

# CHINA



3001 Chinese children were adopted by Americans in 2009, according to US State Department statistics.

Due to strict family planning guidelines enforced by the government of the People's Republic of China, there are many children waiting to be adopted. Due to cultural traditions and pressures to limit family size, many female infants are abandoned and placed in orphanages and foster families throughout China. For many years, China adoptions led in the number of children adopted by American families. These numbers have dropped over the last several years.

Chinese adoptions are well structured. Adoptive families will not face unexpected fees or unexpected delays once in the country. The Chinese people are appreciative of the adoptive families who travel to complete their adoption. Currently the wait time for a healthy infant is significant (four to five years). Most families considering adoption from China at this time are seeking to adopt waiting children. In China, waiting children may have mild to severe special needs. Mild special needs include birth marks, scars, burns, strabismus or other correctable visual problems.

There are also many children with more significant special needs such as cleft lip and palate, limb differences, cardiac issues, developmental delays and other genetic disorders such as albinism or Down syndrome. Special Focus children are typically older children (ages 10 to 13) or younger children with more profound special needs that have remained on the waiting child list for several months.

### **China - Age Requirements for Parents:**

- Married couples 30 to 50 years old are eligible to adopt healthy children from China.
- Adoptive parents must be at least 30 years old when the dossier is registered in China.
- Female single applicants are allowed to adopt [special focus children](#) listed on the Special Needs System of CCAA. One applicant can only adopt one special focus child at a time, with an interval of at least one year between two adoptions. The applicant must be at least 30 and under 50 years of age. For applicants over 50, the age difference between the child to be adopted and the applicant shall be no more than 45 years.

### **China - Age Guidelines for Adoptive Families:**

- Couples 30 to 44 may apply to adopt a child 3 to 12 months old.
- Couples 45 to 50 may apply to adopt a child 13 months to 3 years old.
- Couples 51 to 55 may apply to adopt a child 4 and older through the Waiting Child Program.
- Single applicants must be between the ages of 30-55. If between 50 and 55, the age difference between the parent and the child being adopted must be no more than 45 years.

### **China - Financial Requirements:**

- The family must show a positive net worth (assets vs. liabilities) of at least \$80,000.00.
- Adoptive parents must demonstrate an annual minimum combined income of \$30,000. This represents \$10,000 per adult + \$10,000 for the adopted child. An additional \$10,000 income is required for each additional person in the household. For example, a married couple with two children living in the home must earn at least \$50,000.

### **China - Health History:**

*Families are not eligible to adopt if any of the following apply:*

- Diagnosed with major depression or any other severe mental health concern
- Current diagnosis of depression or anxiety or currently on medication for depression or anxiety
- Diagnosed with alcoholism within the last 10 years

- Any surgery within the last year
- One or both parents use a wheelchair or mobility aid
- Any diagnosis of cancer within the last three years
- Active Hepatitis A, B, or C
- Both parents have epilepsy
- Body Mass Index over 40

### **China - Criminal History:**

*Families are not eligible to adopt if any of the following apply:*

- Current warrants or currently on probation
- Any drug charges within the last 15 years
- Any arrest for a violent crime (examples: assault, domestic violence, child abuse/neglect)
- Any felony arrests

### **China - Marriage Requirements:**

- If the first marriage, couples who are married over 2 years.
- If either spouse is in second marriage due to the death of a spouse, the current marriage needs to be a minimum of 5 years.
- If either spouse has 1-2 divorces, the current marriage needs to be a minimum of 5 years.
- Couples where one or both spouses have 3 or more divorces are not eligible.

### **China - Maximum Number of Children:**

- The CCAA limits the number of children in the household to a maximum of five.
- There is more flexibility for families adopting special needs or healthy older children.