



April & May 2020 Edition

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NOTES FROM KARYN'S DESK

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May 5th, 2020

Travel Advisories and Restrictions

Any families seeking further information as to how COVID-19 may affect their adoption and/or travel plans can visit on our website which we are updating daily as new information becomes known:

<https://childrensbridge.com/travel-advisories/>

We have also added several resources for parents, teens and children to help to access during these challenging times.

Event Updates

We are excited to be hosting our first Information Session via Zoom on Wednesday, May 13th (EST) at 7:00PM. More information, including how to register, can be found at:

<https://childrensbridge.com/events/category/info-seminars/>

NEW - We are launching the Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP) program today (posted on Facebook). This virtual COSP™ course provides practical tools and resources to develop a strong attachment relationship between parents/caregivers and their child. The course (8 weekend sessions via Zoom) is offered year-around starting June 6, 2020.

For your information:



Circle of Security Parenting Course™ (COSP) [Flyer](#)



COSP™ Course [Schedule](#)

June-July Registration @ <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/circle-of-security-parentingtm-cosp-jun-jul-8-session-course-via-zoom-registration-104005982694>

TCB Eventbrite main page @ <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/the-childrens-bridge-27839283341>

Staff Phone Numbers

As part of our efforts to ensure we may continue working remotely during this time, our team has moved from landlines to cell phones. Please see our website or the list below on how to reach us:

Lenore – Office Coordinator: 613-226-2112

Darlene – Thailand Program Manager: 905-836-6776

Bruno – Korea and USA Program Manager – 613-807-4238

Karyn – Executive Director/India Program Manager – 613-226-2814

Please note that we are working irregular hours during the COVID situation; however, we will do our best to return all calls within 48 business hours



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INDIA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager
(613) 226-2814

Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

India

Information regarding India's response to COVID-19 and how it affects family's in process to adopt can be found at: <https://childrensbridge.com/travel-advisories/>

Author and activist Arundhati Roy wrote an excellent article assessing the virus' impact on India both now and moving forward – it can be found at: <https://www.ft.com/content/10d8f5e8-74eb-11ea-95fefcd274e920ca>

Any families who wish to understand more about CARA's role in the adoption process and in other areas of child protection in India can follow their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/cara.nic.in/>

General Program Information

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program. We currently have 26 families in process to adopt from India and can work with adoptive families across Canada (except for Quebec). This program is open to families of non-Indian descent, as well as those who are Non-Resident Indians (NRI's) or those with Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI). Families who have NRI or OCI status are prioritized by CARA, but all families who meet the requirements are welcome to apply.

Our India program is open to families who wish to adopt a child living with special needs, and those hoping to adopt via the mainstream program.

Most of the children are 18-months+ at time of child proposal. Special needs of the children in the Waiting Child program vary widely, and can include (but are not limited to): hearing and/or vision issues, HIV, Hepatitis B, developmental delays, Down Syndrome, heart issues such as ASD or VSD, etc.

Adopting a Child with Special Needs

Every month, we will attempt to highlight a different special medical need that we frequently see in our India (special needs) adoption program. If there is a specific special need you are interested in learning more about, please let us know and we will do our best to include it in our next update.



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Disclosure: although every attempt is made to ensure this information is accurate and is taken from reputable sources, families should consider this as a resource and starting place only, and not as a replacement for medical advice or independent research.

A few things in general when considering adopting child with special needs:

- Although timelines are generally faster in a special need's adoption program, this should not be the primary motivating factor. Adoption is a lifelong commitment, as is parenting any child (born to you or via adoption).
- The costs associated with adopting a child with special needs are not lower than other programs. Adoption fees cover the cost of your process, which does not change when a child has special needs. However, as the program tends to have shorter timelines than does the mainstream program, the cost of annual administration fees can be a bit lower. As well, some families have been able to access grants to help to partially cover the cost of their adoption (A Child Waits Foundation and ABBA are the two main sources of adoption grants and/or loans).

Many older children are also available for immediate placement. There are many older children waiting for families in India, and CARA is able to match families fairly quickly who are open to children over the age of 6 - 8 years old. Sibling groups of 2 to 4 children are also waiting for immediate placement, with the ages of children usually ranging between 3 and 12 years.

Relinquishing Indian Passport and Renouncing Citizenship

Once families are home in Canada with their child, they must complete a formal process renouncing the child's Indian citizenship (dual citizenship is not recognized by India's Immigration laws). This must be done within 3-years of receiving Canadian Citizenship (or Record of Landing if you complete the Permanent Resident Visa route). It is very important to complete this step, as failure to do so may result in penalties when your child travels back to India at any point in their life. It is a punishable offence under the Indian Passport Act, 1967, to "apply for an Indian passport, continue to hold an Indian passport, get an Indian passport re-issued or travel on an Indian passport after acquiring foreign citizenship. Under Indian law, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who have acquired foreign citizenship are required to surrender their Indian passports to the nearest Indian Mission/Post immediately after acquisition of foreign citizenship".

Please see this link for more information on relinquishing Indian citizenship and relinquishing your child's Indian passport: http://www.blsindia-canada.com/renunciation_ppt.php





THAILAND ADOPTION PROGRAM

Darlene Catton, Program Manager
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darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

Thailand

Adoption Program News

On the main page of our website, there is a new section “Travel Advisories & Restrictions” for you to check out. We have been updating this information regularly so check back often.

The Department of Children and Youth fall under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. As such, many of the staff from the Department of Children and Youth have been temporarily transferred to a different Ministry to assist families in need (answering calls on the HOTLINE). As well, most are working from home but do not have access to files. This means that it is unlikely that we will see much movement in files until the lockdown restrictions are lifted.

The Child Adoption Board are not holding interviews and until they resume, we cannot schedule any travel. The Child Adoption Board will resume interviews once the government of Thailand lift restrictions.

Currently, we have 3 families with proposals who are waiting (patiently!) to travel. If, at all possible, we will try to schedule all 3 with the same interview date so they can travel together.

We will keep families up to date by posting critical information to the main page of our website.

Dossier Preparation

We are still able to process home studies and updates electronically although families in the home study process who have not completed one home visit will not be able to proceed.

Processing a complete dossier involves three steps: notarizing the dossier, legalizing at Global Affairs and authenticating the dossier at the Thai Embassy. We are able to complete the first 2 steps; however,



the Thai Embassy is not receiving documents at this time. Once the Embassy re-opens, we will advise those in process.

File Translation

We have been advised by the Department of Children and Youth that they will no longer be translating files for us. Luckily, we have a translator, Pitch Sookmark, who currently translates the birth certificate and house registration for each family. Khun Pitch has agreed to also translate the proposal documents.

In addition to the in-country fee and post placement fees that are due at time of proposal, we will also be adding a translation fee.

Referrals & Travel

A big welcome home to Drew and Brooke who arrived home on March 23rd. We were so glad that they were able to bring their son home safely amid the pandemic!

Matching

Please remember that files are **not** matched in the order that they are received. Matching is based on the children currently waiting, the number of files on hand and of course the age, sex and special needs a family is open to. The DCY continue to match in 2 ½ - 3 years and the TRCCH still quicker than that (but longer wait to travel).

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Log-in-Date	Province	Referral Received	Home
J & C	March 2016 (DCY)	NS	October 1, 2019	December 18, 2019
J & K	August 2016 (DCY)	ON	November 22, 2019	March 2, 2020
A & B	December 2016 (DCY)	ON	January 21, 2020	March 29, 2020
P & R	February 2017 (DCY)	ON	January 21, 2020	TBA
T & P	February 2017 (DCY)	NS		
M & A	March 13, 2017 (DCY)	MB		

G & I	June 30, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
M & C	July 7, 2017 (DCY)	AB		
M & J	July 11, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
W & N	Aug. 28, 2017 (DCY)	AB		
A & K	Dec. 25, 2017 (TRCCH)	ON	May 7, 2019	December 18, 2019
M & T	Sept. 8, 2017 (DCY)	NS		
LG	Sept. 11, 2017 (DCY)	ON	October 29, 2019	January 18, 2019
KS	Nov. 20, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
JB	Nov. 20, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
J & A	May 3, 2018 (DCY)	AB		
E & K	Sept. 14/18 (TRCCH)	ON	Feb. 19, 2020	TBA
JK	Oct. 16/18 (DCY)	AB		
H & K	Nov. 19/18 (TRCCH)	ON	October 23, 2019	TBA
M & C	Dec. 24/18 (DCY)	ON		
J & K	Jan. 23/19 (DCY)	AB		
JL	Feb. 22/19 (DCY)	ON		
T & M	March 21/19 (DCY)	ON		
R & J	April 17/19 (DCY)	ON		
M & J	May 27/19 (DCY)	ON		
R & L	June 10/19 (TRCCH)	ON		
C & K	July 8/19 (DCY)	ON		
J & S	Oct. 21/19 (DCY)	AB		
D & R	Dec. 16/19 (DCY)	ON		
K & C	Jan. 13/20 (TRCCH)	AB		
H & J	Feb. 3/20 (DCY)	ON		
C & S	Feb. 6/20 (DCY)	AB		
M & N	Feb. 17/20 (TRCCH)	ON		



R & Y	Feb. 28/20 (DCY)	ON		
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Two families have sent in retainers and are working on their dossiers.

Finalization

Adoptions are finalized at the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Vancouver.

Post Placement

The DCY have indicated that it is acceptable for Adoption Practitioners to complete post placement report visits via Zoom, Skype or teleconference. The scanned reports and pictures will be emailed to the DCY.

AdopTALK

You should plan to attend our 2-day AdopTALK workshop about 6 - 8 months before you anticipate receiving your proposal. All details for AdopTALK workshops are on our website.

Attendance at AdopTALK is mandatory no matter where a family live or what other training they take.

We are planning a ZOOM AdopTALK next month for families that need the training for their dossier or those that need it before anticipated proposal or travel. The families attending have been notified individually.

Ontario Ministry

The Ministry has indicated that they continue to process home studies and updates in 4 – 6 weeks and proposals in 5 – 10 business days; however, we have seen an increase in this timeline. To process a home study/update the Ministry is currently taking about 10 - 12 weeks.

Alberta Ministry

Families will need to complete an addendum to their home study every 12 months. I have recently been advised by Alberta Human Services that they will send the approval directly to a family's coordinating agency and to the family. Once you receive this letter, kindly scan and email me a copy.

Travelling outside of Canada (before adoption finalization)

When you come home with your child and you want to travel with him/her outside of Canada, you are required to obtain a Statutory Declaration from our office (or your provincial ministry for those outside of Ontario) to travel since the adoption is not finalized. The Children's Bridge (or the provincial ministry) is the guardian of the child until the adoption is finalized. Finalization happens approximately 1 year after you arrive home. Please contact me if you are travelling outside of Canada. Children travelling to the US before finalization need to obtain a US visitor's Visa as they are not Canadian Citizens. Please call your local US consulate for further details.

Homeland – China

Due to the current situation regarding Covid19, all China homeland tours have been put on hold.

If you'd like more information, please contact Darlene Catton at darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com





SOUTH KOREA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Bruno Jung-Millen, Program Manager
(613) 807-4238
bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com

Dear families,

During this COVID-19 pandemic, I will not be reachable at my office extension. If there is an urgent matter or you would like to speak to me on the phone, please contact me at my work cell (613) 807-4238. As always, you can also email me. I hope this will make me more accessible during this time.

Also, effective immediately, please do not send postal mail or courier packages to our Ottawa office. All of us at TCB are strictly working remotely at this time and cannot receive documents (e.g. reference letters) and/or home study & dossier packages. If you are planning to submit required documents for your file, please contact me and I will provide you with an alternate mailing address for the time being.

Have a great weekend ahead,

Bruno Jung-Millen

Adoption Program Manager, South Korea & USA



1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221, Ottawa, ON K2G 3J2

Office: (613) 226-2112 ext. 4 | Work Cell: (613) 807-4238

bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com

"This pandemic experience is a massive experiment in collective vulnerability. We can be our worst selves when we're afraid, or our very best, bravest selves. In the context of fear and vulnerability, there is often very little in between because when we are uncertain and afraid our default is self-protection. We don't have to be scary when we're scared. Let's choose awkward, brave, and kind. And let's choose each other." – Brené Brown



USA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Bruno Jung-Millen, Program Manager
(613) 807-4238
bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com

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HIV+ KIDS ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager
(613) 226-2814

Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

HIV+ Kids Adoption Program

This program is available to families who are considering adopting a child living with HIV. It is not a program on its own but runs in conjunction with whichever country/adoption program the family has chosen to adopt from. The Children's Bridge can offer information, education, support and resources to families in process to adopt a child living with HIV.

If you would like any information on the HIV+ Kids adoption program, please contact me at Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or 1-613-226-2814.



ZAMBIA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager
(613) 226-2814

Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

****NOT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS****

Republic of Zambia

We are not accepting applications for our Zambia program at this time. This section will be updated once more information becomes available on Zambia's progress in implementing The Hague protocols in its adoption policies.

If you would like any information on the Zambian adoption program, please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar at karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or 1-613-226-2814.



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CHINA HOMELAND VISIT PROGRAM

Darlene Catton, Program Manager
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*****Due to the current situation regarding Covid19, all China homeland tours have been put on hold.***

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darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com*****



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