

General Register Office

Registering Foreign Adoptions information for applicants

FOREWARD

This booklet provides information for people who wish to have a foreign adoption registered by the Registrar General for England and Wales.

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If you have any questions before you apply, you can contact us:

- By writing to: Adoptions Branch
Room C202
General Register Office
Identity and Passport Service
Trafalgar Road
Southport
PR8 2HH
- By telephone: 0151 471 4830
- By email: adoptions@ips.gsi.gov.uk
- Website www.direct.gov.uk/gro

From 1 June 2003, a Convention or overseas adoption may be registered by the Registrar General for England and Wales when the adoptive parent(s) were habitually resident in England or Wales at the time of the adoption.

A Convention adoption is one made under the Convention on the Protection of Children and the Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption concluded at The Hague on 29 May 1993.

An overseas adoption is one made under the law of any of the designated countries listed below.

From 1 June 2003, the designated countries are:

Anguilla	Guyana	St Vincent
Australia	Hong Kong	Swaziland
Bahamas	Republic of Ireland	Sweden
Barbados	Israel	Switzerland
Belgium	Italy	Tanzania
Belize	Jamaica	Tonga
Bermuda	Kenya	Trinidad &
Botswana	Lesotho	Tobago
British Virgin Islands	Luxembourg	Turkey
Canada	Malawi	Uganda
Cayman Islands	Malaysia	United States
China (but only where the	Malta	of America
child was adopted on or after	Mauritius	Yugoslavia (but
5 April 1993 and will be living	Montserrat	none of the states
in England or Wales)	Namibia	which make up
Cyprus	The Netherlands	the former
Denmark(including Greenland	(including the Antilles)	Yugoslavia)
and the Faroes)	New Zealand	
Dominica	Nigeria	
Fiji	Norway	
Finland	Pitcairn Island	
France (including Reunion	Portugal(including the Azores and Madeira)	
Martinique, Gaudeloupe	Seychelles	
and French Guyana)	Singapore	
Germany	South Africa	
Ghana	Spain (including the Balearics	
Gibraltar	and Canary Islands)	
Greece	Sri Lanka	
	St Christopher and Nevis	

From 1 June 2003, the Convention countries are:

Albania	Finland	Panama
Andorra	France	Paraguay
Armenia	Georgia	Peru
Australia	Germany	Philippines
Austria	Guinea	Poland
Azerbaijan	Hungary	Portugal
Belarus	Iceland	Romania
Belgium	India	Russian Federation
Belize	Ireland	San Marino
Bolivia	Israel	Seychelles
Brazil	Italy	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Kenya	Slovenia
Burkina Faso	Latvia	South Africa
Burundi	Lithuania	Spain
Canada	Luxembourg	Sri Lanka
Chile	Madagascar	Sweden
China	Mali	Switzerland
Colombia	Malta	Thailand
Costa Rica	Mauritius	Turkey
Cuba	Mexico	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Moldova	United States of America
Czech Republic	Monaco	Uruguay
Denmark	Mongolia	Venezuela
Dominican Republic	Netherlands	
Ecuador	New Zealand	
El Salvador	Norway	
Estonia		

HOW AND WHERE TO APPLY

An application to register a foreign adoption may be made by:

- The adoptive parent (or in the case of an adoption by a married couple, one of the adoptive parents), or
- Any other person who has parental responsibility for the adopted child (within the meaning of Section 3 of the Children Act 1989), or
- The adopted person when aged 18 or over.

To make an application, please complete and sign Form 52* and send it with the supporting documents (described on page 5) to:

Adoptions Branch
Room C202
General Register Office
Identity and Passport Service
Trafalgar Road
Southport
PR8 2HH

If the application is not made in the English or Welsh language, it must include a translation into English that has been signed and endorsed by the translator with his/her name, address, occupation and a statement that the translation is true and accurate.

(* A bi-lingual version of form 52 (52W) is available to download)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

We will need to see documentary evidence of the adoption, with a translation if it is not in English*.

This evidence will be:

- With a Convention adoption-

The certificate confirming that an adoption had been made as a Convention adoption in accordance with Article 23 of The Hague Convention. This certificate will be the one sent to the adoptive parent(s) by the authorities in the country where the adoption took place.

- With an overseas adoption-

Either a certified copy of an entry made in a public register to the recording of adoptions, from the country or territory where the adoption took place, that shows that the adoption has been effected.

Or a certificate that the adoption has been effected, signed by a person authorised to do so by the law of the country where the adoption took place.

Please note – we cannot accept certified copies/notarised copies from solicitors.

(*We will need a translation of documentary evidence that has been signed and authorised by the translator with his/her name, address, occupation and a statement that the translation is true and accurate.)

- Adoption effected on or after 1 June 2003

We will need to see the letter from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, that states that they have affixed a Certificate of Eligibility to adopt on your application.

GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

- Please complete both sides of the form.
- Please complete all boxes in block capitals.
- If you do not have the information requested, mark the box 'Not Known'
- If you have partial details, put what you do know in the box.
- It is important that you provide as much information as possible to enable a registration to be made in the Adopted Children Register.
- Date of birth – Where only a partial date of birth is known, then at least the year of birth should be provided. With multiple births (twins, triplets etc), please provide the time of birth, where this is known.
- Place and country of birth of the adopted child – If the town or province of birth is not known, then at least the country of birth should be provided.
- The applicant's details should state the forename and surname in full and in block capitals.
- The capacity of person making the application should state the relationship to the adopted child. (ie. adoptive parent, other person with parental responsibility or adopted person over 18 years of age).
- It is important you tick the relevant box to show where the adoptive parent(s) were habitually resident at the time of the adoption. If it was in Wales, the adoption will be registered with the headings in the entry shown in both English and Welsh and Form 52w should be completed. This will allow the applicant the option of having the adopted child's details shown either in English, or in English and Welsh.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

We will look at the application and supporting evidence to confirm that we are able to register the adoption in the Adopted Children Register.

If we have any queries with the application, we will contact you either by letter, email or telephone.

When we have registered the adoption in the Adopted Children Register, we will return the supporting evidence with a notification and a free short birth certificate that shows the person's name and date and place of birth.

You will be able to buy full adoption certificates (a copy of the entry in the Adopted Children Register) and more short birth certificates at reduced fees when receiving this notification. You will be charged for further copies of certificates. We will explain the current certificate fees in the notification.