

A Helping Hand Adoption Agency

International Adoption Program Description

HONG KONG



GENERAL INFORMATION

AHH offers international adoption from the country of Hong Kong. This program has just been launched by AHH this year. We are very excited about this opportunity. AHH is working directly with the Po Leung Kuk orphanage in Hong Kong.

The following website is a useful place to start for reading more about Hong Kong adoption and the country:

- http://adoption.state.gov/country_information/country_specific_info.php?country-select=hong_kong: U.S. State Department page about Hong Kong adoption

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

AHH has begun a new partnership with Po Leung Kuk (an orphanage in Hong Kong) to place orphaned children into loving homes. We work directly with the Po Leung Kuk and are approved by the Central Authority of Hong Kong to conduct inter-country adoption. Hong Kong is a party to the Hague convention as well.

Po Leung Kuk is a small group home taking care of children of various ages. All children adopted from Hong Kong are considered to have special placement needs. Po Leung Kuk makes available a list to AHH monthly of waiting children. The Hong Kong program is unique because prospective adoptive families receive a great deal of information about the child they are considering including: medical reports from the time the child entered care; educational reports; social history; and as much information about the birth family as has been recorded. When a family expresses an interest in adopting a specific child, they make application with Po Leung Kuk to review that child's entire file before proceeding with the adoption.

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

Children from 1 year to 15 years of age with special placement needs are available for adoption. Special placement needs may include medical health needs, mental health needs, or birth family issues. Some waiting children have moderate to severe special needs such as Thalassemia or down syndrome, and some older children are available who have no apparent medical problems. To view waiting children from Hong Kong, please contact our office.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Hong Kong's eligibility requirements include married couples must be at least 25 years of age and may not be more than 45 years older than the child they wish to adopt. Applicants must be married at least 3 years. When it is a second marriage, applicants must be married for at least 5 years. Singles may also adopt from Hong Kong but must have sufficient child care experience and a strong support network. Applicants needs to be in good physical health and have a stable income.

PROCESS

Families submit an application, home study, and dossier to Hong Kong. Once the documents are received and reviewed, Po Leung Kuk sends the family a referral of a child meeting the family's specifications. The screening and referral process takes about 8 to 12 weeks. If a family has pre-identified a waiting child, they will receive that child's full referral upon submitting their application to Hong Kong. Once the match is accepted by the family the legal procedures in Hong Kong take approximately 8 weeks and the family is granted guardianship by the court in Hong Kong. Your family will then process the I-800 with immigration here in the US and upon approval of your I-800, Po Leung Kuk will apply for the visa and passport for the child. The visa is granted prior to the family traveling to Hong Kong so time spent in Hong Kong can be spent simply bonding with your child. The entire adoption process from Hong Kong generally takes about 12 months

TRAVEL

Both prospective adoptive parents are required to travel to Hong Kong to accept placement of the child. Time in country is approximately 7 days though this time may vary slightly. Families receive guardianship orders from the Hong Kong court and then

finalize their adoption in the US upon return. Travel to Hong Kong is comfortable for most families as Hong Kong has many of the modern conveniences we have here in the US and because both English and Chinese are the official languages of Hong Kong.

A HELPING HAND'S COMMITMENT

A Helping Hand is committed to preparing families for the adoption of a child with special needs. We provide pre- and post-adoption education and information regarding medical resources.

POST ADOPTION

Hong Kong requires the first post placement report at 1 month after arrival home and then 4 quarterly reports in the first 12 months after the child returns to the US. This is a total of 5 reports to be completed by your home study social worker and photos of your family and your adopted child are included.

COSTS

The program fee for a Hong Kong adoption is around \$9,000. Additional estimated expenses of \$8,000 to \$12,000 will bring the total cost to approximately \$17,000 to \$21,000. Your out-of-pocket expenses may further be reduced if you receive scholarships or employer-provided adoption benefits. For additional fee information please see Exhibit A. Please call or e-mail Lisa Prather, lisa@worldadoption.org or at (859-263-9964) with any questions.

