



PARENTS – CHILD - BRIDGE

Eltern-Kind-Brücke e.V.
Staatl. anerk.
Adoptionsvermittlungsstelle
State-approved Adoption Service



Information Sheet for Applicants on the Intercountry Adoption Process

Dear Madam/Sir,

Thank you for the interest you have shown and for sharing your plans with us. We are pleased to be able to send you our information pack, which you can use to apply to “Eltern-Kind-Brücke e.V.” (Parents-Child-Bridge), to adopt a child from overseas. Please find enclosed some basic information on the special nature of intercountry adoption and the counselling and adoption procedure which has to be followed. If you decide to start the process to adopt a child from overseas, please fill in the enclosed forms and submit them together with photos of you, your spouse, and any children you may have. Important is, however, that you understand and also speak German, because all meetings with our social workers will be in German language and we can only accept applicants with permanent residence permit in Germany. For optimum integration of the child to come it is most important to speak the language of the country where you are resident.

Once we have received the forms, signed and completed in full, you will be put on our list of adoption applicants and an initial meeting/seminar will take place, at which time the payment of the 1st domestic instalment will be due.

As early as this phase, we may make contact with your local adoption service (e.g. Youth Welfare Office) and, if you wish, let them know that you have decided to apply to adopt from overseas through our service. We will also find out whether and when we can expect to receive your local authority home study.

If necessary, it is possible for us to produce this document ourselves in exceptional cases, although we do feel that it is very important and desirable in principle for your local Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt) to be involved.

If, after the initial meeting/seminar, you wish to remain in our adoption programme, we will ask you to pay the 2nd domestic instalment and will suggest dates for the additional meetings with one of our social workers.

If you or our adoption service consider a psychologist's report to be necessary, we can recommend independent, qualified psychologists who have experience in this field and who will then also invoice you directly and independently.

The payment of the 3rd domestic instalment will be due if, after the above meetings, you are fully approved by our adoption service as adoptive parents and the final meeting can take place (detailed country information relating to all the documents required and country-specific requirements. Decision for respective country must be taken until then, because according to the Hague Convention it is only possible to apply in one country of origin at a time). We will then send all your documents to the child's country of origin and request a referral of an appropriate child.



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Referrals of children are generally made by child's country of origin. We receive case history, medical information and details on child with photo. After professional check of child proposal details and information of local Youth Authority and Central Youth Authority, you are invited to discuss all details with our professional staff. and must be accepted or rejected by the adoptive parents on their own responsibility (at the latest when they meet with the child in person in the foreign country).

The children available for intercountry adoption are rarely under one year of age. Most of them are of prep-school age, some of primary school age. Waiting times of around 2 years can be expected, in some countries even longer.

When the child arrives in Germany, the payment of the 4th domestic instalment will be due.

At the moment, we have government approval for the following Eastern European countries:

Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation and the Czech Republic and for the following Asian countries:

Nepal, Taiwan and Thailand.

We should like to point out that the number of children available for adoption may fluctuate considerably. Waiting times may therefore vary, and may also be affected by the age range requested for the child. We are therefore unable to tell you exactly when and sometimes even whether a child will be placed with you. Our focus is solely on the needs and well-being of the individual child.

We should also like to point out that the abandoned children made available for intercountry adoption often have severe health problems and have experienced abuse or maltreatment. Our adoption service cannot take any responsibility for the physical, mental and/or spiritual health of the child placed for adoption, although we make every effort to obtain precise information (in some cases from doctors we commission ourselves). However, the information on the child's health which you and we receive from the sending country in advance may sometimes be inaccurate or incomplete.

If you are unable to accept the first referral on the basis of the circumstances mentioned above, another referral may be made.

Any payments due or made by this time for services performed are not dependent on the completion of an adoption and are under no circumstances refundable.

In order to keep our administrative costs down, we ask you to arrange for the individual payments to be made **automatically** into our bank, Sparkasse Heidelberg, EKB account no. 908673, sort code: 672 500 20.



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We will invoice you for **the costs of outside services** which arise here in Germany, e.g. translations, legalisation and legal costs, postage and courier services, etc., partly with documentation, partly on a lump-sum basis (see also country information sheets).

You will also agree to make these payments with your signature.

In addition to the domestic costs, there are also in-country processing fees for the individual countries, and these may differ considerably depending on the country and process (current range per January 2010: between € 8,000.00 and € 13,500.00). These fees need to be paid separately via bank transfer against a confirmation of receipt. Detailed country-specific information will be provided in the seminar.

You will also agree to make these payments with your signature.

The reason why you are asked to make the domestic payments described is that we receive no government support but must guarantee professional standards in accordance with the legal requirements of the German Adoption Law (Adoptionsvermittlungsgesetz), particularly since the Hague Convention came into force and even higher standards of quality were established.

The in-country processing fees cover the costs incurred in the individual countries and the administrative and counselling assistance during and after adoption process.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email.

We look forward to meeting you

Kind regards

Berit Haas M.A.
Head of
Eltern-Kind-Brücke e.V.
Executive, Member of the Board

Enclosed:

Modus operandi

Intercountry Adoption Service

Explanation of costs

Questionnaire: Application to adopt a child

Once we have received the last document on this list, you will be registered with our service as an applicant and will be invited automatically to the next available seminar.