



Families For Children

Licensed Child Placement Agency

Taiwan Adoption Program

P.O. Box 975

American Fork, UT 84003

(801) 772-0819

Adopttaiwan@hotmail.com

www.adopttaiwan.com

Dear Family;

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the FFC Taiwan Adoption Program.

Since the start of our Taiwan Adoption Program in the fall of 2002 we've coordinated over 60 adoptions of Taiwanese children. Our commitment to the children of Taiwan, the organizations caring for women and children in Taiwan, and the adoptive families we serve is as strong as ever.

As adoptive parents, we realize the long, sometimes difficult, but rewarding road to realizing your dream of adding an adopted child to your family! Our Taiwan Adoption Program was created by adoptive families for adoptive families. For families considering the international adoption of a healthy infant, older child, or a child with special needs, a Taiwan adoption offers a wonderful adoption option.

We hope that you'll visit our website, www.adopttaiwan.com, and become a member of the FFC Taiwan Adoption Yahoo Group to learn more about Taiwan adoption. There you can learn from other adoptive families and stay updated on changes and additions to our program.

We look forward to assisting you in your adoption journey!

Sincerely,

Laura Trinnaman
Families For Children
Taiwan Adoption Program Coordinator

Updated 06-2005

Join the Group!

Families considering a Taiwan adoption are invited to join FFC Staff and FFC adoptive families on our Taiwan Adoption Program Yahoo Group. Here you'll have a chance to hear from other adoptive families, many who are home and enjoying life with their Taiwanese children. You'll also find updates to the program, travel information, photos, helpful links, and more.

To join the Group,

1. Visit www.yahoo.com.

If you aren't a Yahoo member, you'll need to create an I.D. and password.

2. On the Yahoo Home Page you'll find a list of Yahoo destinations. Click on the "Groups" button.

3. Under "Find a Group" enter: adopttaiwangroup. Click the "Search" button.

4. The search should bring up the Adopttaiwan Group. Click on the group name.

5. At the Adopttaiwan Group Home Page you'll see a blue "Join This Group!" button in the Right Hand Corner. Click on the button and follow the directions to become a member.

Families For Children
Taiwan Adoption Program

P.O. Box 975
American Fork, UT 84003
(801) 772-0819 Phone
(801) 847-2283 Fax
Adopttaiwan@hotmail.com
www.adopttaiwan.com



Families For Children
A Licensed Child Placement Agency

Taiwan Adoption Programs

Introduction Guide



Inside:

- Overview of Programs
- Adoption Costs
- Financing Your Adoption
- Adoption Education
- Adoption in Taiwan
- Adoption Process and Time Schedule
- U.S. Immigration
- Dossier/Legal Document Requirement
- Post-Placement Requirements
- Families For Children
- About Taiwan

Table of Contents

Overview of Adoption Program A	Page 4
Overview of Adoption Program B	Page 5
Schedule of Adoption Costs	Page 6
Financing Your Adoption	Page 7
Adoption Education Websites	Page 7
Adoption in Taiwan	Page 8-9
Adoption Process and Time Schedule	Page 10
U.S. Immigration	Page 11
Dossier/Legal Document Requirements	Page 11
Post-Placement Requirements	Page 12
Families For Children	Page 12
FFC Taiwan Adoption Program Team	Page 13
About Taiwan	Page 14



FFC Taiwan Adoption Program A

Children to be Adopted

Healthy infants are matched to approved adoptive couples by orphanage staff and, on occasion, birth families. The average age of the adoptive child when referred is 2 to 5 months. Most infants arrive home between the age of 9 and 12 months.



Program Costs

\$ 500.00 Application Fee

\$ 15,900- \$17,900 Program Fee

(Fees vary based on the placing organization in Taiwan.)

Adoption Requirements

Adoptive parents must-

- Be married 2 to 5 years.

(Orphanage marriage requirements differ. Please contact FFC for more information regarding our marriage requirements.)

- Be under 50 years old.
- Be Homestudy approved by a licensed adoption agency.
- Be approved by FFC.
- Have received an I71-H (I-600A) U.S. Immigration Pre-Approval.
- Smaller families are preferred.

Referral Information Provided

Infant referrals are forwarded to FFC with an English translation of the child's birth certificate, current medical summary completed by the child's physician, and a short background information page explaining the child's birth family situation and reason for adoption.

Adoptive families are invited to specify the gender of the child they would like to adopt, if they have a preference. However, specifying gender could mean a longer wait for an infant referral.

FFC Taiwan Adoption Program B

Children to be Adopted

Infants with minor to severe medical or physical special needs.
Toddlers and older children with medical, physical, and/or emotional special needs.

Program Costs

\$ 500.00 Application Fee

\$ 11,400 Program Fee

(Fees vary based on the placing organization in Taiwan and on the specific needs of the child being placed. FFC makes every effort to keep program fees for special needs children as low as possible in hopes that waiting children can join forever families.)



Adoption Requirements

Adoptive parents must-

- Be under the age of 55 years old.
- If married, have been married and in a committed relationship for at least 5 years.
- Be Homestudy approved by a licensed adoption agency
- Be approved by FFC.
- Have received an I71-H (I-600A) U.S. Immigration Pre-Approval.
- Larger families and singles will be considered and approved by the child's placing organization in Taiwan.

Referral Information Provided

Adoptive families are provided with all medical, psychological, and academic information available from the adoptive child's care giving organization and/or social worker.

Adoptive families open to a child with special needs are invited to apply for an FFC Waiting Child. If a waiting child can not be immediately identified for a family, the adoptive family's application is submitted to the organizations FFC works with so that they can match an available child with the adoptive family.

FFC's Waiting Children are a representation of the many children in Taiwan in need of adoptive families.

Adoption Costs Associated with a Taiwan Adoption

Adoption Costs	Amount	Included in FFC Program Fees	NOT Included in FFC Program Fees
Homestudy Approval Costs	Vary		✓
I-600A Application and Fingerprinting for U.S. Immigration	\$25.00 plus \$70 per adult for fingerprinting		✓
FFC Program Application	\$500.00		✓
Program A Fee	\$15,900-17,900	✓	
Program B Fee	\$11,400	✓	
Dossier/Legal Document Translations and Preparation	\$500- 1000.00	✓	
Taiwan Adoption Contract Document Authentication	Varies per State.		✓
FFC Adoption Coordination and Expenses	\$3,000- 4,000	✓	
In-Country Coordination	\$1,000	✓	
Program A- Orphanage and Humanitarian Donations	\$9,900-11,000	✓	
Program B- Orphanage and Humanitarian Donations	\$3,000– 7,000	✓	
Travel Costs	\$2,000- 2,500 Approx. per 2 Adults		✓
Orphanage Visit Travel Costs (if necessary)	\$560.00 per 2 Adults		✓
U.S. Visa Fee	\$380.00		✓
FFC Post-Placement Coordination	\$260.00		✓
Homestudy Agency Post-Placement Costs	Vary		✓
Re-Adoption Legal Expenses in U.S.	Vary		✓
Citizenship Fees	Vary		✓

The above adoption fees are based on the most accurate information available to FFC.
Fees set by FFC are subject to change at any time. FFC is not responsible for the fees associated with services provided by any other organization.

Financing Your Adoption

As adoptive parents we understand that financing an adoption is one of the biggest concerns for adoptive families. Many great resources and suggestions for financing your adoption can be found by visiting the web-site links below.

Many adoptive families have been successful in raising adoption fees through fundraising, grants, special needs adoption fee reductions, and low interest loans.

FFC's Taiwan Adoption Program coordinators are available to assist you with your concerns and questions regarding Taiwan Adoption Program Fees. Please feel free to contact us for additional information regarding adoption financing!

<http://costs.adoption.com/articles>

<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>

<http://www.achildwaits.org>



Adoption Education

Making the decision to adopt is only the beginning of the long, emotional, but wonderful journey of adoption. There is so much to learn and many great resources for adoptive families to investigate all of their adoption options. The internet offers information websites, agency websites, and adoptive family sharing sites that can help us, as adoptive families, learn more about adoption related issues and share our sometimes long and often bumpy adoption road.



The following sites are just a few of the resources that can help you as you consider an international adoption.

www.adoption.com

www.naicacf.hhs.gov

www.adopttaiwan.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/adopttaiwangroup/

www.adoptionlearningpartners.org

Frequently Asked Questions About Adoption in Taiwan

What makes adoptions from Taiwan different than those from other countries?

Excellent medical and child care, legal processes similar to the U.S., birth parent situations, and available background information all make Taiwan adoptions unique for international adoption.

Taiwan prides itself in providing for its people. The manufacturing boom of the 1970's and 1980's has helped mold Taiwan into a wealthy, well educated country. But along with the wealth is a large division between the wealthy of the country and the poor. People in many parts of Taiwan live in extreme poverty and have few educational and employment opportunities.

International adoption from Taiwan must be approached with attitudes different than those associated with other countries. Taiwan orphanages and social workers are extremely committed to the children placed in their care. The monies available to them from an adoption are the least of the factors involved in a plan for the child's future. Orphanage employees and social workers weigh very heavily the outside adoption agencies and individual families they work with. Adoptive families are carefully scrutinized to insure the best possible advantage for a child.

Adoption procedures and attitudes are very similar to those in the United States. In most cases, birth parents are offered counseling and support during and after their pregnancies by birth parent counselors and social workers provided by an social services organization.

Why are children from Taiwan placed for adoption?

Though in some cases, children in Taiwan are placed for adoption due to lack of financial resources of the birth family, most often children are placed for adoption by their young, unmarried birth parents.

Due to culture and social norms, single parents find it difficult to choose to parent their children. Many young, unmarried birth mothers choose an adoption plan during their pregnancy for their child.

Children from Taiwan are also in need of adoptive families due to a birth family's inability physically, financially, or emotionally to care for them. A child's medical or physical needs may be more than a birth family can provide for.

Due to the few numbers of domestic adoptions in Taiwan, international adoption provides families for Taiwanese children that would otherwise not have the opportunity to be adopted.

How many children are available and adopted from the U.S.?

The American Institute in Taiwan estimates that 120-140 U.S. Immigrant Visas will be issued to Taiwanese children in 2005. Families For Children has coordinated the adoptions of more than 60 Taiwanese children since it's Taiwan Adoption Program began in 2003.

FAQs cont'd

How long will a Taiwan adoption take?

Families requesting the referral of a healthy infant can expect a 3-6 month wait for a child referral and then a court process of 3-6 months. The length of time families will wait for referral of a special needs child is difficult to determine and most often depends on the requests of the adoptive family.

Is the adoption finalized in Taiwan?

Yes. After accepting the referral of a child, the adoptive family's dossier (legal documents) are forwarded to Taiwan and the placing Taiwanese organization works with the Taiwan courts to finalize the adoption. Adoptions are finalized in Taiwan before the adoptive family travels to pick up their new child.

How long are adoptive families required to stay in Taiwan when picking up their adopted child?

Only one adoptive parent is required to travel to Taiwan to pick up their child. Families should plan to be in Taiwan a minimum of four days. Adoptive parents must plan to spend one day meeting and picking up their child and two or three days to complete their U.S. immigration process for the child's U.S. Visa.

What information is provided about the child to be adopted?

FFC families receiving the referral of a healthy infant are provided with an English translation of the child's birth certificate, a current medical summary completed by the child's doctor, and basic information about the birth family and their decision to make an adoption plan for their child. Families considering older children and those with special needs are provided any and all information available to best understand the child's needs.

What update information is shared with the adoptive family during their wait through the adoption process in Taiwan?

FFC receives monthly update photos and information on our children in Taiwan. The information shared depends on the Taiwan organization caring for the child, but most often, monthly height, weight, and head circumference updates are received with photos for all of our infants. FFC provides on-line photo albums for all children that can be viewed by adoptive families. Taiwan court updates are shared with adoptive families monthly and when they become available.

Taiwan Adoption Process and Time Schedule

Step in Adoption Process	Time Frame Involved
Homestudy Approval Process	1-3 Months Depends on the Homestudy Agency.
Application to Families For Children	2-3 Weeks For approval, preparation, translation and forwarding to Taiwan.
Healthy Infant Referral	2-6 Months
Special Needs Infant or Older Child Referral	1-12 Months Depending on the child requested and children available for adoption.
Dossier/Legal Document Preparation	1-2 Weeks This varies from family to family. FFC recommends that you complete your dossier while gathering required documents your Homestudy Approval process or while you are waiting for a child referral. Your dossier must be complete at the time you receive a child referral.
Dossier Translation and Adoption Contract Authentication	2-4 Weeks Adoptive families living outside the State of Utah are responsible to complete their Adoption Contract Authentications. The time involved in their process will depend on the adoptive family's State and local TECO office
Taiwan Court Process	
Document Review	1-2 Weeks
Taiwan District Court Process	2-4 Months Approximately.
Taiwan Adoption Final Decree Preparation and Scheduling of U.S. Visa Appointment at AIT.	3-4 Weeks Approximately

U.S. Immigration

Immigration Pre-Approval (I-600A)

It is important that adoptive families have filed their I-600A application with their local immigration office and have received their immigration pre-approval. Immigration fees and procedures can change and each local immigration office handles applications differently. We recommend that adoptive families first visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website (www.uscis.gov) for current information forms, fees and offices. FFC also recommends that you check with your Homestudy Agency to learn more about the processes and procedures of your local immigration office.

U.S. Visa Process (I-600)

FFC works closely with the organizations in Taiwan placing FFC children and with the American Institute in Taiwan to ensure that the Visa process for each adopted child goes smoothly. FFC guides each adoptive family through the document requirements for the adoptive family, and Taiwan organizations complete the document requirements for the child.

More information about immigration issues, social security, re-adoption and citizenship can be found at: www.adoption.com, <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>, and www.uscis.gov.

Dossier/Legal Document Requirements

FFC works closely with the organizations in Taiwan placing FFC children and with the Adoptive families applying to the FFC Taiwan Adoption Program may request a Dossier Packet. The Dossier Packet includes forms to be completed for the Taiwan legal adoption process. Also included are sample forms and detailed instructions for completing a Taiwan adoption dossier.

Required documents include: Certified Birth Certificates of adoptive parents, certified Marriage License, Physical Exams, Employment and Salary Verifications, Financial Statement, Passport copies, Homestudy, Immigration Approval and “With Eyes Wide Open” program completion certificate. It is important that these documents on completed on the FFC forms included in the Dossier Packet.

Many families find it easiest to complete their dossier forms at the same time they are completing similar forms for their Homestudy approval process. If adoptive families have previously completed their Homestudy, the dossier forms can be completed as the adoptive family waits for a child referral.

Adoption Post-Placement Requirements

Families For Children is required to provide three post-placement reports for each adopted child to the organizations we work with in Taiwan. Adoptive families receive a post-placement packet upon their new child's arrival home. Each post-placement report must include:

- A completed three page form regarding child's progress (provided by FFC),
- 1 or more photo pages,
- 1-2 Page Social Worker's Report (prepared by the family's local social worker).

Post-Placements are due at 60 days, 90 days, and 180 days after child's arrival in the U.S. Most families choose to use their local Homestudy Agency social worker to prepare their social worker's post-placement reports.

Adoptive families are responsible to pay the current FFC post-placement coordination fee. This fee is not included the Program Fees and covers the coordination of post-placements, Chinese translations and postage to Taiwan. In additional, families are responsible for all fees charged by their Homestudy Agency to complete the required Taiwan post-placements.

Each January, FFC families are requested to provide a yearly update letter and photos to be included in a Chinese New Year Update album presented by FFC to the Taiwan organizations. Adoptive families are encouraged to send letters and photos on occasions special to their family to their child's social worker/orphanage in Taiwan to be shared with their child's birth family.

Families For Children

FFC is a licensed child placement agency based in Salt Lake City, Utah, and was created by adoptive parents. FFC has 19 years experience providing adoption services and assistance to adoptive families, and staff members have a combined 83 years of experience conducting evaluations on adoptive families and assisting them through their adoption parenting experience.

In addition to providing direct adoption services to families and children, FFC strives to play an active role in local, national, and international adoption organizations. The current FFC Director is the Utah State Representative for the North American Council for Adoptable Children. She and many of the FFC team and board members are active in several local and national adoption organizations, committees, and parent support groups.

FFC is designated as a "Cooperating Agency" with several outstanding international adoption agencies who have entered into an agreement with FFC to provide pre- and post- adoption placement services for Utah families who are working with those agencies.

FFC works closely with the State of Utah to provide adoption services to families adopting special needs children domestically .

In addition to pre- and post- adoption services provided to local adoptive families, FFC has international adoption programs including China, Kazakhstan, and Taiwan.

FFC Taiwan Adoption Program

FFC's Taiwan Adoption Program was created in the fall of 2002 and the FFC's Taiwan adoption team has coordinated more than 50 adoptions from Taiwan. More than half of the children placed by the FFC Taiwan Adoption program are children with varying special needs and FFC continues to be dedicated to finding loving, forever families for all of Taiwan's waiting children.

FFC's Taiwan Adoption Team is supported by Director Suzanne Stott, S.S.W., Director of Social Services, Shelley Stevens, L.C.S.W., and Adoption Counselor Dr. Linda Williams-Evans, Ph.D., all adoptive mothers.

FFC's Taiwan Adoption Team also include Program Coordinator Laura Trinnaman, In-Country Coordinator Sally Chang, Family Coordinator Cathy Ramage and Post-Placement Coordinator Lorraine Sandberg.

Suzanne Stott, S.S.W., Executive Director

Suzanne brings 24 years experience to the adoption arena as a volunteer, and adoptive parent and as a professional adoption consultant. She has received the Congressional Adoption Angel Award and has been recognized by her peers by receiving many citations and awards for her work in preparing families to adopt children with special needs. Suzanne is the mother of 9 children, all of whom are adopted.

Shelley Stevens, L.C.S.W., Director of Social Services

Shelley has been a case worker for FFC for over 10 years and supervises Homestudies and Post-Placement reporting. She is also employed by a local school district providing services for children. She is the adoptive mother of four children, one whom was adopted internationally.

Linda Williams-Evans, Ph.D. Adoption Counselor

Linda provides adoption counseling for adoptive families and birth parents. She is also employed as a counselor for a local school district and is the adoptive mother of two children from Korea. Linda supervises Post-Placement reporting for the FFC Taiwan Adoption Program.

Laura Trinnaman, Taiwan Adoption Program Coordinator

Laura has worked and volunteered in adoption and foster care arenas for over 10 years. While living in Taiwan she fell in love with the children of Taiwan and soon recognized the need for adoptive families for Taiwanese children. She willingly accepted the role of helping create the FFC Taiwan Adoption Program and coordinates all aspects of FFC adoptions from Taiwan. Laura is the mother of six children, three adopted domestically and a daughter adopted from the St. Lucy Center in Tainan, Taiwan.

Sally Chang, Taiwan Adoption Program In-Country Coordinator

Sally is the Taiwanese mother of two children and currently resides in Taiwan. She has studied in Taiwan, Japan and the United States. She is a successful business woman with ties throughout Asia and is an accomplished musician. Sally has been a part of the FFC Taiwan Adoption Program since its creation and works daily with the organizations FFC works with in Taiwan. Sally is a committed team member who loves the hope adoption brings to the children of Taiwan in need of forever families.

Cathy Ramage, Taiwan Adoption Program Family Coordinator

Cathy has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. She has been involved in adoption for the past 9 years and is the co-founder of a cultural education and parent group for families with adopted children from China. Cathy has six children including a daughter adopted from Romania and two daughters adopted from China.

Lorraine Sandberg, Taiwan Adoption Program Post-Placement Coordinator

Lorraine is a graduate of Sociology with an emphasis on Social Psychology. She is a new addition to the FFC Taiwan Adoption Team and is responsible for coordination of post-placement reports and requirements. Lorraine is the mother of two children.

About Taiwan

Taiwan has a rich, colorful history. Its original name was Formosa, a name given by Portuguese mariners in the 16th century. Because of the island's beauty, the mariners referred to it as "Ihla Formosa" (Beautiful Island).

The Dutch invaded Taiwan in 1624 and ruled for 37 years. The Spanish invaded and occupied northernmost Taiwan in 1626, but were driven out by the Dutch 16 years later in 1642. The Dutch were finally dislodged in 1661 by invading forces from mainland China.

In 1884, the French occupied northernmost Taiwan following a dispute with China over the Yun-nan-Indochina border. In 1885 they withdrew from Taiwan under the terms of a treaty with China.

The Japanese went to war with China in 1894, following a dispute over Korea. At the end of the war in 1895, Taiwan and its surrounding islands were ceded to Japan. Taiwan stayed under Japanese rule until the end of World War II in 1945. The Republic of China (ROC) was born in the Wuchang Revolution which erupted in October of 1911. The ROC was formally established on January 1, 1912 and brought the republican form of government to the region.

The dispute between the mainland China government and that of Taiwan's (ROC) is ongoing. China continues to recognize Taiwan as part of their country and therefore under their rule. While Taiwan considers itself a separate country and has an established democratic government.

The principal city of Taiwan is Taipei, which since December 7, 1949, has been the provisional capital of the Republic of China.

Taiwan is situated in the Pacific Ocean about 160 km from the south-eastern coast of the Chinese mainland. Located about midway between Korea and Japan, it is a natural gateway for travelers to and within Asia.

Taiwan is 394 km long and 144 km wide. About the size of Rhode Island. The Central Mountain Range bisects the country from north to south and about two-thirds of the island is covered with forested peaks. The rest is made up of foothills, terraced flatlands and coastal plains and basins. Taiwan province includes the Penghu Archipelago- a group of 64 islands previously known as the Pescadores- and 21 other islands.

Taiwan's population exceeds 20 million, which makes the island one of the world's most densely populated places. Except for the approximately 325,000 aborigines, the people of Taiwan originate from mainland China. Most from the coastal province of Fukien.

The Chinese religious belief system is derived from Confucius, Taoism, and Buddhism. Most popular of worshipped deities is Kuan Yin, Goddess of Mercy, and Matsu, Goddess of the Sea. Buddhism and Taoism are the predominant religions in Taiwan, along with a significant number of Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Muslims.

Mandarin is the official language in Taiwan, though other dialects are also spoken. It's estimated that about 50% of Taiwanese households still speak original Taiwanese. English is taught in local schools so you will come across the occasional Taiwanese who can speak some conversational English. Most taxi drivers and shop keepers do not speak English so it is recommended that you have a destination card written in Chinese to present to the taxi driver. And to understand NT (New Taiwan Dollars) for the shop keeper to show you prices on a calculator. Electric current in Taiwan is 110 volts. Drinking water served at hotels and restaurants is boiled. Always boil water taken from the tap if you intend to drink it. Bottled water is available everywhere and is recommended for drinking.

The Republic of China's unit of currency is the New Taiwan dollar (NT\$). Foreign currencies can be exchanged at government-designated banks and hotels. Receipts are given when currency is exchanged and must be presented in order to exchange unused NT dollars before departure. Most banks and hotels will only exchange U.S. monies if they are newer bills. Don't forget to have your passport with you as it will be required for your exchange.

Most department stores and many larger grocery stores accept major credit cards. Traveler's checks may be cashed at some tourist-oriented businesses and by room guests at most international tourist hotels. ATM's abound so it is quite easy to use a major credit care from the U.S. to withdraw money from your account in NT.

Nationals of 15 countries can enter Taiwan Visa free for 14 days. The visa free service, introduced in January of 1994, is applicable to Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Sweden, Spain, and Portugal.

For nationals of other countries. Visitor visas to Taiwan can be obtained from the Republic of China's diplomatic and consular offices abroad.

The American Institute in Taiwan is located at:
#7, Lane 134, Hsin Yi Road, Section 3, Taipei, Taiwan

AIT provides American citizens with many services cluding passport, notary, and visa services. Please check their website at www.ait.org.tw for services available to you during your stay in Taiwan.



in-