of Citizenship or and locate a Social Security office near you. I strongly advise you to go directly to the Social Security office instead of mailing anything in.

If your child traveled on and **IH-3/ IR-3** visa, the Social Security office may already have your child's number assigned from the paperwork you completed from the brown envelope in China, or they may not. In any case, you will only have to fill out the short application and show them the Certificate of Citizenship, foreign adoption decree, Chinese Certificate of Birth and and/or State recognition of Birth, and your own personal identification. It is always better to call your local Social Security office and ask them specifically what forms or documents they will want you to show, as they all can be different. **Many Social Security offices will classify your child as an "alien" if you do not have proof of their citizenship so please wait to obtain the social security card until you receive the Certificate of Citizenship.**

If your child traveled on an **IH-4/ IR-4** visa you can apply for a social security card (according to the social security website) before you receive you complete a readoption and receive his/her Certificate of Citizenship, however it will be issued when he/she classified as a Permanent Resident only. Also, some social security offices are allowing families to apply until the child receives the certificate of citizenship. If the office does issue the card, it will be issued in your child's Chinese name. Once you complete the readoption and obtain the Certificate of Citizenship, you can then have the Social Security card reissued with the citizenship status and new English name.

For a Social Security office near you and the current application form including instructions: www.ssa.gov.

Additionally on the Social Security website there is a section that has frequently asked questions about obtaining a social security card for a child that was adopted through an international adoption. I have listed some of this information below.

To apply for a Social Security number for your child:

- Complete an Application For A Social Security Card (Form SS-5); and
- Provide documents proving the child's:
 - U.S. citizenship;
 - Age; and
 - Identity.
- Provide documentation proving parents' identity.
- Provide completed application and documents to your local Social Security office.

All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. The Social Security office will probably not accept photo copies of documents. The office will ask to see the documents; however they should not keep any of the documents from China or the Certificate of Citizenship. Do not allow them to keep the documents either!

Please note that the adoption decree (issued in a foreign country or the U.S.) or a birth certificate is **not** proof of U.S. citizenship for a foreign-born child. Proof of U.S. citizenship should be obtained (Certificate of Citizenship) before applying for a Social Security Card.

The Social Security Office will need evidence that establishes the parental relationship to the child if the adoptive parents' names are not listed as the parent on the child's evidence of age (Chinese Certificate of Birth). The adoption decree or an amended U.S. birth certificate will suffice.

The Social Security Office will mail your child's number and card as soon as it has verified your documents with the issuing offices.

Some of this information that is listed is different for each social security office. I would also recommend contacting your local social security office for verification of this information.

U.S Passport:

To obtain a passport you should collect all of the following documents:

- Certificate of Citizenship
- Child's Chinese passport with visa stamp.
- The child's Adoption Decree. This will be the foreign decree issued in China; you will need the translation or the domestic decree if you have readopted/recognized your child in the U.S. **If the child's "American" name is not on his/her foreign paperwork and you have not gone through a re-adoption and/or legal name change in the U.S., the U.S. passport will be issued in your child's Chinese name**
- Proof of a parent's identity
- Proof of a parent's U.S. citizenship

To find an application location near you: www.travel.state.gov

Before you decide to travel out of the country, you will need to receive a U.S. passport for you child. Do not attempt to have your child travel on his/her Chinese passport after your child has gone through U.S. immigration and become a U.S. citizen. Your child may not be allowed back into the U.S. after traveling on the Chinese passport once they become a citizen.

Adoption Tax Credit:

You may be able to take a tax credit for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child. You will be able to claim the adoption benefits in the year that the adoption is finalized (re-adoption completed). To process the adoption benefits, you will be required to fill out several forms.

You can access these forms on the www.irs.gov website. Contact #: 1-800-829-1040

Also, if your employer provides adoption assistance, up to the allotted amount for the tax credit that has been paid or reimbursed by the employer may be excludable from your gross income.

For more details on the Adoption Tax Credit, please refer to the IRS website or your tax professional.

Taking your Chinese-born child to China for the first time:

The first time you wish to bring your Chinese-born children back to China, you might need to provide the Chinese Consulate with the child's Chinese Passport in order to receive a visa for the child. Chinese Consulates require that any child born in China must submit their Chinese Passport along with their U.S. Passport when applying for their first visa for China. The Chinese Passport is returned to you with the corner of it clipped to invalidate it. It is not necessary to submit the Chinese Passport when applying for subsequent visas to China. The child will have to have a valid U.S. passport and Certificate of Citizenship to be able to travel to China.

Please check with the Chinese Consulate for your state for verification of their policies.

Post Adoption Report Requirements

Great Wall China Adoption

These guidelines are applicable for all families with Travel Approval issued by China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) on or after August 1, 2011. Please read and follow these guidelines in full to assure all requirements are met. The additional requirements for a few of the reports are listed below the general outline... Please review all requirements explained below.

GENERAL:

The China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) requires that six (6) Post Adoption Reports be completed over the course of five (5) years after the adoption process. The timing for these reports include: one (1) month, six (6) months, twelve (12) months, two (2) years, three (3) years, and five (5) years after adoption finalization date. The adoption finalization date is considered the day after "Family Day".

If a child was near the age of fourteen (14) years at the time of adoption, the Post Adoption Reports should be prepared according to the timing requirements until the child turns eighteen (18) years of age.

Families who have adopted two children (except twins) must submit separate reports, supplemental documents and photos for each child.

In addition, all Post Adoption Reports must be completed by a Hague Accredited or COA Accredited Agency. (((For a list of Hague and COA accredited agencies, please view the following links:

http://adoption.state.gov/hague_convention/agency_accreditation/agency_search.php and [Eight \(8\) photos are required to be included with each Post Adoptions Report. The CCCWA asks that these photos reflect the adoptee's life, family members, activities, etc. One photo must include the adoptive child and adoptive parents together and it is preferred that one photo be a photo showing all household members together.](http://www.coanet.org/front3/page.cfm?sect=7&showState=USA&ctry=3892.)))</p></div><div data-bbox=)

All photos must be attached to full sheets of 8 1/2 in. X 11 in. sized paper. The CCCWA prefers these photos to be attached as two photos per page. Below each photo, the date of the picture, the location of the photo, and the identity of the persons in the photo must be listed. Black-and-white photos or photos typed on paper are not accepted by CCCWA. Please make sure all photos submitted are appropriate (children fully clothed, children in safe situations, children not crying, etc.) We will be unable to consider a report complete until all requirements for photos are fulfilled.

In the sad and very unlikely event that a family decides to dissolve the adoption (and find a new family for their child) once returning to the US, the child is seriously injured or found to have been abused, or there is any other serious incident regarding the child, the family and social worker must inform *Great Wall* immediately. These updates on the children must be provided to the CCCWA as soon as possible.

All six Post Adoption Reports **MUST INCLUDE ALL INFORMATION** from the outline (including supplementary documents) and include the required eight (8) photos.

FAMILIES:

It is your responsibility to schedule home visits with your social worker. It is your responsibility to make sure that the reports are submitted and received by *Great Wall* in a timely manner. Great Wall will provide reminders beginning 2 months before the report is due (except for the one month report), but you should not rely solely on these reminders. Keep in mind, the return of a family's Post Adoption Deposit is dependent on the timely arrival of your Post Adoption Report which meets all CCCWA requirements, including photos. Please refer to your GWCA Adoption Agreement (including the Supplement Service Agreement) for more information on the Post Adoption Deposit.

Please be prepared for the home visit. Look over the requirements and have the information needed readily available. Also, have the photos and any required supplemental documents ready at the time of the home visit. This will help the social worker to get the reports to *Great Wall* on time.

We **HIGHLY** recommend using the outline provided below, but your social worker does not have to format the report according to the outline. **ALL INFORMATION LISTED IN THE OUTLINE MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.**

SOCIAL WORKERS:

It is important to send two (2) copies of the report to *Great Wall*. One report must be a signed original and the other may be a photo copy. *(Please note: If Great Wall must make the 2nd copy of the report, we will do so at a \$25 charge to the family for processing.)* The reports do not need to be notarized unless individual state guidelines require it. Please make sure to include **BOTH** the date of the report as well as the date of the home visit with the family.

Below, please find a full list of the requirements for each report. There are particular items which must be included for each report. It is imperative that all guidelines are met for each report as we will not send incomplete Post Adoption Reports to China.

Post Adoption reports MUST be reviewed and approved by *Great Wall* staff prior to the finalization and submission of the hard copy report. Any reports which are not found to meet all requirements of the CCCWA will not be sent to China, and will be held until all revisions are complete. It is in everyone's best interest to have the report drafts reviewed by email prior to submission to *Great Wall*. Please email report drafts to jessa@gwca.org for review.

When all documents, including the approved Post Adoption Report, supplemental documents, and required photos are ready, please mail the package to:

**Post Adoption Counselor
Great Wall China Adoption
248 Addie Roy Rd. Suite A102
Austin TX 78746**

Post Adoption Report Content Guidelines:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ADOPTIVE FAMILY & CHILD

- A. Travel Approval (TA) Document Number: (“Notice of Coming to China for Adoption”)
Example: (2011) MG-1234-56-7890
- B. Information about the Adoptive Child:
 - i. Given Chinese name
 - ii. Date of Birth
 - iii. Current adopted name
 - iv. Health Status at adoption (either state “healthy” or “special needs”). If the child was diagnosed as having a special need, please provide the child’s diagnosis. *Ex. Special Needs- Hydrocephalus*
- C. Information about the Adoptive Family:
 - i. Adoptive parent(s) name(s)
 - ii. Current profession of adoptive parents
 - iii. Current family contact information (including address, phone numbers, and email address)
- D. Information about the Adoption:
 - i. Name of agency which processed the adoption (*Great Wall*)
 - ii. Name of the Social Welfare Institute (orphanage)
 - iii. Date the parents travel for adoption trip. This includes the date they left for China and date they returned from China.
 - iv. Date of finalization of adoption (considered the day after “Family Day”)
 - v. Date of naturalization of child (considered the date the family pass through the immigration office at the airport during their return trip)
 - vi. Nationality of adopted child (This is the citizenship status of the child: either say “Naturalized United States Citizen (IR-3)” or “In Process of Obtaining US Citizenship (IR-4)”)
- E. Information about the Post-Adoption (PA) Report
 - i. Sequence of this report (1 month, 6 month, 12 month, 2 year, 3 year, 5 year)
 - ii. Name of the organization submitting the PA report
 - iii. Name of the social worker completing the PA report
 - iv. Date of the visit by the social worker
 - v. Date the PA report is written up and signed
 - vi. Who was present for the visit
 - vii. Duration of the visit
 - viii. Any additional observations requiring notation

II. REPORT CONTENT

- A. Health & Physical Development Status:
 - i. Adoptee’s height, weight and head circumference at adoption
 - ii. Adoptee’s current height, weight and head circumference
 - iii. Treatments for any special needs listed in the child’s medical report in their referral documentation
 - iv. Child’s gross and fine motor skill abilities
 - v. Physical stamina
 - vi. Current status of immunizations
 - vii. Treatment and rehabilitation of newly occurred diseases
- B. Routine Activities:
 - i. Diet
 - ii. Playtime
 - iii. School schedule

- iv. Sleep schedule
- C. Attachment & Bonding Situation:
 - i. Status of the adoptee's integration with his/her parents and siblings- provide observations and examples
 - ii. Status of integration with other extended family, friends, community, etc
 - iii. Adjustments in the work and life of the adoptive parents.
 - iv. Particular details should be provided if the family has adopted a child over age 3.
- D. Mental Development:
 - i. Mental/Intellectual Development
 - ii. Language Development (English Comprehension and Vocabulary)
 - iii. Provide details and clear insight on child's development.
- E. Character Development:
 - i. Psychology
 - ii. Personality Characteristics (give examples)
 - iii. Provide details and clear insight on child's development.
- F. Education/ Child Care Situation:
 - i. Insight on the type of education/child care the child is receiving (at home, preschool, school name, grade in school, etc)
 - ii. Types of educational activities the family does together.
 - iii. Progress in education setting and their adjustment to the educational environment
- G. Family's Impression:
 - i. Understanding and view toward the adoption by the adoptive parents, other adults in the home and other relatives.
- H. Evaluation by the Community:
 - i. Participation in community activities
 - ii. Integration into the community setting
 - iii. Evaluations of the community and neighbors as to the success of the adoption and the relationships of the family
- I. Individual Social Worker Visit with Children 8 Years of Age or Older:
 - i. The purpose of this time is to obtain the child's feelings about their family and their feelings of safety in their new home and environment. There is no time requirement for this "meeting" but please make sure you are talking with the child long enough to get a read on their perceived safety and feelings about their family, home environment, etc.
 - ii. Asking open-ended questions like the following (and any others you deem appropriate) will help you to assess the feelings of the child. Some of these basic questions may help them to open up and share more information than a simple response. You must indicate your findings and assessment within the Post Adoption Report:
 - 1. What do you like about your parents?
 - 2. What do you like about your siblings (if applicable)?
 - 3. What are the activities you like to do with your family?
 - 4. What do you miss about China?
 - 5. What would you like to change about your adoptive family, home, etc?
 - 6. What do you like about school and your friends?
 - 7. What do you like about being adopted and living in the US?
- J. Major Changes in the Adoptive Family:
 - i. Insert any changes that have occurred in the adoptive home
 - ii. This would include, but is not limited to, changes in marital status, children in the home, economic status, residence, serious health problems
- K. Status of Naturalization of Adopted Child:
 - i. Plans for citizenship and/or re-adoption
 - ii. Provide details of what documents have been obtained, such as birth certificate, passport, Social Security, Certificate of Citizenship, etc.
 - iii. If the family is in the process of obtaining these items, please state this.

- L. Family's Authorization for CCCWA Publication:
 - i. Social Worker must report if the family authorizes CCCWA to use the family's report and photos for publications and publicity. You must state the decision of the family.
 - M. Miscellaneous Comments from Social Worker
 - i. Please report on any matters which the SW deems necessary to include
 - ii. Include any issues or concerns, recommended or provided referrals, how the SW has helped the family address any issues
 - N. Social Worker General Evaluation:
 - i. Provide a conclusion to the report and assessment of the home visit.
 - ii. SW's recommendation of the adoptive family and general evaluation regarding whether the adoption is successful
 - iii. Address if you would recommend that this adoption continue or what steps need to take place if you do not recommend the placement continue
- III. SOCIAL WORKER SIGNATURE/ HOME STUDY AGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS
- A. All Post Adoption Reports must be typed and printed on home study agency letterhead.
 - B. The report MUST include an original signature by the social worker AND the date the report was finalized/ signed.
 - C. Home Study Agency must include a photocopy of their agency license and Hague/COA Accreditation Letter
 - D. Social Worker must include a photocopy of their social worker license (if applicable)
- IV. REQUIRED PHOTOS
- A. Eight (8) photos are required to be included with each Post Adoptions Report.
 - B. Photos should be size 4X6 inches
 - C. Photos should reflect adoptee's life, family and activities.
 - D. One photo must include the adoptive child and adoptive parents together and it is preferred that one photo be a photo showing all household members together.
 - E. All photos must be attached to full sheets of 8 1/2 in. X 11 in. sized paper. There should be two photos per page.
 - F. Below each photo, the date of the picture, the location of the photo, and the identity of the persons in the photo must be listed.
 - G. Black-and-white photos or photos typed on paper are not accepted by CCCWA.
 - H. Please make sure all photos submitted are appropriate (children fully clothed, children in safe situations, children not crying, etc.)
 - I. We will be unable to consider a report complete until all requirements for photos are fulfilled.

In addition to the above guidelines for all reports, the following items must be included with specific reports:

1. Additional Requirements for 1 Month Report:
 - a. Report must focus on the initial integration of adoptee with adoptive family and adjustment of adoptee
 - b. Description of the adoption registration procedure in China, including family's impressions and feelings during the adoption process
 - c. Include how the adoption agency helped with the adjustment in the initial stage.
2. Required Supplemental Document for 12 Month Report:
 - a. Families who have adopted children through the Waiting Child (Special Needs) Program must complete the table "Feedback on the Special Needs Child"
 - b. Purpose is to elaborate on the implementation of medical rehabilitation and nurturing plan after the first year.
3. Required Supplemental Documents for 2 Year, 3 Year, and 5 Year Reports:
 - a. Medical checkup certificate of the adoptee provided by child's physician
 - b. Evaluation of the adoptee provided by child's school teacher (if applicable)
 - c. If the child is 10 years of age or older at the time of the report, a short essay written by the adoptee is required. The child should provide:
 - i. Description of his/her experience and growth in the adoptive family
 - ii. How he/she is doing in school
 - iii. How the child gets along with teachers, classmates, friends
 - iv. Anything additional the child would like to include

特殊需要儿童情况反馈表

FEED-BACK TABLE OF SPECIAL NEED CHILD

| | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| 儿童姓名： Child's Name : | 性别： Sex : | 出生日期： DOB : |
| 收养时健康状况： Health Status of Child When Joining Family: | | |
| 医疗康复与抚育计划实施情况： Rehabilitation and Nurture Process: | | |
| 目前生长发育情况： Recent Developmental Status: | | |

组织名称：
 Name of Organization:

填表日期：
 Filling Date:

被收养人身体健康检查证明
Medical Checkup Certificate of the Adoptee

| | |
|---|---|
| 姓名： 性别： 出生日期： 检查日期： Name: Sex: Date of birth: Date of checkup: | |
| 体格发育： 身高 (厘米) 体重 (公斤) Physical growth: Height: (cm) Weight: (kg) 营养状况评估： Nutritional Assessment: | 意见： Comment: 医生签字： Doctor's sig: |
| 肺部： Lungs: 腹部： 肝： 脾： Abdomen: Liver: Spleen: | 意见： Comment: 医生签字： Doctor's sig: |
| 心脏： 心率： 心律： Heart: Heart rate: Rhythm: 血压： 神经系统： 神经反射 Blood pressure: Nervous system: Nervous reflex: | 意见： Comment: 医生签字： Doctor's sig: |
| 脊柱正常： <input type="checkbox"/> 是 <input type="checkbox"/> 否 胸廓正常： <input type="checkbox"/> 是 <input type="checkbox"/> 否 Normal spine: Yes No Normal thorax ; Yes No 四肢正常： <input type="checkbox"/> 是 <input type="checkbox"/> 否 运动正常： <input type="checkbox"/> 是 <input type="checkbox"/> 否 Normal limbs: Yes No Normal motion: Yes No 皮肤正常： <input type="checkbox"/> 是 <input type="checkbox"/> 否 泌尿生殖系正常： <input type="checkbox"/> 是 <input type="checkbox"/> 否 Normal skin: Yes No Normal urinogenital system: Yes No | 意见： Comment: 医生签字： Doctor's sig: |
| 鼻子正常： <input type="checkbox"/> 是 <input type="checkbox"/> 否 Normal Nose: Yes No 咽喉： 口腔： 牙齿和牙龈： 龋齿： Throat ; Oral cavity: Teeth Dental caries: | 意见： Comment: 医生签字： Doctor's sig: |

Support Groups

Adoption is a wonderful way to add to your family; however it is very different from adding a family member by birth. I recommend that you become involved with a group in your area that can be supportive of your family situation. Here are just a few resources for support:

Families With Children From China (or FCC) is a national non-denominational organization with chapters in many cities that offer support for families adopting or who have adopted children from China. The purpose of FCC is to provide a network of support for families who've adopted in China and to provide information to prospective parents. You may obtain information about this organization by going to their website at www.fwcc.org

Our Chinese Daughters Foundation (or OCDF) is a non-profit foundation that supports families with children adopted from China. Established in 1995 and registered in the State of Illinois in 1996, Our Chinese Daughters Foundation supports adoptive families with the goal to help families with adopted children to increase the child's understanding of Chinese history and culture.

GWPP Yahoo Group is a Yahoo listserv run by *GWCA* to connect post adoption families. It is monitored by the Post Adoption Counselor at *GWCA*. It is a forum for *GWCA* families and the Post Adoption Counselor to post questions, tips, or have discussions. It is by invitation only and open only to *GWCA* post adoption families. If you would like to join please contact the Post Adoption Counselor.

Database of Parent Support Groups contains almost 900 adoption-related support groups from across the United States and Canada. You can search the database by state or province, or by the type of group or the group's activity. The search term field allows you to enter in any information you like: contact name, group name, city, activity, etc. The website for the database is: www.nacac.org/parentgroups/database.html

If you need assistance finding a support group in your area, please feel free to contact your post adoption counselor. We will be happy to put you in contact with families in your area. Also, if you are interested in becoming a contact or setting up a local *Great Wall* support group, please call our office.



Great Wall China Adoption
**Bridges Your Family to
The Chinese Language**

English to Chinese and Chinese to English Translation

To meet the growing need for translation services for *Great Wall* families who have brought their child home from China, we are now offering a document translation service. These documents could range from your child's adoption certificate for re-adoption purposes, baby's journal or articles, correspondences, etc...

Procedure for Translation Services

- Client sends the source document either by fax, mail, or email; the client should state any special requirements such as timing, layout, etc. These special requests may incur additional fee.
- Translation fees are \$25 per original page to be translated.
- Client has a choice whether to accept translated document by fax, email, or mail.
- Documents can be rushed for a fee of \$ 25 Express Mail or FedEx through *Great Wall's* account. Family may also use their own FedEx account for no additional fee.
- Payment can be made by personal check to *Great Wall China Adoption* or paid by credit card.

Send us an email for fee inquiries, or any additional questions regarding our document translation service.

Great Wall Gifts of Love

International adoption has greatly improved the conditions in the social welfare institutes, or orphanages, for children who have yet to be adopted. *Great Wall* is also committed to improving the orphanages and enhancing the lives of the children left behind through *Great Wall Gifts of Love*.

Great Wall Gifts of Love provides an opportunity for adoptive families, whether they adopted through *Great Wall* or through another agency, to give back to their child's orphanage and their child's friends who are still waiting to be adopted. Many orphanages are in need of basic necessities such as refrigerators, AC/heater units, washing machines, dryers, cribs, linens, and clothing.

In order to sufficiently cover the costs and to arrange the delivery of appliances and other gifts to the orphanages, there is a minimum \$500 donation for this charity project. Groups can collaborate to raise the funds for gifts for a particular orphanage. Please contact *Great Wall* if you have additional questions.

Great Wall's China Division will notify the Headquarters regarding the items needed by particular orphanages chosen for a *Gift of Love* project. *Great Wall's* Beijing office will purchase the item(s) and deliver it to the orphanage. Families will receive a copy of the receipt or letter from the orphanage as well as a picture (if available) of the item being delivered to the orphanage.

Orphanage Directors have expressed their appreciation for the donations they have received so far from *Great Wall* families. They emphasize the fact that adoptive families help the abandoned children of China not only by opening their hearts and adopting them, but also with their continued support and generosity. Long after their children have been adopted, the orphanages continue to care for children who are waiting to be united with a loving family.

Gifts of Love Requirement Summary:

1. Anyone can donate; individual families, relatives, friends, travel groups, families who adopted through another agency...anyone!!
2. Minimum donations are \$500 (this can be an individual donation or multiple families contributing to the \$500). All donations are welcome. If the \$500 requirement is not met, the money is saved until \$500 can be raised or until the end of the quarter.
3. Inform *Great Wall* of the specific orphanage you want the donation to support (if you do not wish to specify an orphanage we select an orphanage in need)
4. Donations should be submitted online at our website: www.gwca.org
5. Our China Division will again confirm the needs of the orphanage and will purchase and deliver the requested items.
6. Our China Division notifies our Headquarters of the purchased items and the delivery. We then notify the families that a purchase has been made and identify what has been purchased.

GWCA Post Adoption Letter for Orphanage

Great Wall China Adoption has provided this follow-up letter, which you can send to the orphanage that cared for your child while he/she was in China. If you have any questions, please contact your Post Adoption Counselor.

Please note that this is something that you would send on your own behalf.

Please insert your information in the blanks that are specific to your child's information. The letter translates as follows:

To Name of Orphanage

Dear director:

I/We adopted (Child's Chinese Name) in (Year) through Great Wall China Adoption. I/We have been fully blessed with our adoption. He/She is doing very well and is loved by all who meet him/her.

He/She is now ____ months/years old.

I/We will always be grateful of the great care you provided, while he/she was in the orphanage. It is then with great joy to share with you how much he/she has grown.

We are sending you a package with pictures and current growth information. Please share these pictures with all of the caregivers who may have cared for my child.

Respectfully,

Family Name
Address

GWCA Post Adoption Letter for Orphanage Translation

尊敬的院长：

我/我们通过美国华尔领养中心在贵院_____领养了一个小孩，名字是_____。

我们对这次的领养十分满意。他/她的表现十分的好，几乎所有见过他/她的人都非常的喜欢他/她。现在他/她已经____月/岁大了。

我们/我非常感谢各位对孩子 在福利院生活期间的悉心照料，我们希望能和您们一起分享孩子的成长所带给我们的欢愉。

我们特地邮寄了一些孩子的照片以及他/她近期成长情况的资料给你们。请把这些资料转送给那些曾经照顾我们孩子的工作人员，让他们和我们一起分享这份喜悦吧。

敬上

Great Wall Dissolution Policy

In accordance with the standards of the Hague Convention for International Adoption, please review our Dissolution Policy below:

Client(s) understands and agrees that it is the right of all children in a disruption or dissolution to receive full protection and services and is deemed the primary client by *Great Wall* and *Client(s)*

Client(s) understands that once the adoption is finalized in China and in accordance with China law, the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) become the legal parent/guardian of the child and the child acquires all the rights, privileges and immunities of a child born to the client(s). The Client(s) understand and agree they now have all responsibilities, legal obligations and duties to the child as though the child were born to the client(s). *Great Wall* and client(s) agree and understand that steps for dissolution in China after adoption finalization will be according to Chinese Law. *Great Wall China Adoption* does not and cannot have any influence regarding the steps within this legal matter.

Client(s) understands and agrees that Chinese Law states: **the act of leaving your newly-adopted child in China, after you have signed the adoption paperwork, is highly illegal.** *Client(s)* understands and agrees that *Client(s)* could suffer civil and criminal penalties for such behavior and *Great Wall* cannot be responsible for the actions of the Chinese officials. *Client(s)* understands and agrees that *Client(s)* is hereby warned that this act would be considered second abandonment, and action may be taken against you by the Chinese government if *Client(s)* engage in this activity.

In the event that dissolution occurs once the adoption is finalized in the United States, the matter becomes a domestic matter that would follow U.S. Federal and State guidelines for domestic adoption. In the event of dissolution, at no time ever will *Great Wall* assume custody of the adoptive child.

Please contact our offices if you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy. Our staff is available to offer education, support and resources as needed.

Please contact our offices if you are considering or if you have dissolved your adoption.

In the event of dissolution, post adoption reports **MUST** still be submitted to the China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption on behalf of the child. We request cooperation in submitting these reports to China to ensure the well being of each child. Please also note that China's eligibility requirements currently reflect that prospective adoptive parents who have terminated parental rights after the age of 18 are not eligible to adopt. Therefore, a family that dissolves an adoption would not be eligible to adopt from China in the future.