



# KOREA

In conjunction with a coordinating agency, North Carolina applicants have been able to adopt relatively healthy infants from Korea, including those with premature birth. After a closure on new pre-applications, intake is now open. Preference will be given to childless couples or those with only one child, second time AIAA families, those open to either sex, and applicants open to children with more significant medical issues. Applications for male children will only be eligible. Applicants for this program are to be between 25 and 44 years of age and married for at least 3 years. The placing program in South Korea expects adoptive applicants to have savings to cover all forthcoming adoption costs. In addition applicants are to be at or under 29% of their Body Mass Index (BMI) limit.



Some appealing features of Korean adoptions are Korea's *utilization of excellent foster care* to raise the children, the *infants are relatively young at placement*, and the *application process is among the easiest*. Finally, Korea is one of the very few countries which *escorts children* to the U.S.

Christian Adoption Services, Inc. places children via a coordinating agreement, yet provides the direct services including the adoption home study, supervision of placement, and the legal adoption of the child in North Carolina. The coordinating agency will attend to all intercountry aspects of the placement, that is, the linkage between the U.S. and Korea.

## *Children*

Infants are not available for intercountry adoptions unless they have been offered for 5-6 months for in-country adoptions. Consequently, children are 9 months of age at the time of referral. Currently, there is a waiting list for females in the Korean domestic adoption program so American families requesting a female will wait longer for a referral. Referrals usually include social and medical history of birth parents, child's birth and present medical condition, developmental info and pictures.

## *Parental Criteria*

Applicants must have been married for at least three years, be a minimum of 25 years of age, be no older than 44, and with no more than a 10 year span between parents' ages. In addition, adoptive applicants are to have a minimum of a high school education and have no more than four children already in the home. Our coordinating agency stipulates that childless couples cannot specify a preference for the sex of the child; however, special consideration is given to balance the gender make up of a family with children.

## *Length of Process*

The process begins with the submittal abroad of their home study. No further document preparation is required! Referrals are expected within 6 - 9 months of the sending of a home study abroad. Once the child is accepted, a family will normally wait an additional 4 months for their child to arrive in the United States.

## Travel

Infants are usually escorted to the Detroit or Minneapolis/St. Paul airports, although parents do have the option to travel to Korea for placement. Travel requires a 3-4 day stay excluding weekends and occurs 3-4 months following the acceptance of the referral and paperwork submission to Korea.

### Estimated Fees and Expenses

CAS Fees		Estimated Additional Expenses (Based on 2 adults)	
Application Fee (due with application)	\$ 200	USCIS I600A Fee	\$750
Home Study (due when CAS file is complete)	1,500	Fingerprints	80
Postplacement & Direct Services Fee	<u>2,000</u>	Child's U.S. Entry Visa	<u>380</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,700</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,210</b>

International Expenses	Special Needs	No Special Needs	
Application Services	\$225	\$225	<b>GRAND TOTAL    \$24,075 – 28,850</b>
Processing Services	3,500	3,500	
Placement Fee	11,465	16,240	
AIAA Program Fee	1,500	1,500	
U.S. Visa Services	125	125	
Travel/Escort Fees	<u>2,350</u>	<u>2,350</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,165</b>	<b>\$23,940</b>	

*All fees are non-refundable*

**Payments for CAS fees are to be made payable to CAS via cash, check, or credit card. Payments made via credit card are subject to a 2% processing fee.**

*Many families will qualify for the adoption tax credit of approximately \$12,150 per child as created by the Hope for Children Act. Possible North Carolina adoption tax credit is 50% of the allowable tax credit claimed on your federal return.*



*Please contact CAS at [cas@christianadopt.org](mailto:cas@christianadopt.org)  
or 704.847.0038 for more  
information on our Korea program.*

