



**DILLON**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Affiliated with Buckner

# Frequently Asked Questions about International Adoptions

## **Why should we choose international adoption?**

People choose international adoption because they have a desire to parent a child and believe that every child deserves a permanent family. They may have a connection to a particular country or culture, and they feel comfortable raising a child from another country and/or race. Other reasons include the availability of many infants as well as older children and children with special needs.

## **Why should we choose Dillon International?**

Dillon International is a non-profit, Hague accredited adoption agency. Dillon is one of the most long-standing, respected international adoption agencies in the United States. Our agency is highly regarded among the State Department and adoption officials in the U.S. and internationally. Dillon is committed to assisting with foster and orphanage care, including educational, medical and therapeutic services for the homeless children in other countries who may never be adopted. Our Adoption Education Center provides exceptional educational services to adoptive families in all stages of the adoption process. Also important to consider are the strong post-adoption services offered by Dillon. Heritage camps are held each summer for children from ages 4 to 17, birth country tours are available annually, and support groups and family gatherings are held regularly. **Dillon is committed to families for the life of the child.**

## **When was the agency established?**

Jerry and Deniese Dillon started Dillon International in 1972 to meet the needs of Korean orphans. Dillon was the first international adoption agency in Oklahoma, and now facilitates adoptions in several countries. In 2009, Dillon entered into an affiliation with Buckner International which gives both organizations added strength and opportunities to serve children and families worldwide.

## **Can the birth parents change their mind?**

Although this is a rare occurrence, you should be prepared for the possibility of the birth family changing their mind at any point in the process. If this happens, you will be placed back on the waiting list for another referral.

## **Are we guaranteed a child?**

The vast majority of families experience successful adoptions. However, in rare cases, factors beyond our agency's control may prevent an adoption from being completed, such as a country changing its guidelines, a country closing its adoption program, a change in family circumstances, or the birth parent(s) changing their mind. If a family is unable to proceed with their adoption due to a country changing its guidelines or closing its program, we will make every effort to transfer the family to one of our agency's other adoption programs for which the family may qualify.

## **Can I specify the gender of my child?**

Families adopting from Korea or India and first-time parents adopting from Ethiopia and Russia must be open to a child of either gender, as the agency receives more referrals of boys than girls. For Nepal, families with no children may choose gender; families with children of one gender may choose a child of the opposite gender; families with both a boy and girl are not eligible to adopt from Nepal. For China, Haiti, Honduras and Hong Kong, applicants may indicate a gender preference.

## **Can we adopt if we don't own our home?**

Yes.

## **How many children do you place annually?**

Dillon has placed approximately 5,800 children since its beginning in 1972. The agency places approximately 200 children annually and places children in all 50 states.

## **Do you have a waiting child program?**

A "waiting child" is defined as a child who doesn't have a permanent family yet, but who is legally free for adoption. A child may become a waiting child due to various factors including medical special needs, developmental delays, emotional issues, or simply being an older child or part of a sibling group. Dillon places children with special needs from China, Hong Kong, India and Korea and has opportunities to place children with special needs from Ethiopia and Russia through our affiliation with Buckner.

## **Both of us work outside of the home. Will one of us be expected to quit our job to care for the child that we adopt?**

No; however, Dillon does require that one parent initially take 6 weeks leave from their employment after the child arrives home to facilitate bonding and attachment. This can be divided so that one spouse stays home for part of the time, and the other spouse stays home for the rest of the period.

## **Why is there a minimum marriage-length requirement?**

Dillon endeavors to allow married couples sufficient time to work through the merger of their lives and extended families and all that goes with that. We want children to enter a stable situation where these common sources of conflict between couples have already been resolved.

## **What do you do for the children who are still waiting to be adopted or who won't be adopted?**

Dillon is very committed to improving the lives of children who are still awaiting adoption or who may never be adopted. Through our humanitarian aid program, orphanCare International, we annually raise funds to provide life-saving surgeries, on-going medical and therapeutic care, education services, and daily living needs of children in China, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Korea, Russia and Vietnam.

## **Why does adoption cost so much?**

As a non-profit organization, Dillon strives to keep fees as low as possible while still providing high-quality services. The cost of adopting a child is comprised of fees to the agency, the sending country, the home study provider, and the US government, as well as legal fees, documentation fees and paperwork fees. For a more in-depth explanation of fees, please visit our website.

## **Are financial aid or payment plans available?**

Dillon has an adoption fund, the Building Families Fund, available to families who show a financial need that would prevent them from adopting and/or to help with the adoption fees of children with special needs who might not be adopted otherwise. For other financial aid suggestions –including information about the \$12,150 tax credit for families who adopt – please visit our website.

*"Making Life Better for Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Families"*

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