



KOREA

In conjunction with a coordinating agency, North Carolina applicants are able to adopt infants from Korea, provided they are accepting of a child of low birth weight and/or prematurity. Applicants must also be accepting of mild maternal alcohol consumption and smoking. However, preference will be given to families open to children with significant special needs, families with only one child adopted from Korea through the coordinating agency, and childless couples.

Some appealing features of Korean adoptions are Korea's utilization of excellent foster care to raise the children, the children are approximately 12 months of age at placement, and the application process is among the easiest.

For these placements, Christian Adoption Services, Inc. provides the direct services including the adoption home study and supervision of placement. The coordinating agency will attend to all intercountry aspects of the placement, that is, the linkage between the U.S. and Korea. Children's adoptions can be finalized in North Carolina after the completion of three post-placements during the mandatory supervisory period of six months. Although automatic citizenship applies once the adoption is completed, US families should apply for a Certificate of Citizenship.



Children

Infants are not available for intercountry adoptions unless they have been listed for 5-6 months for intercountry adoptions. Consequently, children are generally 9-12 months of age at the time of referral. 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 information and pictures.

Parental Criteria

Applicants for this program are to be between 25 and 44 years of age and married for at least 3 years with no more than an 8 year span between parents' ages. The placing program in South Korea expects adoptive applicants to have savings to cover all forthcoming costs plus additional savings. In addition applicants are to be at or under 29% of their Body Mass Index (BMI) limit. In addition adoptive applicants must have a minimum of a high school education and have no more than four children already in the home. Families with no children or children of both genders need to be open to either sex. Families with just one gender in the home can request the opposite gender but not the same gender. Applicants are to be in good physical and mental health. Applicants cannot be on medication for anxiety or depression or have a significant medical issue.

Length of Process

Korea seeks to place its children in the country; therefore, there have been fewer placements over the last two years. The decrease in placements is expected to continue according to the Korean government's policy on international adoptions. Given these circumstances the total process from preliminary application to placement could take 18-24 months.

Travel

Travel is required by at least one parent for about one week

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>
Total	3,700

Coordinating Agency Fees

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

Korean Fees

Intercountry Placement	\$17,540
Family Services	<u>500</u>
Total	\$18,040

Additional Expenses (Based on 2 adults)

USCIS I600A Fee	\$720
Fingerprints @ \$85 each	<u>170</u>
Total	\$890

GRAND TOTAL **\$28,580**
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 significant 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 \$13,170 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
or 704.847.0038 for more
information on our Korea program.*

