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## China

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### Notice: Changes to Requirements

The China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) recently announced changes to their intercountry adoption procedures. The changes that apply to prospective adoptive parents (PAPs) in China fall into three broad categories: 1) the eligibility requirements for PAPs, 2) post-placement requirements, and 3) China's fees for intercountry adoption. These changes are effective January 1, 2015.

#### 1. Changes to the PAP eligibility requirements:

- a. The CCCWA will now allow couples in which the individuals are over 50 years of age to adopt a child. The age difference between the child and the younger spouse, however, should be no more than 50 years. Single females must be no more than 45 years older than the child they wish to adopt. Additionally, single females are now permitted to adopt non-special needs children.
- b. The CCCWA has identified additional medical conditions that would make a PAP ineligible to adopt, including being HIV-positive. For additional information on conditions that would make a PAP ineligible to adopt, please see the section, *Who Can Adopt*, in our [Country Information Sheet for China](#). The CCCWA also added multiple sclerosis to the list of severe diseases that require long-term treatment and that may affect life expectancy. However, CCCWA indicated that if one of the parents is healthy, and the other parent's medical condition is manageable with treatment, it will consider an exemption to that ineligibility. Given the complexity of these issues, the Department of State advises all PAPs to seek guidance directly from the CCCWA regarding the changes to the medical ineligibilities for PAPs. Contact information for CCCWA may be found on the last page of our [Country Information Sheet for China](#).
- c. The CCCWA also provided clarification on income requirements. China still requires that an adopting family's annual income equal at least \$10,000 for each family member in the household (including the child to be adopted). CCCWA indicates, however, that this requirement may be relaxed where a family's annual income is less than \$10,000 per family member, but is above the average local living standards of the jurisdiction of residence, and the PAPs can provide valid certification to that effect. The CCCWA also requires PAPs to receive pre-adoption training from their U.S. accredited adoption service provider.
- d. Adopting couples are no longer restricted to having fewer than five children under the age of 18 living in their home.

#### 2. Changes to post-placement requirements:

- a. For cases issued a Notice of Coming to China for Adoption after January 1, 2015, CCCWA requires PAPs to submit post placement reports six months, one year, two years, three years, four years, and five years after the adoption registration.
- b. The first three reports must be prepared by the social workers who prepared the home study. The last three reports may be written by the families themselves.

#### 3. Changes to adoption fees charged by CCCWA

- a. Adoption applications are now \$1,110. The fee to adopt a step-child is \$800 per application.

This information will be incorporated into our Country Information regarding China. The Department of State advises PAPs and ASPs to contact the

CCCWA directly regarding the potential impacts of these changes to each PAs specific situation. For any further information, please contact the Office of Children's Issues by telephone at 1-888-407-4747 (toll free) or 202-501-4444 (from overseas) or by e-mail at [AdoptionUSCA@state.gov](mailto:AdoptionUSCA@state.gov).