

SOUTH KOREA



1,077 South Korean children were adopted by Americans in 2009, according to US State Department statistics.

The Korean adoption program was one of the first highly successful international adoption programs. Korea is considered to be one of the most affordable and stable international programs.

Issues of poverty, lack of education and opportunity and the stigma associated with having a child outside of marriage will lead many women to place their child for adoption. Birth mothers will be counseled regarding their adoption. Some women may specifically request an international adoption. Extensive medical, developmental and social history will be taken from birth mothers. Occasionally, birth mothers and adoptive families will meet one another and have some level of contact once the child is placed.

After birth, the child will be placed in either an orphanage or with a foster family. Children are well cared for while waiting to be placed with an adoptive family. Both male and female infants are available.

Adoptive parents in Tennessee will only be approved to adopt children with known medical needs, such as low birth weight or premature birth, or developmental delays. Many of these conditions are considered to be treatable.

Referral time varies. Children are typically escorted to the US, but families may choose to travel to Korea to obtain custody of their children. Typically, the child will remain in legal custody of the adoption agency until the adoption is finalized in the US.

South Korea - Requirements:

- Age: 25 to 44
- Marital Status: Married for at least three years and no more than one divorce between the couple
- Financial Status: Earn +\$35,000 and own their own home
- Health: Neither parent can be seriously overweight (30% over the recommended weight for their height) and no serious medical issues
- Children in the Home: No more than four children in the home