

## China & China Waiting Children Programs

The Barker Adoption Foundation has worked in China for more than a decade, beginning first with its “traditional” China program in 2003, which placed mostly healthy infants with families. In 2008 Barker also started placing children through the China Waiting Children (CWC) Program. This program involves placing children with “special needs,” including children who have known medical needs and/or children who are older. We have bilingual staff in both China and our U.S. office. The Barker staff has decades of experience working with China adoptions and has developed strong partnerships with the Chinese adoption authorities and orphanages.

Currently all referrals through China are for children with special needs (waiting children) unless a family has had their dossier in China for more than ten years through the traditional China program. Barker does not recommend that families apply for the China program unless they are open to adopting a waiting child. A family may be matched with a child as soon as their paperwork is ready and typically travels 3-6 months after being matched.



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# Adoptive Parent Eligibility Guidelines of the China Center for Children's Welfare & Adoption (CCCWA)

- **Heterosexual couples** who have been married for at least 2 years are eligible. If either parent has a previous divorce, the couple needs to be married for at least 2 years; however if one parent has 2 divorces, their current marriage should not be less than 5 years. There can be no more than 2 divorces per parent. Couples can have no more than 5 children younger than 18 in the home and none younger than 3 years of age.
- **Single heterosexual females** who have no more than 2 children younger than age 18 in the home and none younger than 3 years old are eligible.
- The **minimum household income** for couples is \$10,000 per household member (including the prospective adoptee), and their minimum net worth is \$80,000. For singles, the minimum net worth is \$100,000. Some flexibility is given on the income level for families who live in an area with a low cost of living.
- The adoptive parents must be at least **30 years of age**, and the younger parent in a couple, or single parent, can be no more than 50 years older than the prospective adopted child.
- Adoptive parents must be in **good health** physically, mentally, and emotionally, with a body mass index below 40. Adoptive parents' health issues are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Any **criminal history** is closely reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with no history of domestic violence, sexual abuse, or abandonment or abuse of children permitted. In addition, there can be no history of illegal drug use or alcohol abuse within the last ten years.

## Circumstances of Children in Need of Adoptive Families

- At referral, children who are nine months through 13 years old
- Children with special needs (adoptive parents can identify needs they are open to consider)
- Children who are in either an orphanage or foster-family care

Because the majority of the children were placed into orphanages after being abandoned by their birth parent(s), there is typically no information known about their backgrounds. "Special needs" is defined as having a known medical condition that may require treatment and/or being older. Prospective adoptive families are offered information about the child's diagnosis, which may include additional testing results related to the diagnosis.

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## Colombia Program

The Barker Adoption Foundation began its partnership with the Fundación para la Asistencia de la Niñez (FANA; the Foundation for the Support of Abandoned Children) in the 1970s and has since had a long history of placing children and hosting Colombia Homeland Tours for adolescent adoptees and their families. FANA is a modern facility located in the heart of Suba in Bogota. FANA staff provides outstanding care for children and expectant mothers.

Due to current Colombian regulations, Barker is currently only accepting applications from families where one parent holds a Colombian passport and cedula. Wait for a referral can be one to two years and families travel within three months after accepting a referral.



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## **Adoptive Parent Eligibility Guidelines for Colombia**

- Single women or heterosexual couples married at least 2 years
- Singles, Married Parents age for Colombian heritage family:
  - 25-45 years of age for a single child 0 - 59 months or a sibling group 0 to 6 years and 11 months
  - 46-50 years of age for a single child 60 months – 9 years and 11 months or a sibling group 7 years – 9 years and 11 month
  - Single or the older spouse of a married couple can't be more than 45 years older than the child/ren
- Good physical and mental health
- Travel to Colombia for placement can be up to six, however both parents only required to be present for the first two weeks
- Families are not allowed to adopt out of birth order

## **Circumstances of Children in Need of Adoptive Families**

- At referral, children ages five months to six years, including some sibling groups
- Children receive good care at FANA
- Some background information is made available at time of referral, while additional information about birth family often available when the child is an adult

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## India Program

The Barker Adoption Foundation has worked in India for more than 30 years. Over the years, Barker has established a strong partnership with the Indian government's Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) and with many orphanages. Barker's in-country staff has a long history of working with international adoption and is passionate about helping children.

Preference is given to Indian passport holders (NRI), although families with or without Indian heritage may also adopt children from India. Adoptive families can request age range, gender, health needs and state of origin. Wait for a referral can be 2-3 years and families usually travel 4-8 months after accepting a referral.



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## **Adoptive Parent Eligibility Guidelines of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)**

- Married couples with at least two years stability
- Singles may adopt
- Age of child dependent upon the parent age at registration:
  - Child up to 4 years – combined age of couple under 90 years, single under 45
  - Child 4-8 years – combined age of couple up to 100 years, single under 50
  - Child 8 and up – combined age of couple up to 110 years, single under 55
  - Note that combined age includes years, months and days
- No more than 2 children currently in the home

### **Circumstances of Children in Need of Adoptive Families**

- At referral, children who are nine months through six years of age, including some sibling groups
- Healthy with minor delays, mild to more severe special needs
- Children who are in an orphanage, either abandoned or relinquished

Since these children are coming from an institution, adoptive families need to be prepared for potential developmental delays and malnutrition.

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## South Korea Program

The Barker Adoption Foundation has helped hundreds of children in South Korea to experience the permanency and love of an adoptive family. Barker's partnership with the Social Welfare Society (SWS) Inc. began in 2003, and today Korea remains one of Barker's strongest and most predictable international programs.

The wait time for a referral is currently under six months once a family has submitted their paperwork to Korea. This program requires two trips to the country.



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## South Korea Eligibility Guidelines

- **Heterosexual couples** who have been married for at least three years are eligible. There can have been no more than one divorce per parent.
- **Adoptive parents' age** must be between 25 and 44 ½ at the time of application to Barker and no more than a 10 year age difference between spouses. Age waivers can be requested for up to 49 ½ if one of the adoptive parent is of Korean heritage or is an adoptee, or if the family has already adopted from Korea before.
- A **minimum household income** of \$30,000 is required. Family should be financial stable.
- Adoptive parents must be in **good health** physically, mentally, and emotionally, with a body mass index below 30. Adoptive parents' health issues are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- **No more than four children** already in the home.
- Any **criminal history** is closely reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with no history of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, or drug/alcohol abuse permitted.

## Circumstances of Children in Need of Adoptive Families

- Outstanding medical care, foster care, and post-adoption services
- Children 6 to 12 months old at time of referral and under two years at time of placement)
- A gender preference is only allowed for certain situations
- Children are usually healthy or with minor special needs
- Some possibility for gender preference
- Comprehensive referral information, includes a social history of birth parents and thorough medical reports
- Immunization history complete and reliable
- Children are typically living in a foster family setting

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## Home Study and Post-Placement Supervision Services Only

The Barker Adoption Foundation offers home study and post-placement services for families living in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., who are seeking to adopt from a country where Barker does not have an adoption program. Prospective adoptive families requesting these services from Barker must identify a licensed, Hague-accredited child placing agency that has an adoption program in the specific country.

Barker does not provide these services for international adoptions that do not have a placement agency involved (for example, independent or private adoptions).



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## **The Barker Adoption Foundation Provides:**

### **Adoption education and training**

- Families are required to participate in pre-adoption training
- Type of training dependent on age of the child you are adopting & requirements of country adopting from
- Trainings include in-person and online trainings

### **Home study and paperwork**

- Social workers experienced with international adoption
- Understanding of state requirements for Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.
- Collaboration with the placement agency involved to ensure smooth process

### **Support and guidance from Barker staff**

- Support provided throughout the adoption process from pre-adoption counseling, home study, matching, placement and post-adoption
- Waiting parent support meetings to hear from the experts and to interact with other families who are adopting internationally

### **Post adoption services**

- Access to Baker's comprehensive post-adoption department, includes support groups, resources, and staff support.

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