

Child and Family Services <b>PROGRAM STANDARDS MANUAL</b>	Section: 560	Effective: Oct 1/88 Revised: Dec 1/99	Page: 1
Subject: <b>INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION</b>			

Division 3 of *The Adoption Act* makes provision for two types of intercountry adoption applications: adopting a child who resides in another country and who is legally available for adoption in Canada; and adopting a child in the courts of another country.

## STANDARDS

### 560.1 **Agency referral**

The agency refers proposed adoption applications where the applicants have filed or intend to file a petition in a foreign court for the adoption of a child to the Director.

### 560.2 **Service by Director**

Upon receipt of a referral by the Director and in accordance with section 72 of the Act, the application is verified with and supporting documents are provided on request to the authorities in the child's country of residence.

### 560.3 **Request for foreign child**

Where applicants who have been placed on the Central Adoption Registry under section 39 of the Act, request that their home be considered for placement of a child from another specified country, the agency completes and submits the registration form and other documents to the Director to be forwarded to the National Adoption Desk (Ottawa) or the child's country of origin.

### 560.4 **Home study**

Where applicants agree to accept placement of a child from another country, the agency ensures that the home study on behalf of the applicants includes, where applicable, discussion of:

- motivation for adopting from another country;
- awareness of birth parents' capacity and willingness to emotionally separate from their birth child;
- effects of separation and loss for the child;
- present knowledge of or contact with people of other ethnic origins;

- extended family members' attitudes toward the child from another country/ethnic origin becoming part of the family;
- community composition and general attitudes toward people of other races;
- how the applicants plan to help the child learn about and have pride in his/her race, culture and history;
- how the applicants plan to help the child adjust to a new culture and country;
- whether the applicants are aware they must apply for Canadian citizenship for an adopted child born in another country; and
- whether the applicants are aware of and involved in any support groups for parents adopting children from other countries.

#### 560.5 **Relative adoptions**

In any international adoption proposed to bring economic and social advantages to a child who is not an orphan or a ward of the state, the home study includes discussion of these advantages weighed against the psychological and legal consequences for the child and birth parent or guardian.

#### 560.6 **Reference manual**

The agency maintains a reference manual of all information on international adoption. The Director forwards all updates to agencies as received from the Intercountry Adoption Services (Ottawa).