



12 Questions for Prospective Adoptive Parents to Ask of Adoption Agencies

1. How many children did you place in the last calendar year, by location of origin?
2. Describe in detail how your agency identifies children in need of adoption. Please specifically address how you determine whether a child is best served by international adoption. If practices vary significantly by country, please provide distinct answers for distinct countries.
3. Please describe safeguards you employ to guard against unethical or inappropriate practices (i.e. child trafficking, incentivizing birth parents to choose adoption).
4. Once a child has been identified for adoption through your agency, in what setting/conditions does he or she typically live while waiting for the adoption process to be completed?
5. Please describe your criteria for approving a family for adoption, including any specific requirements.
6. What pre-adoption preparation and training are you able to provide directly and/or help your adoptive families to access? Feel free to include special services, such as counseling for couples dealing with infertility.
7. Please describe any services or support you are able to provide to adoptive families after the adoption has occurred.
8. Please describe how your agency typically interacts with birth parents prior to and following an adoption.
9. What is your philosophy for addressing problems in the adoption process? Please mention any specific policies you have regarding unexpected disruptions during the adoption process or the possibility of dissolution after the adoption has been completed.
10. What do you view as the most important distinctive(s) of your organization and services?
11. Provide your organization's philosophy on hiring of in-country leadership and staff, including any minimum requirements, and describe training of all staff and caregivers.
12. If children are in your care during the adoption process, describe how your organization provides for and monitors the well-being of children under its care.