Finalizing the Adoption in China

The following is an excerpt from “Finalizing the Adoption in China” Produced by the United States Department of State, 1995 and is subject to change by the Chinese government without prior notice. This is intended to provide you with an outline of the adoption process in China.

1. **Signing the Agreement**
Adoptive parents will sign an agreement with the Children’s Welfare Institute where the child is living. The agreement usually refers to Party A (the Orphanage) and Party B (adoptive parent(s)). Under this agreement, Party A agrees to place the child with Party B and Party B agrees to adopt him/her voluntarily; Party A agrees to keep it confidential and Party B agrees never to abandon or mistreat him/her, give him/her a good education; Party A requests the right to know about the child’s growth and development in the new home, and Party B should be cooperative, etc.

2. **Registration**
After signing the agreement with the Orphanage, the adoptive parents will register with the local Civil Affairs Bureau. You will be asked to fill out a form regarding your background (birth date, education, occupation), and to write a short paragraph on your reasons for the adoption and your plan for the child. The registrar will then issue an adoption license for you.

3. **Notary Procedures**
The local notary, in the city where the Children’s Welfare Institute is located, will conduct an informal interview in which questions posed include: name, sex, birth date; your reason for adoption, if you will guarantee that you will never abandon or mistreat her/him, and love her/him as your birth child; if both husband and wife agree to adopt, etc. With the completion of the interview, the notaries begin to notarize the following Documents: 1) Birth Certificate; 2) Abandonment Certificate (under what circumstances was the child abandoned); and 3) Adoption Decree. Parents will get three copies of each, which are crucial for your child’s visa application and citizenship naturalization.

4. **Applying for the Chinese Passport for the Child**
Children’s Welfare Institute officials usually apply for the child’s passport and exit permit in the local security department. An interview similar to the notarization interview will occur. For a set fee, the local Public Security Bureau will normally expedite Chinese passport issuance.

5. **Obtaining Translations of Documents**
Three notarial documents, in English and Chinese should be obtained by adoptive parents before they come to the American Consulate General in Guangzhou: (1) birth certificate; (2) statement of abandonment/circumstances under which the child was delivered to the welfare institute; and (3) the adoption decree. As previously stated, these documents should be translated into English for US immigration purposes. The Notarial Office will normally translate documents, but will usually charge an additional fee for the service. To avoid problems, lengthy delays and possible non-approval of the I-600 immigrant visa petition, adopting parents should ensure this certificate and any other required documentation has been issued by the Notarial Office.

6. **Proof of Abandonment of Infant Under Six Months Old**
It should be noted that internal guidelines of the Civil Affairs Bureau provide if an infant is under age six months and has been abandoned to a Children’s Welfare Institute; the Ministry reportedly requires that the child remain in the Institute for two months while a thorough search is carried out for the natural parents. If no one is found within two months, then the child may be released for adoption.