China Lately

CCCWA Dossier Processing

Non Special Needs
Review Date completed:
October 31, 2012

Log-In Date completed:
October 26, 2012

International Family Services

Helping families adopt children from
China, Ethiopia, India, Ukraine, and Russia

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COA
COUNCIL OF ACCREDITATION

Child Placing Information System

The CCCWA rolled out the new Child Placing Information System (CPIS) on June 1st. This new system organizes the masses of information required for the CCCWA, referrals, and family documentation.

All foreign staff members attended a weeklong training course to learn how to utilize the system. Now the staff is teaching us.

Glitches are being worked out as quickly as possible so that things can get moving. We hope this new system will make more SN/SF children available for adoption.

U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou Gets a New Facility

The US Consulate has a new face. The new facilities for the US Consulate in Guangzhou will be ready for move-in on July 15th. The 7.4 acre complex is 2 blocks north of the Pearl River, and consists of 7 buildings, green space, and courtyards. There are to be 67 windows to provide consular services to citizens.

The Consulate will follow this schedule during the move. If you are sending paperwork or traveling to China, this schedule will be important for you this summer.

July 5 Last day for LSC submission
July 11 Last day for visa interviews
July 12 Last day to pick up visas, Article 5 packets
July 24 Resume Services

US Adoption Numbers 2012

In the year 2012, U.S. families adopted 8,668 children who were born internationally. That is a lot of young lives that are changed forever!

Incoming: The largest numbers of children were from:

China	2697
Ethiopia	1568
Russia	748
S. Korea	627
DR Congo	240

Outgoing: In 2012, international families adopted 99 U.S-born kids. Canada adopted 41 of them, Netherlands 28, and Ireland 14.

Interesting Etymology

马上 - mǎ shàng

Literally: on the horse

Traditionally: right away

"Although it's certainly possible to use these two characters in their direct translation – "on the horse" – it's more common to hear them used in oral Chinese meaning "right away" or "quickly."

As the story behind this word goes, there was a general who heard that the Emperor was gravely ill. He was so worried that he remained on his horse and headed to the capital immediately..."
from sasha on Transparent language

Information for Extended Family and Friends

Rainbow Kids posted a superb article for extended family and friends. Read this for your own instruction and then pass it around to all your family and friends.

http://www.rainbowkids.com/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=801

U.S. Consulate Holidays

July 4	Independence Day
July 15-24	Consulate Moves
Sept. 2	Labor Day
Sept.19	Mid-Autumn Festival
Oct. 1-4	National Day
Oct 14	Columbus Day
Nov. 11	Veterans' Day
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving
Dec. 25	Christmas
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve
Jan. 1	New Year's Day

SHENZHEN BIRTH CONTROL

Shenzhen Special Economic Zone has offered additional incentives for the one-child family.
• Additional 15 days of maternity leave for those who agree to one child only, for a total of 163 days of leave.
• Unauthorized Birth Fine for each parent: triple the couple's previous year's Disposable Personal Income. (Average DPI in Shenzhen is$5866 for an average fine of $35,000 dollars per parent)
• Unauthorized Birth Fine for unmarried parents is waived if they marry within 60 days of child's birth.

Trivia
• 700,000 engineers graduate each year in China.

• It is considered good luck for the gate of a house to face south.

•China has more English speaking inhabitants than England.

Chinese Recipe to Try

Marbled Eggs or Tea Eggs

Ingredients:
   6 eggs
   3 Tbsp. soy sauce
   1 tsp. salt
   1 Tbsp. black tea or1 tea bag
   4 pieces star anise
   1 small stick of cinnamon
   1Tbsp. cracked peppercorns

1. Put eggs in saucepan of cold water. Bring to boil and cook for 2 minutes.

2. Remove eggs from heat. With a knife tap each egg to slightly crack it in 2 or 3 places. Return to saucepan.

3. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer covered for 2 hours, adding water as necessary to keep eggs covered.

4. Drain and serve hot or cold.

If you would like to see your child's pretty face in our newsletter, email kim@ifservices.org

Horizon

Giada

Mason

Sutton, Audrey, and Hudson

Chinese Finger Play

You strike three times on the top, you see.

And strike three times on the bottom for me.

Then top and bottom you strike very fast,

Then open a door in the middle at last.

Clips and Commentaries about Chinese children

Kind man adopts baby abandoned in train station
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h3GcSHfZlA

Lost Children of the Coal
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QijM72iwSs

Second Children in Shanghai
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qS9TtKxFL4o

Children of Prisoners in China
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9vx_MgGWDU

More about Sun Village
http://www.sunvillage.com.cn/eng/milestone.php#

And the answer is…

Question: I am dying to send care packages to my waiting daughter! She's done without for so long and I want her to send her things to show my love. But my agency keeps saying to wait, don't sent this, etc. This FEELS like my agency keeping me away from my daughter.

Answer: You are so ready to love this child, to let her know that she is chosen now, that she has a family coming for her. Care packages are a wonderful idea...care package can also cause unintentional problems.

As adoptive parents you have laid emotional and financial claim to this little girl; you may have signed papers accepting her. However, in the eyes of Chinese and U.S. law, you have no legal standing regarding this child. No law recognizes you as connected to this child at all.

Your agency has to keep that truth in mind. There are no rules about care packages so most agencies err on the side of caution. No one wants the heartfelt desires of an adoptive parent to overstep some unknown legal line and affect the adoption in a negative way. So your agency would rather be safe than sorry.

Another issue is that Orphanage Directors generally don't like care packages. Imagine how difficult it would be to have 50 children in your care but only 1 lucky child gets a care package full of nice things.

Many Directors avoid the problem altogether by putting the care package on a shelf, giving it to the lucky child only as she goes out the orphanage door to meet her new family. It is sad but understandable.

Also consider that China is a 'collective' society, an attitude lingering from the Mao Tse Tung era. Everything is done in and for the group. Singling one child out for goodies doesn't go over well.

For these reasons, we recommend only 1 care package for your child, sent in the last month before you travel. This way your child knows you are coming for her.

We encourage our families to include enough candy to pass around to *all* the children. Or to send a big basket of fruit so that every child can enjoy it. Or a big birthday cake that everyone can have a piece of. This way your child isn't singled out so much.

It is a hard balance between family, China, and the law. Thankfully, It won't be long before you can love your daughter as much as you want...and with no restrictions from an agency!

~ All best, Kim

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Thank you for allowing us to be part of your adoption story and then some. Do let us know if you'd like to share pictures of your children or have comments or topics of interest.

Have a wonderful summer!

Yours for China, Bob, Kim, and the IFS Family