

China Adoption Program Eligibility Implemented on June 30, 2017 by China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA)

Age Requirement:

The prospective adoptive parents (PAPs) should both be at least 30 years old before submitting a dossier to China. The age difference between PAP and adoptee should not be more than 50 years (age difference is calculated by the age of the youngest PAP).

Marital Status:

PAPs should be a couple of one male and one female, or a single heterosexual woman. Married couples should have a stable marital status, and neither party should have a history of more than 2 divorces. If neither PAP has been divorced previously, or if there is 1 previous divorce between them, they have to be married for at least two years before applying. If either of the PAPs has a history of 2 divorces, they have to be married for at least five years before applying. When calculating the length of marriage, the time living together before their marriage can be included. When calculating the number of divorces, a death of spouse is not included.

Health Status:

The PAPs should be physically and mentally fit, with the ability to raise and educate the adoptee, and without any of the following conditions:

- Intellectual disability
- HIV positive, or infectious disease that is actively contagious
- Schizophrenia
- Mental disorder including mania, depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, phobias, etc. (PAPs who have minor symptoms and whose disorder is well-controlled with the use of medications, and who have been assessed by a psychological professional who has determined that the disorder has no effect on their work and home life or ability to care for the adoptee, are exempt from this limitation.)
- Binocular blindness, binocular low vision or monocular blindness with no ocular prosthesis
- Severe facial deformation
- Binaural hearing loss or language function loss (PAPs who adopt a child with an identical condition will be exempt from this limitation.)
- Non-function or dysfunction of limbs or trunk caused by impairment, incomplete limb, paralysis or deformation
- Diseases that require long-term treatment, and have a bad prognosis which will affect the PAPs ability to care for the child; such as lupus, nephrosis, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, etc. (In cases where a married couple is adopting, if one party is completely healthy and the other has a diagnosis, but is under good control after treatment, they will be exempt from this limitation if they can provide a physician's letter to attest that the illness has no effects on their normal work and home life and their ability to care for the adoptee.)
- PAPs with a history of skin cancer, thyroid cancer, breast cancer, and testicular cancer must have been cured for at least 3 years. PAPs with a history of other types of cancer or malignant tumor must have been cured for at least 5 years.
- PAPs who have had a vital organ transplant within 10 years are not eligible. (In cases where a married couple is adopting, if one spouse is healthy and the other spouse had an organ transplant within the past 10 years, but has recovered and is living a normal life, they will be exempt from this limitation.)
- BMI must be less than 40.
- Short stature or dwarfism. (PAPs who adopt a child with an identical condition will be exempt from this limitation.)

Educational Background:

PAPs should have received a high school education or above, or vocational and technical skills education of the same level.

Financial Requirements:

The PAPs should have a stable occupation and income. Married couples are required to earn at least \$10,000 annually per family member, including the child they are applying to adopt. Single women are required to earn at least \$10,000 annually per family member, including the child they are adopting, plus one. Income from welfare, pension, disability benefits, adoption subsidy, foster care subsidy and disabled child subsidy, etc. cannot be included in the annual income calculation. Married couples are required to have a minimum net worth of \$80,000. Single women are required to have a minimum net worth of \$100,000.

Criminal History:

The PAPs should have no record of criminal penalties, and must have a good moral character, honorable behavior and abide by laws and regulations, without any of the following circumstances:

- A history of domestic violence, sex abuse, abandonment/abuse of children (even if they were not arrested or convicted)
- A history of taking drugs including opium, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, etc.
- A history of alcohol abuse within the last 10 years (must have been sober for at least 10 years).

An adoption application will be given due consideration when the PAPs have had not more than 3 minor criminal violations without severe outcomes during the previous 10 years; or have had no more than 5 records of traffic law violations without severe outcomes.

Children in the Home:

The youngest child in the home should be at least 3 years old at the time of adoption application. Married couples should not have more than 5 minors living in their home, and single female applicants should not have more than 2 minors living in the home.

Adoption Frequency:

Adopters should submit post adoption reports as required after the adoption. There should be one full year between the adoption registration date in China and a subsequent adoption application. Only one child may be adopted at a time, except in the case of biological twins or siblings.

** Ages and timelines are calculated based on the adoption application (dossier) log in date (LID) at CCCWA.*