



WELCOME!

The decision to adopt is a special one - we know what an exciting time this is for you and your family. The next step is thinking about where your child will come from and what agency you will trust to walk you through this amazing journey to parenthood.

South Korean Adoptions have a rich history, with incredible services and support offered to birth parents who are considering adoption so the best plans can be made for their children, as well as excellent care provided to the children awaiting their forever family.

Family & Children's Agency is honored to partner with our foreign supervised provider, Korea Welfare Services (KWS), as we work to find loving families for the children of South Korea.



As an adoptive mother myself, I remember how I felt as I began the adoption process and explored agencies. I remember asking myself which agency would be the best to help my husband and I begin to build our family. With care and expertise, Family & Children's Agency walked us through the process, guiding us every step of the way, and we brought our daughter home from Korea in 1987. Now, having worked at Family & Children's Agency since 2003, I have the privilege of providing the same quality of services and wonderful support to you and your family that I received.

I welcome this opportunity to share the story of Family & Children's Agency.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darlene Cirilli".

Darlene Cirilli
Korea Program Manager



WHY CHOOSE FAMILY & CHILDREN'S AGENCY

FCA's Adoption Department sits within the larger framework of Family & Children's Agency, a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) human service organization. FCA is licensed to provide home study and placement services in CT and, NY and through our partnership with KWS, places children from South Korea across the United States. With decades of experience, the Adoption Department at Family & Children's Agency is one of the largest and most respected private non-profit adoption agencies in Connecticut and beyond.

Family & Children's Agency's Adoption Department is fully licensed and accredited according to State and Federal standards. The Adoption Department achieved Hague Accreditation through the Council on Accreditation in 2008. One of the many benefits our clients experience by working with us is that our commitment to helping families continues throughout the life cycle of the adoptive family.

The Agency was established in 1942 and is headquartered in Norwalk, CT. The Adoption Department's offices include locations in Harrison, NY and Branford, CT.

Experts in South Korean Adoptions

Since Family & Children's Agency began its Korean Adoption Program in 1982, it has placed more than 3,500 children in American homes. The adjustment of these children to their families has been outstanding.

The Agency's work in South Korea is anchored by a collaborative relationship with Korea Welfare Services (KWS), formerly known as the Social Welfare Society (SWS), one of three private child placement agencies in Korea. KWS's professionalism and the social work process ensure that children are nurtured in private foster care and receive regular medical attention of the highest quality. We have found that KWS gives exceptional care to the Korean birth mothers and children. On a regular basis, our Adoption staff visit our partner agency in South Korea and the foster and baby reception homes affiliated with their program.

Full Service Adoption Agency

One of the many benefits of working with Family & Children's Agency is that we offer a full suite of services for those interested in adoption. Our services include:

- Pre-adoptive information and education
- Preparation of domestic adoption home studies and Hague Accredited home studies for international adoptions
- Domestic adoptions from CT and NY and international adoptions from South Korea
- Post adoption support
- Counseling services for expectant parents considering adoption

FCA General Agency Policies & Practices to consider

- Individuals must be between the ages of 21 and 64 to apply to adopt
(note: South Korea Program requires age limit of 44 & 11 months).
- Individuals cannot be pregnant or actively engaged in fertility treatments or surrogacy services to apply to adopt.



MEET OUR TEAM

The adoption staff consists of a Director, the Korean Program Manager, licensed clinicians providing home study and post adoption services, and support staff here to help guide families through their adoption journey. Together the staff have decades of experience in adoption and many members of our team have personal experiences with adoption, enriching the process for prospective adoptive parents.

Key Korea program staff include:

Mary Kate Locke

The Director of Adoption, Mary Kate Locke is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She has extensive experience advocating for children and families and a deep commitment to supporting adoptive families and adoptees throughout their journey. With a background in child welfare, child and family development and adoption, Mary Kate joined FCA in 2005. Mary Kate can be reached in FCA's Norwalk office at MLocke@fcagency.org or (203) 855-8765.

Meg Woglom

The Assistant Director of Adoption, Meg Woglom is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Meg started working at FCA in 2008 as a foster care social worker before moving into a supervisory role in Child & Family Development. Prior to becoming the Assistant Director of Adoption in 2019, Meg had over six years of experience as a birth parent counselor at FCA. Meg can be reached in FCA's Norwalk office at MWoglom@fcagency.org or (203) 855-8765.

Darlene Cirilli

As the Korea Program Manager, Darlene Cirilli provides support and guidance for parents as they pursue an adoption from South Korea. Darlene is an adoptive parent who travels to Korea representing Family & Children's Agency and works closely with the staff of KWS. Since joining FCA in 2003, Darlene has placed hundreds of children with their adoptive families across the United States. You can reach Darlene at our Branford Office at (203) 208-2432 or email at DCirilli@fcagency.org.

Korea Welfare Services (KWS) *Formerly known as the Social Welfare Society (SWS)*

KWS has been in existence since 1954 and was established by the Korean government for the welfare of war orphans. The agency was expanded and became a private agency in 1965. They are a professional social service agency that promotes the welfare of the Korean people. They provide services not only to infants and birth parents, but also to older children, the elderly, and the larger community.



IT HELPS TO KNOW THE LANGUAGE *(A glossary of adoption)*

Home study:

A ten to fifteen page narrative document about you prepared by your social worker and completed by a licensed agency in the state where you reside. It is the culmination of the work together through the home study and licensing processing. One copy remains in your file at Family & Children's Agency. If you adopt in another state, one copy goes to the agency helping with the adoption in that state. If you adopt overseas, one copy goes with your adoption dossier and one copy goes to immigration. Home studies are confidential, protected documents not shared with birth parents or any other unauthorized person.

USCIS:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the federal agency assigned to oversee the lawful immigration of foreign nationals who are temporarily or permanently settling in the United States and is responsible for granting or denying immigration benefits to those individuals. Families adopting internationally petition USCIS for the approval to bring a child into the United States permanently through an adoption overseas. FCA and your local home study agency assist you in this process.

The Hague Treaty:

The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention) is an international treaty that provides important safeguards to protect the best interests of children, birth parents, and adoptive parents who are involved in intercountry adoptions.

Birthmother:

The term commonly used to describe a woman, married or single who is considering adoption for her expected child, or a woman who has given birth and placed her child in adoption.

Birthfather:

The genetic male parent in an adoption plan.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR):

The legal process by which the rights and responsibility of birth parents are severed. Guardianship goes to the child-placing agency for the purpose of placing the child with adoptive parents.

Finalization:

The legal process in which the child-placing agency's guardianship is removed and the adoptive parents become legally responsible for the child. In an international adoption from South Korea, this happens overseas through a court process.

Dossier:

A collection of specific documents such as birth certificates, marriage license, health report, home study, and photos as required by adoption authorities in the foreign country where you will be adopting. In adoptions from South Korea, FCA guides you through the completion of your dossier and submits it to KWS, who will then match with your child.

KOREAN ADOPTION: PROGRAM

Eligibility Requirements

- Couples must be between the ages of 25 to 44 and 11 months (at the time of paperwork submission to KWS).
- Married couples only. Couples must be married at least 3 years.
- Couples can have up to four children and one previous divorce.
- Applicants must be in excellent physical health – no history of disease, infection, etc.
- Applicants must have a BMI (Body Mass Index) of 29.9% or less.
- Applicants may not have any history of mental health issues or related counseling/hospitalizations. Applicants who have taken any psychotropic medications cannot be considered.
- No history of arrest.



Children Available

Most children are referred for adoption between the ages of 6 to 24 months and usually arrive in the United States at 15 to 36 months of age. In most cases, adoption plans have been made by unmarried birth mothers who have relinquished their parental rights. The children are generally healthy, but may have minor medical concerns such as pre-maturity or use of cigarettes or drinking during the pregnancy. More boys are referred for overseas adoption than girls. Couples must be open to adopting a child of either gender.

Process

Referral: Once the completed home study packet is submitted to KWS, the waiting time for a referral is 6 to 30 months. This waiting time can vary and is impacted by the Korean government. The referral includes a medical and social history and photos of the child selected by KWS.

Travel: Families are required to travel to South Korea as part of their adoption process. Due to COVID-19, most up to date information on travel requirements can be found on our website or by contacting the Korea Program Manager, Darlene Cirilli. Presently, most families have their child home approximately 9 to 18 months after accepting the referral. Adoptions are finalized in Korea.

Post-placement support: Families are required to complete six post-placement reports with their local home study agency over a one year period to help support the child and family's adjustment and report back to KWS. Families receive support from FCA staff from the initiation of their adoption, through the referral and travel process, to their arrival home ... and for the lifetime of their family.



Thank you for considering Family & Children's Agency to grow your family through an adoption from South Korea. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you.



ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Referrals

Family & Children's Agency has decades of experience in adoption and can use that expertise to recommend other domestic and international programs and agencies that best fit the needs of our families. Eligibility, fees, and processes vary from program to program. If you choose another agency to complete your adoption, FCA will remain involved as your local support agency. We will collaborate with your chosen agency, complete your home study, and provide post-placement and/or post-adoption services.

Training Opportunities

FCA offers trainings and panels throughout the year including a birth parent panel, adult adoptee panel, domestic and international panels, and Adoption 101. These events give clients the opportunity to learn about all aspects of adoption and to gain insight from those who have been through the process. In addition, Adoption staff hold various leadership roles on state-wide committees where they create educational opportunities which benefit families including those in FCA's programs.

Community Building

Families in FCA's adoption program build a community of support through annual events. Our Fall Fest, Parent and Parent-to-be Nights Out, Waiting Family Support Group, and play groups are fun and engaging social gatherings where adoptive families create strong bonds and lifelong friendships.

Post-Adoption

Family & Children's Agency provides post-adoption support to families through the Adoption Assistance Program and Permanency Placement Services Program (PPSP). FCA recognizes that adoption is a lifelong process and families may face challenges along the way. If you have a simple question or are seeking support around something more difficult, FCA is available to help.

INTAKE & HOME STUDY

Once you have received and submitted an application, please send the application and supporting documents to Meg Woglom, Assistant Director of Adoption & Early Childhood, at 9 Mott Avenue, 4th Floor, Norwalk, CT 06850. A social worker will be assigned to begin the home study process. You do not have to state a preference for a specific program to begin the home study. The home study is primarily an educational experience and your social worker will explore options with you to help you make the best decision. The process begins with an interview with your assigned worker and will include a visit to your home.

Applicants are required to complete FCA's Adoption 101 training course as part of their education during their home study process. The training is held three times each year and meets 6-hours of the mandatory 10-hours of training required. Adoption 101 covers a wide variety of topics related to adoption as well as insight from adult adoptees, program experts, and adoptive parents. Adoption 101 will also give you the opportunity to meet with adoption specialists on the FCA staff and other prospective adoptive parents to explore important and unique aspects of becoming a parent by adoption.

Applicants are also required to attend FCA's Birth Parent Panel, held annually. While this will not be a requirement in order to complete your home study, it will be part of your education contract with the Agency. The Birth Parent Panel is an opportunity to hear candid discussions from birth parents' perspectives and explore questions many adoptive parents and adoptees have about their birth parents.



2022 INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- ✓ Overview of Family and Children's Agency and the History of the Adoption Program
- ✓ An Overview of the Home Study Process
 - Application
 - Interviews
 - Clearances
 - Education
- ✓ An Overview of Domestic Adoption
 - Agency placement in Connecticut and legal process
 - Parent initiated adoption re: legal process
 - Working with out-of-state/other agencies
- ✓ An Overview of International Adoption
 - Our South Korea Program
 - Networking
 - Post-placement and/or post-adoption requirements

Information Meeting Dates for CT & NY families (currently being held virtually)
THURSDAYS 5:30 – 7 pm

JANUARY 20	APRIL 21	JULY 21	OCTOBER 20
FEBRUARY 17	MAY 19	AUGUST 18	NOVEMBER 17
MARCH 24	JUNE 16	SEPTEMBER 15	DECEMBER 15

If you are interested in attending a meeting, please visit our website at www.FamilyandChildrensAgency.org or call Devon Miles, Manager of Adoption, at 203-523-5731 to register.



Medical Considerations Check List

Familiarize yourself with the conditions below before completing this form.

- ✓ Please indicate a minimum of 15 of the following types of medical conditions you would or would not be able to consider. *Required conditions are pre-checked

<u>SYSTEM</u>	<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>WOULD CONSIDER</u>	<u>WOULD NOT CONSIDER</u>
HISTORY	Family history alcohol/drug abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Family history of serious medical problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Family history of mental illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Family history of cognitive delays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Maternal history of drug use in pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Maternal history of alcohol use during pregnancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Maternal history of tobacco use during pregnancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Maternal History of mental health illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hereditary diseases/genetic problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIABETES	Type 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Type 2 (insulin dependent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PREMATURE BIRTH	Born 34-37 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Born below 34 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LOWBIRTH WEIGHT	4 to 5 pounds at birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3 or below pounds at birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
URINARY SYSTEM	Inguinal Hernia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hydrocele	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kidney malformations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Urinary tract infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Undescended testicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hydronephrosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HEMATOLOGICAL SYSTEM (BLOOD)	Hemophilia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Anemia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other blood disorders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VISION	Totally sightless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sightless in one eye	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Poor vision, unstable eyesight	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Crossed eye or Strabismus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Malformed eye	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>SYSTEM</u>	<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>WOULD CONSIDER</u>	<u>WOULD NOT CONSIDER</u>
HEARING	Total hearing loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partial hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other hearing problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MOUTH	Cleft lip, palate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	Tuberculosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hepatitis A, B or C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Congenital syphilis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mother who is HIV positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Child who is HIV positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Child who has contracted CMV (Cytomegalovirus) after birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FACIAL/CRANIAL	Correctable malformations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Uncorrectable malformations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Surgically correctable cleft lip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Surgically correctable cleft palate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cleft lip together with palate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bilateral cleft lip/palate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hydrocephalus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Microcephalus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cystic Fibrosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other respiratory system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM	ASD (Atrial Septal Defect)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	VSD (Ventricular Septal Defect)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Major heart defect (may require surgery)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Minor Heart murmur	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other cardiovascular system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	Chronic diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Malabsorption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other digestive system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS	Mild	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Severe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKELETAL SYSTEM	Webbed fingers or toes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Extra or missing digits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Partially formed or missing limbs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(from birth or accident)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Club foot or Talipes equinus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>SYSTEM</u>	<u>PROBLEM</u>	WOULD CONSIDER	WOULD NOT CONSIDER
SKELETAL SYSTEM	Congenital (birth) hip defect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other skeletal system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NERVOUS SYSTEM	Fetal alcohol syndrome	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Fetal alcohol effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Seizure history	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Febrile seizure disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hydrocephalus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Spinal bifida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Microcephaly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM	Birthmarks		
	Hemangioma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disfiguring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chronic rash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I understand that at the time of referral I will receive all available information about a child and our pediatrician may request further information. After considering all this information, I will decide whether to accept a particular child referred for adoption. I also understand that children may be referred with undiagnosed problems or diseases of which the Korea Welfare Services and Family & Children's Agency are not aware, and that no guarantees can be made about the health of any child.

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

ADOPTION SOCIAL WORKER:

This is to verify that I have discussed/reviewed the contents of this checklist with the adoptive applicant(s). I have also advised them that we cannot predict the length of time it will take to receive a child from Korea and therefore the ages of the child vary.

Signature _____ Date _____



INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES CONTRACT

Connecticut and New York Adoptions from South Korea

THIS ADOPTION CONTRACT (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement") is hereby entered into on this _____ day of _____, 20____, by and between **FAMILY & CHILDREN'S AGENCY** (hereinafter "Family & Children's Agency"), a child placing agency authorized by the State of Connecticut and the State of New York and _____ (hereinafter referred to as "Adoptive Parent(s)", for the purpose of facilitating an overseas adoption from South Korea.

By signing this agreement, both parties agree to work together to match a child available for adoption with Adoptive Parent(s) who have the desire and capacity to parent that child. This shared goal is a complex undertaking that must be carried out in accordance with applicable intercountry conventions, local, state and federal laws, and the laws and regulations of the Adopted Child's Country of Origin. Above all else, this undertaking must ensure that the best interests of the child are met. The adoption process can be a challenging one, and there is no guarantee that an adoption will be completed. However, Family & Children's Agency and the Adoptive Parent(s) agree to constructively engage in the adoption process with the goal of finding permanent families for children. Upon request the agency agrees to disclose the number of parents who apply to adopt on a yearly basis based on data for the prior three calendar years.

Family & Children's Agency and the Adoptive Parent(s) acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1.) **HOME STUDY.** The Adoptive Parent(s) understand that they may be eligible to receive a referral of a child only after they have successfully completed a 'home study packet' or a 'dossier,' as referred to in Paragraph 1J below, and have been approved as adoptive parents by Family & Children's Agency (Connecticut and New York families) and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). The Adoptive Parent (s) will be responsible for participating in a home study process that is in accordance with local, state, federal, and overseas requirements, as well as those requirements mandated by other applicable bodies.
- A. **Application.** Adoptive Parents (s) will be required to submit an application with required documentation to Family & Children's Agency in order to initiate their adoption process. The documentation required and information requested in the application is in accordance with the local, state, and federal regulations that govern

I/We have read and understood this page _____

Adoptive Parent Initial Adoptive Parent Initial

adoptions. Family & Children's Agency cannot guarantee a specific time frame for the completion of the application process, although Family & Children's Agency will make every effort to carry out its obligations in a timely manner. Any documentation submitted in connection with the adoption application, whether it be by the Adoptive Parent(s) or by a third party, will not be returnable to the Adoptive Parent(s) regardless of whether or not the adoption process reaches finalization.

- B. **Home Study Process.** The Adoptive Parent(s) will be required to meet with their assigned Family & Children's Agency social worker for home study interviews for a minimum of one office visit and two home visits per South Korea requirements. All members of the home must be available to meet with the social worker. The purpose of the interviews is to gather all information required to be in the home study document including: personal background, relationship/marital history, education, finances, medical history, parenting/discipline styles, religion, child care plans, guardianship plans, home and community, and child preferences. In addition, the home study process is designed to be a time for Family & Children's Agency and the Adoptive Parent (s) to explore adoption readiness and preparation to become parents through adoption. Additional meetings with the social worker or adoption staff can be requested by either the Adoptive Parent(s) or Family & Children's Agency staff for the purposes of completing the home study. Family & Children's Agency cannot guarantee a specific time frame for the completion of the home study process, although Family & Children's Agency will make every effort to carry out its obligations in a timely manner.
- C. **References.** Family & Children's Agency will obtain five written references addressing the Adoptive Parent (s)'s capacity to provide for the physical, financial and emotional needs of the child. Adoptive Parent (s) will provide email addresses for their references which may include a neighbor, friend, co- worker, a grown child, but only one relative. Family & Children's Agency sends a confidential questionnaire to each reference by email and asks that it be emailed or faxed back directly to the agency. Adoptive Parents may not provide reference letters already prepared in lieu of the questionnaire. Applicants completing a subsequent home study for a 2nd or 3rd adoption will be required to provide the contact information for three references who will receive the questionnaire.
- D. **Education and Support.** The Adoptive Parent(s) understand and acknowledge that adopting internationally has its own unique challenges with regard to the adjustment of both the Adoptive Parent(s) and the Adoptive Child. In addition, families pursuing international adoption face challenges with regard to the physical, mental, emotional, and psychological development of the Adoptive Child. As part of the home study process, Family & Children's Agency provides education and support to the Adoptive Parent(s) concerning these issues, as well as issues relating to adoptive identity, ethnic identity, and cultural adjustment. The Adoptive Parent(s) agree to complete 10 hours of pre-adoption education training that includes attending a full day education program (6 hours) at Family & Children's Agency in addition to online courses/community workshops specific to adoption.

Family & Children's Agency considers the process of education and preparation of the Adoptive Parent(s) to be vital to a successful adoption. Family & Children's

I/We have read and understood this page

Adoptive Parent Initial Adoptive Parent Initial

Agency reserves the right to discontinue this process in the absence of full attendance and meaningful participation in these steps of the process, or if Family & Children's Agency determines, in its sole discretion, that the approval of particular applications as Adoptive Parent(s) would not be in the best interest of an Adoptive Child.

- i. **Training Waivers.** Training waivers can be granted for all or parts of the training if after a thorough assessment by the assigned social worker the social worker determines that the Adoptive Parent (s) has received adequate prior training and/ or has actual significant adoption experience based on a previous adoption.
- E. **Clearances.** The Adoptive Parent(s) understand and acknowledge that, as part of the home study process, Adoptive Parent(s) are required to undergo the following: (1) clearances through the state child abuse registry; (2) FBI/state criminal history checks; and (3) meeting the standards promulgated by the child's Country of Origin (hereinafter referred to as "Country of Origin"), as well as those mandated by the applicable intercountry conventions. The Adoptive Parent(s) agree to cooperate fully with the above requirements, including any required clearances for all applicable members of the household according to state laws. In addition, as a condition of completing an international adoption, the Adoptive Parent(s) agree to work with Family & Children's Agency to seek approval from Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS).
- F. **Child Preferences.** Family & Children's Agency will inform the Adoptive Parent(s) regarding the typical characteristics of children that are associated with particular countries of origin. Adoptive families may choose the Country of Origin based on this information, as well as adoptive parent eligibility criteria. In addition, the Adoptive Parent(s) may identify characteristics that they desire in an Adoptive Child, such as ethnicity, age, and identified health issues. While Family & Children's Agency will request a child from the Country of Origin that meets the Adoptive Parent(s)' preferred characteristics as permitted above, Family & Children's Agency makes no representations, promises, and/or guarantees that a child having the requested characteristics will be available for adoption. If requested, FCA will make three calendar years of data available on: the number of placements per year; the number of disruptions per year; and the number of children eligible for adoption.
- G. **Approval.** The approval of an adoption home study is based on Family & Children's Agency's assessment of the Adoptive Parent(s) suitability to adopt and successfully meeting the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal entities which govern the licensing of child placing agencies and their subsequent licensing of adoptive families. Adoptive Parents are able to review a draft of their home study prior to its finalization. Adoptive Parents are then notified in writing that their home study has been approved and how long the approval is in effect. Adoptive Parents are provided with the number of finalized home study documents required by the state or country from which they are adopting. If a child has not been placed in the home prior to the expiration of the home study, it is the responsibility of the Adoptive Parent to contact Family & Children's Agency to initiate the home study update process. Should the home study process exceed six (6) months from the date of a home study social

I/We have read and understood this page

Adoptive Parent Initial Adoptive Parent Initial

worker being assigned due to delays in the Adoptive Parent(s) submitting necessary documentation or cooperating with requirements of the home study licensing process, Family & Children's Agency reserves the right to discontinue the licensing process with the Adoptive Parent(s).

- H. **Cause for Denial.** Family & Children's Agency considers the process of education and preparation of the Adoptive Parent(s) to be vital to a successful adoption. Family & Children's Agency reserves the right to discontinue this process in the absence of full attendance and meaningful participation in these steps of the process, or if Family & Children's Agency determines, in its sole discretion, that the approval of particular applications as Adoptive Parent(s) would not be in the best interest of an Adoptive Child. In the instance when Family & Children's Agency cannot approve or re-approve a family because of specific local, state, or federal regulations, or because of the applicants' lack of cooperation, physical or emotional incapacity to care for a child, or that such approval would not be in a child's best interests, an Adoptive Parent(s) is informed in person or by phone and then in writing, stating the specific reason for the rejection.
- I. **Continuing Duty to Disclose.** The Adoptive Parent(s) agree to disclose accurately and truthfully, and in good faith, all information requested throughout the adoption process. Until such time as the adoption is finalized, the Adoptive Parent(s) will have a continuing duty to immediately disclose any changes in the information provided, including, but not limited to, the following: pregnancy; adoption of another child; the addition of another adult to the household; change of residence; serious illness or death of either Adoptive Parent or other individual residing in the Adoptive Parent(s)' home; a new medical or mental health diagnosis; marital discord and/or separation; reluctance and/or ambivalence by either Adoptive Parent to adopt, an arrest, criminal charge, criminal or child welfare investigation of an Adoptive Parent or other individual residing in the Adoptive Parent(s)' home; or loss of employment by either Adoptive Parent or significant change in financial status.

Family & Children's Agency and/or the Adoptive Child's Country of Origin may revoke approval of the Adoptive Parent(s) based on any changes in status listed above. In addition, Adoptive Parent(s) who are pregnant or who become pregnant during the adoption process may have their case placed on hold depending on the timing of their adoption and/or the policies of their Placement Agency, regulations of the state there are adopting from, or regulations of the Country of Origin. Any nondisclosure or misrepresentation by the Adoptive Parent(s) of a change in circumstance may be grounds for denial of the adoption application.

The Adoptive Parent(s) will be responsible for completing their dossier for submission to the appropriate parties and for updating the documents as needed. Original documents submitted to Family & Children's Agency as part of the Adoptive Parents' international dossier may not be returnable. Should the Adoptive Parent(s) request the return of their international dossier and Family & Children's Agency is able to facilitate the return of the requested documents, the Adoptive Parent(s) agree to pay all costs associated with this process.

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Adoptive Parent Initial Adoptive Parent Initial

- J. **Adoptive Parent(s) Dossier.** The Adoptive Parent(s) shall submit to Family & Children's Agency such documentation, identified by Family & Children's Agency, local authorities, and Country of Origin as necessary for the approval of the Adoptive Parent(s). This package of information is often referred to as the "dossier" or the "home study packet." The requirements for specific documents may vary from country to country and may change from time to time. Family & Children's Agency shall identify the documents required by the Country of Origin (and their related costs) at the time of application and shall provide this information, as well as any changes in the information, to the Adoptive Parent(s) in a timely manner. Adoptive Parent(s) should anticipate that new or updated information may be requested from Family & Children's Agency or the Country of Origin throughout the adoption process and that there may be unanticipated costs and expenses associated with these requests.

The Adoptive Parent(s) will be responsible for completing their dossier for submission to the appropriate parties and for updating the documents as needed. Original documents submitted to Family & Children's Agency as part of the Adoptive Parents' dossier may not be returnable. Should the Adoptive Parent(s) request the return of their dossier and Family & Children's Agency is able to facilitate the return of the requested documents, the Adoptive Parent(s) agree to pay all costs associated with this process.

2. REFERRAL. A child will be identified for the Adoptive Parent(s) according to the procedures set forth by the Country of Origin, as well as those mandated by applicable intercountry conventions. Such information will be conveyed to the Adoptive Parent(s) in the form of a "referral".

- A. **Time Frame.** The time frame within which Adoptive Parent(s) can expect to receive a referral can vary. While Family & Children's Agency will make every effort to expedite processing, it cannot assume responsibility for delays or changes that are instituted by the Country of Origin, USCIS, and the US State Department. The waiting time between the completion of the home study, receiving the referral, and the actual arrival of the child varies and is beyond the control of Family & Children's Agency.
- B. **Disclosure of Medical and Developmental Information.** At such time the Adoptive Parent(s) receive a referral, Family & Children's Agency will provide the Adoptive Parent(s) with all relevant medical and developmental information Family & Children's Agency has in its possession pertaining to the child. Family & Children's Agency does not make any representations, promises, or guarantees that the information received on any child from the Country of Origin is complete and/or accurate, nor does Family & Children's Agency make any representations, promises, or guarantees concerning the present or future health of any child. Children who have lived in orphanages or foster care settings abroad may exhibit developmental delays and experience difficulty in transitioning to life with the adoptive family.

Photos and/or videos of children to be placed for adoption will be provided by the Country of Origin with the written referral information. All photos and/or videos should be dated. If they are not dated, Family & Children's Agency will make every

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effort to work with the country of origin to obtain information about when such photos and videos of the child were taken. If this information is not ascertainable, this will be noted in the case record along with the date that the photo or video was received by Family & Children's Agency.

Depending on the Country of Origin and individual circumstances, such as lack of prenatal care, physical health problems may include, but are not limited to, malnutrition, failure to thrive, intestinal parasitic infections, anemia, rickets, fetal alcohol exposure, drug exposure and/or infectious diseases such as Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS, Syphilis or Tuberculosis. Developmental and emotional/behavioral problems may include, but are not limited to, speech and language delays, attention deficits, learning disabilities, motor delays, and difficulties in forming attachments to family members. In the event that an illness or other physical or developmental impairment is identified in the child after the adoption becomes final, the adoption cannot be undone, and the Adoptive Parent(s) shall be solely responsible for the continuing care and treatment of the Adoptive Child.

- C. **Acceptance of Referral.** Adoptive Parent(s) will be required to make an informed decision as to whether or not to accept the referral within a reasonable time, not to exceed fourteen (14) days from receipt of referral.

Since Family & Children's Agency can receive minimal information concerning the medical, psychological and social history of children born abroad, it may be impossible to know, with any certainty, which diagnoses, if any, are reliable and which are not. The Adoptive Parent(s) are advised to assume that every diagnosis could be true and to make any decision to accept or decline a referral on this basis. The absence of a specific diagnosis does not necessarily mean that the child is free of a particular problem or condition. A child's actual medical, psychological, and developmental prognosis may be better or worse than it appears based on available information. Before making a decision whether to accept a referral, it is required that the Adoptive Parent(s) consult with an international adoption specialist experienced in assessing and treating children adopted from abroad.

In the event that the Adoptive Parent(s) decide to accept the referral, Family & Children's Agency shall make responsible, good faith efforts to facilitate the adoption of the identified child by the Adoptive Parent(s); however, Family & Children's Agency makes no representations, guarantees, and/or promises that an identified child will remain available for adoption by the Adoptive Parent(s). The availability of any child for adoption depends upon many factors that are beyond the control of Family & Children's Agency. These factors include, but are not limited to, the availability and interest of birth relatives, the laws of the Country of Origin and the continued health of the child.

The Adoptive Parent(s) can reject a referral with cause without prejudice. In this event, Family & Children's Agency will make reasonable efforts to facilitate another referral. However, Family & Children's Agency has the discretion to discontinue services to the Adoptive Parent(s) if it is determined that the expectations of the Adoptive Parent(s) cannot be met. In addition, the Country of Origin may have its

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own policy and practice with regard to the rejection of a referred child which may affect Family & Children's Agency ability to facilitate or support another referral.

- D. **Protecting the Best Interests of Children.** The Adoptive Parent(s) agree to fully cooperate with any and all requirements set forth in this Agreement, as well as any additional requirements mandated by applicable intercountry conventions, local, state and federal laws and/or rules and regulations of the Country of Origin. Family & Children's Agency prohibits child-buying and shall make every effort to ensure that its employees, agents, and representatives in the Country of Origin comply with any and all legal and procedural safeguards that are in place to prevent the abduction, exploitation, sale, or trafficking of children. Family & Children's Agency prohibits its employees, agents, and representatives in the United States, as well as in the Country of Origin, from accepting gifts, incentives, or contingent fees for services related to overseas adoption.
3. **TRAVEL TO AND FROM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.** Family & Children's Agency requires that the Adoptive Parent(s) travel to the child's Country of Origin. The laws of some countries and the circumstances of some adoptions may require that the Adoptive Parent(s) make more than one trip to complete the adoption of the child.
- A. **Travel to Country of Origin.** Family & Children's Agency employees, representatives, and agents of the overseas program or government in the child's Country of Origin will meet the Adoptive Parent(s) upon or soon after arrival, take the Adoptive Parent(s) through all of the steps in the placement and/or adoption and visa process, and facilitate the return of the Adoptive Parent(s) and their child to the United States. Family & Children's Agency's employees and representatives provide recommendations for translation, lodging and board for the Adoptive Parent(s) while staying within the Country of Origin. All expenses associated with such travel, including, but not limited to, lodging, meals, translation, transportation and tourism, shall be the sole responsibility of the Adoptive Parent(s).
- i. **Length of Stay and Number of Trips.** While Family & Children's Agency will counsel the Adoptive Parent(s) regarding the anticipated length of stay and number of trips, the exact length of time that the Adoptive Parent(s) will be required to stay in the Country of Origin and/or the number of trips that must be made to complete the adoption may be determined by factors that are not within the control of Family & Children's Agency.
- B. **Travel Risks.** Travel to and from the foreign country, as well as travel within a foreign country, can involve risk of injury or death and risk of loss of, or damage to, personal property. The Adoptive Parent(s) understand and acknowledge that Family & Children's Agency shall not be responsible for any losses or injury which the Adoptive Parent(s) and/or their child may experience related to overseas travel. The Adoptive Parent(s) are advised to check United States Department of State travel advisories and to consider the purchase of travel insurance to cover some, if not all, of the possible losses referred to above.

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- C. Considering an Accepted Referral While in Country of Origin.** After meeting and observing the child, the Adoptive Parent(s) shall advise Family & Children's Agency's employees, representatives and/or agents if they have any concerns about the child's health or development in contrast to the referral information provided and their intentions to proceed with the adoption process. Family & Children's Agency strongly encourages the Adoptive Parent(s) to consult with an international adoption specialist experienced in international adoption before making this determination. Acceptance of any child for adoption is at the sole discretion of the Adoptive Parent(s). However, the Adoptive Parent(s) shall not arbitrarily withhold their acceptance of a child. In the event that the Adoptive Parent(s) decide to reject a referral after meeting the referred child, Family & Children's Agency's employees, representatives and/or agents shall make reasonable, good faith efforts to secure another referral. However, Family & Children's Agency makes no representations, guarantees or promises that there will be another referral or that another referral would be permitted or approved by the Country of Origin.
- D. Medical Testing and Preparation.** It is often difficult, if not impossible, to have the Adoptive Child further tested or evaluated in the Country of Origin. The Adoptive Parent(s) should consult with their chosen international adoption specialist about any medical tests and developmental assessments that are recommended and that information should be provided on the physician's letterhead to Family & Children's Agency. Family & Children's Agency will provide that request to agents in the Country of Origin, however Family & Children's Agency makes no guarantees that additional testing can be done prior to the acceptance of a referral or completion of adoption. Since the reliability of any tests or assessments conducted abroad may be questionable, and test results may differ, in any event, as a result of lengthy incubation periods associated with certain infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS, and Syphilis, the Adoptive Parent(s) should also discuss with the chosen international adoption specialist what tests and medical procedures should be performed or repeated upon arrival in the United States. Prior to traveling to the foreign country to complete the adoption, Family & Children's Agency recommends that the Adoptive Parent(s) arrange for health insurance for the Adoptive Child pending whatever necessary documentation is required by the health insurance company. Adoptive Parent(s) are encouraged to discuss with their chosen international adoption specialist recommendations about what formula and medications to take when they travel to receive their child.
- E. Permission for Child to Travel to United States.** Upon completion of the placement or adoption of the child, the Adoptive Parent(s) and the Adoptive Child shall visit the appropriate United States embassy to obtain permission for the child to immigrate to the United States. Agents in the country will assist with this process. In some countries, this step may be completed before the Adoptive Parent(s) arrive. The Adoptive Parent(s) agree to have the child examined at a medical clinic approved by the United States Department of State and to complete all steps necessary to accomplish the immigration of the Adoptive Child to the United States.
- F. Legal Effect of Foreign Adoption.** Upon the completion of the adoption in the Country of Origin, the Adoptive Parent(s) shall assume all legal obligations and responsibilities for the child as if the child had been born to them. The adoption shall

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be considered completed when the legal and/or governmental procedures to approve the adoption are complete. The Adoptive Parent(s) agree to accept and fully carry out their legal obligations on behalf of the child including, but not limited to, providing appropriate housing, food, clothing, and medical care.

G. Exclusivity of Family & Children's Agency's Overseas Employees, Agents and/or Representatives. The Adoptive Parent(s) acknowledge that during the adoption process, they may be introduced to individuals who are facilitating the adoption process overseas. The Adoptive Parent(s) agree that they will not, at any time throughout the adoption process or at any time in the future, use these individuals to assist or facilitate the adoption of any other child outside of Family & Children's Agency's process.

4. POST-ADOPTION PERIOD. Following placement of the child with the Adoptive Parent(s) from South Korea, Family & Children's Agency will provide post-adoption services in the form of supervision, reporting, assessment, consultation, aftercare services, and referrals for services that may benefit the child and/or family. Post-Adoption monitoring and supervision will be provided by Family & Children's Agency for Connecticut and New York families and by the Adoptive Parent(s) local home study agency for all out of state families.

A. Post-Adoption Supervision. For families who complete "Full and Final Adoptions" (IR-3 Visas) in South Korea, the Adoptive Parent(s) will permit Family & Children's Agency to supervise the family and their home for as long as and in such manner as is required by the Adoptive Child's Country of Origin and the family's state of residence. Supervision will be completed by a social worker and/or other qualified professional from Family & Children's Agency or Partner Agency/Exempt Provider.

B. Country-Specific Reporting Requirements. Family & Children's Agency will educate the Adoptive Parent (s) on the importance of complying with post adoption reporting requirements. Family & Children's Agency will advise and assist the family in meeting all of the requirements and/or procedures specific to the Country of Origin. This may include home visits, office visits, procurement of photos and/or videos, self-reporting, and other requests. Family & Children's Agency or the Partner Agency/Exempt Provider in cases of out of state families will be responsible to completing all post-adoption reports that are not self-reports. The post-adoption reporting requirements for South Korea including any additional fees that will be charged specific to each Country of Origin are reviewed with The Adoptive Parent(s) at the time of inquiry and are attached hereto. The Adoptive Parent(s) will cooperate fully in meeting these requirements.

C. Disclosure of Change in Circumstances. The Adoptive Parent(s) have a continuing obligation, up and until the date of finalization and completion of post adoption requirements, to immediately report to Family & Children's Agency any or all of the following:

- i. Any unusual circumstances or unforeseen difficulties or problems regarding the placement;
- ii. Any significant changes in the Adoptive Parent(s) personal profile, including but not limited to, any changes in physical/mental health,

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- employment, financial situation, involvement with law enforcement agencies, involvement with child welfare agencies and/or changes in family composition, whether by death, separation, divorce or otherwise; and
- iii. Any other significant changes in circumstances that could affect the success of the placement.

D. Adoption Re-Finalization. Upon completion of the post-adoption requirements set forth in Paragraphs 4A, 4B and 4C above, the Adoptive Parent(s) can engage the services of an attorney or agency to petition a court of proper jurisdiction to re-finalize (if desired by the Adoptive Parent(s)) the adoption of the child within a reasonable period of time. Note: Some courts allow the Adoptive Parent(s) to petition the courts for re-finalization. Following re-finalization, the Adoptive Parent(s) will provide a copy of the adoption decree to Family & Children's Agency within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the adoption decree. All costs associated with the adoption finalization and/or re-finalization in the United States shall be the sole responsibility of the Adoptive Parent(s).

E. Citizenship. The Adoptive Parent (s) automatically receive a copy of the adopted child's Certificate of Citizenship approximately 8-12 weeks after their finalized adoption in South Korea and subsequent return to the United States. The Adoptive Parent(s) agree to provide proof of citizenship for their Adoptive Child to Family & Children's Agency within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days after receipt of such document. Family & Children's Agency sends a copy to the designated officials in South Korea to provide proof of the adopted child's US Citizenship so that they may be removed from the immigration records of South Korea. Family & Children's Agency is not liable should a family not receive citizenship for their Adoptive Child.

F. After-Care Services. Family & Children's Agency will make available to the Adoptive Parent(s) and the Adoptive Child after-care services, including, but not limited to, counseling, consultation, educational workshops, cultural events, support groups, and referrals to other providers. Family & Children's Agency reserves the right to charge additional fees to support and the provision of these services to adoptive families.

5. DISSOLUTION OF FINALIZED ADOPTION AFTER RETURN TO UNITED STATES. In the instance of dissolution of an already finalized adoption, Family & Children's Agency is mindful that it is the parent's choice to involve Family & Children's Agency in replacement activities. The parents can terminate their rights voluntarily and relinquish custody of the child to the state child welfare agency in their state. If at the time, should the Adoptive Parent(s) live outside of the States of Connecticut or New York, Family & Children's Agency would also communicate with the out of state parent in the case of dissolution and the state's child welfare agency to assist in making a permanency plan for the child. The Adoptive Parent(s) shall remain legally and financially responsible for the child until such time as a court of competent jurisdiction transfers legal custody of the child to another individual or to an authorized agency.

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A. Return to Country of Origin: In the case of a dissolution of an adoption, Family & Children's Agency will make every effort to assist the entities involved locally or out of state to identify a permanency plan for the child, which would best meet their needs. If a new adoptive family cannot be identified and after an assessment of the child's wishes, age, length of time in the United States the agency determines that it would be in the child's best interest to be returned to their country of origin, Family & Children's Agency will contact the Central Authority in the country and the Department of State here in the United States. The agency will present its assessment of the situation and the plan being recommended for the child and why. The agency will ultimately adhere to the determination made by the Central Authority and the Department of State and would only return the child if granted written approval to do so. Should it be necessary to return the child to the country of origin, all costs associated with this process will be the responsibility of the adoptive parent.

6. FEES. Family & Children's Agency shall be compensated for its services in accordance with the fee schedule outlined above. By signing this Fee Agreement, the Adoptive Parent(s) acknowledge that they have reviewed the aforementioned written schedule of expected total fees and estimated expenses and that they understand and accept the anticipated fees and expenses. Fees due and paid to third parties and for travel during an adoption process are the financial responsibility of the applicant. Fees for adoption services cannot be waived or reduced.

The practice of Family & Children's Agency is to charge fees at each interval of the adoption process. If the adoption is, for any reason, discontinued, fees paid or incurred for services rendered up to the date of discontinuance shall not be recoverable and shall remain the obligation of the Adoptive Parent(s). Adoptive Parent(s) may only request a refund for fees paid if services have not yet been provided. Any requests for refunds must be made in writing. Family & Children's Agency agrees to return any funds to which Adoptive Parent(s) may be entitled within sixty (60) days of the completion of the delivery of services.

Additionally, for South Korea Program clients, all fees payable to Korea Welfare Services (KWS) are paid to Family & Children's Agency. It is the responsibility of Family & Children's Agency to wire applicable fees to KWS on behalf of the Adoptive Parent(s). If the adoption is, for any reason, discontinued, fees paid or incurred for services rendered by KWS up to the date of discontinuance shall not be recoverable and shall remain the obligation of the Adoptive Parent(s). Adoptive Parent(s) may only request a refund for fees paid if services have not yet been provided. Any requests for refunds of fees paid to KWS must be made in writing. Family & Children's Agency agrees to submit any requests for refunds to KWS on behalf of the Adoptive Parent(s) in a timely manner but makes no guarantees about the approval of any request for refunds by KWS. Any approved refunds for KWS will be returned to Family & Children's Agency who is then responsible for refunding the Adoptive Parent(s).

Adoptive Parent(s) agree to pay all fees to Family & Children's Agency within thirty (30) days of the date they receive an invoice for services. All outstanding fees for services provided must be paid in full prior to the finalization of the home study and/or adoption. Fees are payable via credit card or check.

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7. CONFIDENTIALITY. It may be necessary to share information provided by the Adoptive Parent(s) that might otherwise be considered confidential in nature, with a third party in order to effectuate the goal of adoption. Family & Children's Agency will not share such information without written consent by the Adoptive Parent(s).

8. ASSUMPTION OF RISK. Notwithstanding the Adoptive Parent(s)' full compliance with the application process, as outlined above, Family & Children's Agency's efforts to protect the integrity of the adoption process, Family & Children's Agency makes no representation, guarantees or promises that Family & Children's Agency and/or the Country of Origin, its government, overseas placement agency, consulate agency, facilitators, or any other parties whose consent may be necessary, will agree to work with and/or approve the Adoptive Parent(s) application. The Adoptive Parent(s) understand and acknowledge that the adoption process could be delayed or discontinued by the sending country, governmental action, individuals and/or judicial decrees that are beyond the control of Family & Children's Agency including, but not limited to, the political and social climate of the Country of Origin, as well as, changes to laws in the Country of Origin. Furthermore, it is understood that the referral of a child could be retracted in cases where a biological parent decides to parent their child, a foster family decides to parent a child in their care, or there is a significant change in the child's health. By signing below, the Adoptive Parent(s) assume the risk that, despite reasonable, good faith efforts, an adoption might not proceed to finalization.

9. HOLD HARMLESS. The Adoptive Parent(s) agree to hold Family & Children's Agency and its employees, agents and/or representatives harmless from any and all claims, demands, or liability arising out of or relating to political, governmental, administrative, medical, emotional, developmental, and/or other causes beyond the control or knowledge of Family & Children's Agency and its United States and/or international employees, agents and/or representatives.

10. WAIVER AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. As set forth throughout this Agreement, there are numerous risks involved in the international adoption process, including but not limited to the possibility that an adoption will never be completed due to factors outside Family & Children's Agency's control; that an adoptive child may have or develop medical, emotional or developmental issues that were not known or were not properly disclosed to Family & Children's Agency; property and/or injury to their person during their travel to and from the country of origin; that a finalized adoption may prove unsuccessful and may ultimately result in dissolution. Should any of these circumstances arise; the Adoptive Parent(s) agree to release Family & Children's Agency and its employees, agents and/or successors, from any and all liability, claims or demands resulting from the above known risks. In the event that Family & Children's Agency, its employees, agents or successors, are deemed liable for acts and/or omissions not related to or resulting from the above known risks, the Adoptive Parent(s) understand and agree that any such liability shall not exceed the total payments received by Family & Children's Agency from the Adoptive Parent(s).

11. TERMS OF AGREEMENT. Any modifications to this Agreement must be made, in writing, by mutual consent of the parties to this Agreement.

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Adoptive Parent Initial Adoptive Parent Initial

12. CHOICE OF LAW AND VENUE. This Agreement and all rights, obligations and disputes arising out of it shall be governed by and construed consistent with Connecticut law. The parties agree that all suits, proceeding, and other actions shall be brought in Fairfield County, Connecticut where Family & Children's Agency maintains its primary office.

13. NON-WAIVER OF DEFAULT. The failure of Family & Children's Agency to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver by Family & Children's Agency of that or any other provision.

14. SEVERABILITY. The parties agree that, if any term or provision of this Agreement is declared by a court or arbitrator of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and provisions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if the Agreement did not contain the particular term or provision held to be invalid.

15. LENGTH OF AGREEMENT. Unless expressly revoked in writing by one of the undersigned parties this agreement shall remain in effect until the adoption is finalized and all post adoption requirements are met.

16. NOTICE. Any and all notices which are required under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given when (i) delivered in person; or (ii) mailed by first class, certified or registered U.S. mail, return receipt requested and postage paid.

If directed to Family & Children's Agency, its employees, representatives or agents:

Director of Adoption
Family & Children's Agency, Inc.
9 Mott Avenue, 4th floor
Norwalk, CT 06850

If directed to Adoptive Parents:

I/We have read and understood this page

Adoptive Parent Initial Adoptive Parent Initial

I/We have read and understood this document and had the opportunity to ask questions of Family & Children's Agency.

AGREED to by each of the undersigned parties on the date written above.

17. SIGNATURES

Adoptive Parent Date

Adoptive Parent Date

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S AGENCY

By: _____
Signature Date

Print Name: _____

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Post Adoption Reporting Requirements

The Korean Ministry requires six Post Adoption Reports to take place within one year from the date of custody in South Korea following the finalization of the adoption; please note that it is the date of custody and not the date that a family arrives in the United States. The reports are due at one (1), two (2), four (4), six (6), nine (9) and twelve (12) months. Reports one (1), two (2), and four (4) must be in the adoptive family's home; reports six (6), nine (9), and twelve (12) months can be at another location.

Both the adoptive parents and adopted child must be present at all visits. All visits must be conducted in person. Agency reports must be written within 10 days of the visit and are due to Family & Children's Agency's office at least 5 days prior to the due date.

The schedule of due dates of all Post Adoption Reports are provided to adoptive families and the local home study agency as part of the Welcome Home Packet.



ADOPTION FEE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTORY FEES *(non-refundable)*

Application Fee	Due with application	\$300
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HOME STUDY FEES

Domestic Adoption Home Study ¹	Due with application	\$1,950
International Adoption Home Study ¹	Due with application	\$2,500
Home Study Update	Due at time of service	\$1,000 Full \$150/hr. Partial
Home Study Addendum	Due at time of service	\$500 Full \$250 Partial
2 nd or 3 rd Adoptions - Domestic ¹ <i>* When previous home study was completed by FCA</i>	Due with application	\$950
2 nd or 3 rd Adoptions - International ¹ <i>* When previous home study was completed by FCA</i>	Due with application	\$1,250
Co-parent/Step-parent/Relative home study (See attached fee schedule)	Due upon completion	See sliding scale fee

OTHER ADOPTION SERVICES *(for home study only clients)*

Interagency fee <i>(covers all administrative support, document delivery, and interagency communication from time of home study to placement)</i>	Due upon completion of home study	\$500
Post Placement <i>(A minimum of 2 post-placement/ adoption visits are required by FCA. Additional visits or phone calls (phone calls are charged at \$150/hr rate) will be required as deemed necessary by FCA or as required by the placement agency.)</i>	Due at initiation of service	\$350/report
Adoption Finalization <i>(CT families who finalize in CT with the assistance of FCA)</i>	Due at time of service	\$1,000

DOMESTIC ADOPTION

AGENCY PLACEMENT

Enrollment Fee	Due upon completion of home study	\$2,000
Match Fee	Due upon adoption match	\$3,000
Acceptance Fee	Due upon placement of child	\$20,000

**Placement fees include services provided by birth parent counselor and adoption social workers, post placement supervision, and adoption finalization. Additional fees may include: birth parent living expenses and/or any medical expenses incurred for prenatal care, delivery, and or care of the baby prior to placement.*

PARENT INITIATED ("IDENTIFIED") ADOPTION

Acceptance Fee	Due upon placement of child	See sliding scale fee
10% of our income with a minimum fee of of \$6,000 and a maximum of \$20,000. Based on our total household income listed on our last 1040, the acceptance fee to Family & Children's Agency would be:		

**Fees many also include, but are not limited to, birth parent living expenses, medical care, and adoption finalization. An individual fee agreement will be completed for each family based on the needs of the case.*

BIRTH PARENT COUNSELING SERVICES

Program Enrollment	Due upon initiation of services	\$2,000
Birth Parent Counseling	Due upon completion of services	\$150 per hour

**This program is available to families residing outside of CT/NY and in the process of an adoption of a child born or currently residing in CT/NY.*

**Fees many also include, but are not limited to, birth parent living expenses, statutory parent fee, medical care, and adoption finalization. An individual fee agreement will be completed for each family based on the needs of the case.*

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION – SOUTH KOREA

Fee	Due	Amount	Type of fee
FCA Connecticut and New York Home Study Fee (see 'Home Study Fees' section above)	Due upon submission of application	\$2,500	Home Study
Out-of-State Home Study Fee	Determined by and paid to local agency/exempt provider	Determined by and paid to local agency/exempt provider	Home Study
FCA Enrollment Fee (covers all services from time of application to submission of home study packet)	Due upon submission of application	\$4,500	Adoption Expenses – U.S.
FCA International Service Fee (covers all international and domestic correspondence)	Due upon submission of application	\$500	Translation & Document Expenses
Monitoring and Oversight Fee to be paid to IAAME, the Hague accrediting entity	Due upon submission of application	\$500	Adoption Expenses – U.S.

FCA Acceptance Fee <i>(covers all services from submission of home study packet to time of adoption)</i>	Due upon acceptance of child referral	\$4,500	Adoption Expenses - U.S.
FCA Connecticut and New York Post Adoption Reporting Fees <i>(6 reports at \$350/report)</i>	Due upon acceptance of child referral	\$2,100	Post-Adoption Reports
Out-of-State Post Adoption Reporting Fees <i>(6 reports at approximately \$350/report)</i>	Due upon acceptance of child referral	Determined by local agency / exempt provider	Post-Adoption Reports
CIS-1600A Application	Due following completion of home study process	\$775*	Third Party Fees
CIS-Fingerprints <i>(Will be requested directly by USCIS)</i>	Due following submission of I600A Application	\$85/adult*	Third Party Fees
Psychological Evaluations	Due during home study process	Estimate: \$500-\$2,500* per applicant	Third Party Fees
FBI & Local Clearances	Due during home study process	Estimate: \$10-\$100* per applicant and any other adult household member	Third Party Fees
Document Updating due to relocation or lifechanging event post Dossier Submission <i>(if applicable)</i>	Due at time of update	\$500	Translation & Document Expenses
Korea Welfare Services Adoption Fee	Due upon acceptance of child referral. Fee paid to FCA - FCA wires funds to KWS on behalf of client	\$9,973	Foreign Country Program Expenses
Korea Welfare Services Donation	Due upon acceptance of child referral. Fee paid to FCA - FCA wires funds to KWS on behalf of client	\$5,767	Contributions <i>(Support of Baby Reception Home operating expenses, Care of the Infants, Foster Care System Expenses)</i>
Korea Welfare Services Medical Fee	Due upon acceptance of child referral. Fee paid to FCA - FCA wires funds to KWS on behalf of client	\$800	Care of the Child
Korea Welfare Services Development Fund	Due upon acceptance of child referral. Fee paid to FCA - FCA wires funds to KWS on behalf of client	\$3,000	Foreign Country Program Expenses
US Embassy/Visa Departure Expense	Due upon acceptance of child referral. Fee paid to FCA - FCA wires funds to KWS on behalf of client	\$500	Translation & Document Expenses

Travel & Accommodation Expenses	Due prior and/or during travel in South Korea	Estimate: \$14,850-\$23,500* (Hotel, Plane, Food)	Travel & Accommodation Expenses
Total Estimated Cost – Korea Adoption		\$51,955-\$64,785	

(1) Home study. The expected total fees and estimated expenses for home study preparation and approval, whether the home study is to be prepared directly by the agency or person itself, or prepared by a supervised provider, exempted provider, or approved person and approved as required under § 96.47;

(2) Adoption expenses in the United States. The expected total fees and estimated expenses for all adoption services other than the home study that will be provided in the United States. This category includes, but is not limited to, personnel costs, administrative overhead, operational costs, training and education, communications and publications costs, and any other costs related to providing adoption services in the United States;

(3) Foreign country program expenses. The expected total fees and estimated expenses for all adoption services that will be provided in the child's country of origin. This category includes, but is not limited to, costs for personnel, administrative overhead, training, education, legal services, and communications, and any other costs related to providing adoption services in the child's Convention country;

(4) Care of the child. The expected total fees and estimated expenses charged to prospective adoptive parent(s) for the care of the child in the country of origin prior to adoption, including, but not limited to, costs for food, clothing, shelter and medical care; foster care services; orphanage care; and any other services provided directly to the child;

(5) Translation and document expenses. The expected total fees and estimated expenses for obtaining any necessary documents and for any translation of documents related to the adoption, along with information on whether the prospective adoptive parent(s) will be expected to pay such costs directly or to third parties, either in the United States or in the child's country of origin, or through the agency or person. This category includes, but is not limited to, costs for obtaining, translating, or copying records or documents required to complete the adoption, costs for the child's court documents, passport, adoption certificate and other documents related to the adoption, and costs for notarizations and certifications;

(6) Contributions. Any fixed contribution amount or percentage that the prospective adoptive parent(s) will be expected or required to make to child protection or child welfare service programs in the child's country of origin country or in the United States, along with an explanation of the intended use of the contribution and the manner in which the transaction will be recorded and accounted for; and

(7) Post-placement and post-adoption reports. The expected total fees and estimated expenses for any post-placement or post-adoption reports that the agency or person or parent(s) must prepare in light of any requirements of the expected country of origin.

(8) Third party fees. The expected total fees and estimated expenses for services that the prospective adoptive parent(s) will be responsible to pay directly to a third party. Such third party fees include, but are not limited to, fees to competent authorities for services rendered or Central Authority processing fees; and

(9) Travel and accommodation expenses. The expected total fees and estimated expenses for any travel, transportation, and accommodation services arranged by the agency or person for the prospective adoptive parent(s).

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S AGENCY FEES LISTED ABOVE ARE VALID UNTIL 7/1/2022.

Please contact Family & Children's Agency for updated fee information if submitting application after 7/1/2022.

ALL NON-AGENCY INTERNATIONAL FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

*Please contact your Program Coordinator for details regarding non-agency fees.

¹ An hourly fee of \$150 will be assessed if the home study is not approved or if applicant withdraws prior to completion.

FEE AGREEMENT AND REFUND POLICY

Family & Children's Agency shall be compensated for its services in accordance with the fee schedule outlined above. By signing this Fee Agreement, the Adoptive Parent(s) acknowledge that they have reviewed the aforementioned written schedule of expected total fees and estimated expenses and that they understand and accept the anticipated fees and expenses. Fees due and paid to third parties and for travel during an adoption process are the financial responsibility of the applicant. Fees for adoption services cannot be waived or reduced.

The practice of Family & Children's Agency is to charge fees at each interval of the adoption process. If the adoption is, for any reason, discontinued, fees paid or incurred for services rendered up to the date of discontinuance shall not be recoverable and shall remain the obligation of the Adoptive Parent(s). Adoptive Parent(s) may only request a refund for fees paid if services have not yet been provided. Any requests for refunds must be made in writing. Family & Children's Agency agrees to return any funds to which Adoptive Parent(s) may be entitled within sixty (60) days of the completion of the delivery of services.

Additionally, for South Korea Program clients, all fees payable to Korea Welfare Services (KWS) are paid to Family & Children's Agency. It is the responsibility of Family & Children's Agency to wire applicable fees to KWS on behalf of the Adoptive Parent(s). If the adoption is, for any reason, discontinued, fees paid or incurred for services rendered by KWS up to the date of discontinuance shall not be recoverable and shall remain the obligation of the Adoptive Parent(s). Adoptive Parent(s) may only request a refund for fees paid if services have not yet been provided. Any requests for refunds of fees paid to KWS must be made in writing. Family & Children's Agency agrees to submit any requests for refunds to KWS on behalf of the Adoptive Parent(s) in a timely manner but makes no guarantees about the approval of any request for refunds by KWS. Any approved refunds for KWS will be returned to Family & Children's Agency who is then responsible for refunding the Adoptive Parent(s).

Adoptive Parent(s) agree to pay all fees to Family & Children's Agency within thirty (30) days of the date they receive an invoice for services. All outstanding fees for services provided must be paid in full prior to the finalization of the home study and/or adoption. Fees are payable via credit card or check.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Applicant's Signature

Date

FCA Staff Member's Signature

Date

RELATIVE, STEP-PARENT, AND CO-PARENT ADOPTION FEE SCHEDULE

Connecticut Probate Courts require a brief home study in cases of relative, step-parent and co-parent adoptions. These may be prepared by licensed child placing agencies for a fee, or by the Department of Children and Families at no cost. In order to make services available to families and to cover costs of the study, Family & Children's Agency will assist families on a sliding scale based on verified household income, as follows:

Annual Income	Hourly fee
\$0 - \$36,000 per year	\$50
\$36,000 - \$36,999	\$53
\$37,000 - \$37,999	\$56
\$38,000 - \$38,999	\$59
\$39,000 - \$39,999	\$62
\$40,000 - \$40,999	\$65
\$41,000 - \$41,999	\$68
\$42,000 - \$42,999	\$71
\$43,000 - \$43,999	\$74
\$44,000 - \$44,999	\$77
\$45,000 - \$45,999	\$80
\$46,000 - \$46,999	\$83
\$47,000 - \$47,999	\$86
\$48,000 - \$48,999	\$89
\$49,000 - \$49,999	\$92
\$50,000 - \$50,999	\$95
\$51,000 - \$51,999	\$98
\$52,000 - \$52,999	\$101
\$53,000 - \$53,999	\$104
\$54,000 - \$54,999	\$107
\$55,000 - \$55,999	\$110
\$56,000 - \$56,999	\$113
\$57,000 - \$57,999	\$116
\$58,000 - \$58,999	\$119
\$59,000 - \$59,999	\$122
\$60,000 - \$61,999	\$125
\$62,000 - \$63,999	\$128
\$64,000 - \$65,999	\$131
\$66,000 - \$67,999	\$134
\$68,000 - \$69,999	\$137
\$70,000 - \$71,999	\$140
\$72,000 - \$73,999	\$143
\$74,000 - \$75,000	\$146
over \$75,000	\$150