



# KOREA

In conjunction with a coordinating agency, North Carolina applicants have been able to adopt relatively healthy infants from Korea. All applicants must be open to children with low birth weight and prematurity.

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*.

Christian Adoption Services, Inc. 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*

Due to new Korean regulations for international adoptions, infants must be eligible for Korean domestic adoption for five (5) months. Infants will be at least nine (9) months of age at the time of arrival in their adoptive family. More Korean prospective adoptive parents are requesting a female; therefore families who are requesting a female (and qualify under AIAA's general policy for sex preference) will be waiting a longer time for a referral. Referrals include social and medical history of birth parents, child's birth and present medical condition, developmental info and pictures. The child being adopted should be the youngest child in a family by at least 2 years.

## *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 8 year span between parents' ages. In addition, adoptive applicants must 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. Applicants are to be in good physical and mental health. Weight is a health issue for the Korean agency and applicants cannot be on medication for anxiety or depression.

## *Length of Process*

The process begins with the submittal abroad of an applicant's adoption home study. Referrals are expected within 6-9 months of sending the 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*

Although travel to Korea is not required by law, due to the fact that the babies are now older infants, the Korean agency expects that at least one parent travel to Korea to escort their child home. Travel requires a 3-4 day stay excluding weekends. Experience has shown that children of this age do better when the primary caretaker can personally transfer caretaking to an adoptive parent. This also gives you the opportunity to experience your child's country first hand and

meet the people who have provided such excellent care. If for some reason this is not possible, parents need to provide the Korean agency with an explanation for their request for an escort and they will make the decision.

## Estimated Fees and Expenses

### CAS Fees

Application Fee (due with application)	\$200
Home Study (due when CAS file is complete)	1,500
Placement & Direct Services Fee	<u>2,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,700</b>

### Coordinating Agency Fees

Preliminary Application	\$50
Formal Application	500
Intercountry Processing	3,700
Program Fee	<u>2,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,250</b>

### Korean Fees

Intercountry Placement	\$16,240
Family Services	<u>300</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,540</b>

### Additional Expenses (Based on 2 adults)

USCIS I600A Fee	\$750
Fingerprints	<u>80</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,210</b>

**GRAND TOTAL**      **\$27,320**  
*Excluding travel expenses*

*All fees are non-refundable.*

Reductions in the overseas fees will be considered by the Korean agency on a case-by-case basis for children with special needs.

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.*

