

China Centre of Adoption Affairs

Dear Ms. Shanti Fry,

Your letter was forwarded to me. Thank you for your concern for the cause of international adoption in China, and thank you for your help and support for adoptive families and adopted Chinese children.

As is well-known, a family is the most basic unit of society and the most natural and important environment in which children grow and develop their personality. The Hague Pact indicates "In order that children's character can develop perfectly and coordinately, children should live in a family environment full of happiness, affection and understanding." The aim of international adoption is just to help orphans who have lost their parents and families return to families and to ensure their right to live, right of health, etc. fundamentally. So, since its establishment, CCAA has set up "All for children" as its aim according to the principle of international adoption "Ensure children's best benefit". Through its own ceaseless endeavor and its staff members' dedication, CCAA has helped scores of thousands of orphans find their families abroad and get the warmth of a family and thrive under the care of their parents. In the recent ten years, CCAA received appreciation, friendly support and cooperation from governments of many countries, various adoption agencies, and a lot of adoptive families.

Because the international adoption undertaking in China has perfect laws and regulations, consummate management, normative programs, and transparency in operation, it enjoys good fame in the world. A great number of foreign adoptive parents apply for coming to China to adopt, and the number of applicants' dossiers CCAA receives increases year by year. At the same time, along with the development of Chinese society and the progress of people's idea as well as the increase of domestic adoption, the number of internationally adoptable children is decreasing gradually and can hardly satisfy the need of all foreign adoptive families. In such a situation, in order to ensure the best benefit of adopted Chinese children and to ensure that adoption will be most beneficial to their development, we should and have to choose those families for the adoptive children that have better conditions in all respects and are most suitable for their healthy development. This is also the realization of the principles and spirits of the Hague Pact.

As to the problem of single adoptive persons' adoption in China mentioned in your letter, we express our respect and understanding for their choice of personal life style first, but at the same time we think: 1. It is difficult to exclude homosexuals from single adoptive persons. Chinese laws do not recognize homosexuality, and traditional

Chinese culture also makes most Chinese hardly accept such a phenomenon of society. Social welfare institutions as placement persons also will not place children in such families. This may be a difference of different cultures. 2. Lack of a father or a mother in a single parent family and imperfection of family function is unfavorable to a child's healthy psychological development, about which most countries in the world have already had a common understanding. 3. If a single adoptive parent meets any accident, the adopted child in the family must have a larger probability of losing her/his family again. In addition, the purpose of the undertaking of adoption is to find families for children instead of finding children for families. So, when even a lot of double parent families' applications can not be satisfied in international adoption, we will give priority to married couples, and let the adopted Chinese children enter double parent families as far as possible to ensure their healthy development both physically and psychologically.

Considering adoptive families' mood of contributing love and eagerness for getting children, we sincerely provide convenient and better services for adoptive families. "Priority in handling" is just a measure of safeguarding adoptive families' benefit. Currently adoptive families' waiting time has already increased to 17-18 months, and it will be getting still longer, which nobody wishes. Some foreign adoption agencies suggested to us that families of different situations would better line up separately. In accordance with the responsibility for adoptive families and adoption agencies, we accept the suggestion. From May 1st, 2007, the way of "Priority in handling" is applied to adoptive families who have better conditions in all respects. So, the adoptive families can have a shorter waiting time and relax their anxiety, and the adoption agencies can adjust and arrange the number of application dossiers sent to China according to the practical situation. Therefore it is a choice needed for work to choose families having better conditions to come to China to adopt.

Any work should be adjusted according to practical situation in order to be adapted to the changes in work, and so should the work of international adoption. The way of "Priority in handling" is a measure which CCAA takes according to the practical situation of international adoption in order to solve the problem that the number of applicants is much larger than the number of internationally adoptable children. The policy of international adoption of China doesn't have any changes. Along with the carrying out of work and changes of practical situation, the way of "Priority in handling" may have further adjustment.

We hope you can correctly understand the way of "Priority in handling" taken by CCAA, and you can also explain it to American adoptive families who want to come to China to adopt. If you have any questions about the international adoption of China and the work of CCAA, please contact us at any time. Let us work together to preserve the hard-earned good order of international adoption between China and the United States and to protect the rights and benefits of adopted children and adoptive families.

Once again thank you very much for your understanding of and support for the international adoption undertaking of China.

With best regards.

Lu Ying (sig.)
Director
China Centre of Adoption Affairs