

SHARED WAITING CHILD AGREEMENT

Please read carefully before signing and returning to HFC via fax (770-391-1566) or email (Chrissy@hopeforchildren.org). By signing this agreement, you are not agreeing to adopt a specific child. You are simply letting us know that you understand the nature, procedure, and guidelines of the Shared Waiting Child Program.

HOPE for Children is privileged to work with the China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA), located in Beijing, China, in placing children with many different kinds of special needs. It is important to us that each family who inquires about a child on the Shared List understand the procedures in placing a child from this program into a forever family. The CCAA has recently changed to an online Waiting Child System. Due to this change there are a few changes in our program. Please read the following information very carefully.

1. Once we receive this signed agreement, we will then email you a copy of the child's fully translated medical report from China of which you are inquiring. Since this is the shared agency list, only one family is permitted to review one child's medical information for a **maximum of 48 hours**. You must utilize this time to have the medical information reviewed by a *specialist* in medical field of the child's stated medical condition(s). It is the responsibility of each family to pay for any expenses incurred due to having the medical information reviewed by a specialist or otherwise as they consider adopting a specific child on the list.

2. During the 48-hour review period, you will need to let us know if you would like to proceed with adopting the child in question. If you desire to proceed with adopting the child, your online Letter of Intent (LOI) needs to be submitted HFC **at least one hour before the 48 hours have expired**. If your online LOI is not submitted during the given timeframe, the child will be taken off hold and made available for other agencies and families to review. The CCAA allows each child on the list to be placed on hold for review a total of three (3) times by one agency. **Due to this policy, we will only accept serious inquiries for each child**. Before your online LOI is submitted to the CCAA, a selection committee at HFC will meet quickly on the same day to discuss your family's situation and make an official decision as to whether your family can move forward with adopting the child. After the meeting, you will be notified of the decision. Provided the committee decides that your family would be a good match for the child, HFC will submit your LOI to the CCAA online.

3. If you decide *at any time within the 48 hours* that you would like to proceed with adopting the child in question, you will need to submit the aforementioned Letter of Intent (LOI) to HFC online. The online LOI will include the following information: your personal experience with special needs children, contact with specific resources to assist the particular child if chosen to adopt him or her, your plan for rehabilitation and nurturing of the child, annual salary, net worth (total assets minus total liabilities), any criminal record, and the number and ages of children under the age of 18 in the home. Each family inquiring about a child must also obtain a type-written letter (addressed to the family) from their health insurance company stating that an adopted child will be covered under their insurance plan at the time of the adoption regardless of any special needs. Also, the statement needs to include the fact that pre-existing medical conditions will be covered by your insurance at the time of the adoption. The online LOI must be submitted to HFC before the selection committee can meet to make the final decision. After the final decision has been made and your online LOI has been submitted to the CCAA, the child will be officially on hold and unavailable for others to review. At this time, you will need to submit the aforementioned insurance statement to HFC.

The CCAA will then review and process your online LOI. If approved, they will issue a Pre-Approval (PA) to HFC via email.

4. Once a family has had their LOI submitted to the CCAA, HFC must receive a completed application for adoption (found on the homepage of HOPE for Children's website: www.hopeforchildren.org, click

on “Apply Now” at the top of the page) and accompanying fee (\$275) within two (2) business days. **For returning HFC families, the application fee will be waived.** The goal in moving forward quickly is to help you bring the child home as soon as possible.

5. One of the China Program Coordinators will contact you after we have received your PA from the CCAA to help you get started on preparing your dossier. HFC’s fees for a Waiting Child adoption are the same as the fees for a traditional Chinese adoption with one exception: the dossier administration fee is \$1,015 (vs. \$1,405).

6. If you have not already submitted your dossier to the CCAA, you will have 3 months from the date we receive your PA from the CCAA to complete and submit your dossier. This is a requirement of the CCAA, and if it is not followed, they reserve the right to deny your application.

Disclaimer: HOPE for Children fully trusts God to guide the decision in placing each child from the Shared Waiting Child program. We (the family) understand the process of the Shared Waiting Child program and realize it can be quite emotional due to the nature of having pictures and medical information for a specific child before he or she has been matched to our family. We understand that the child we consider for adoption is not yet “our child” simply because we have the child’s picture and medical information in our possession for review.

HFC recommends not disclosing your adoption plans of a specific child to other children in the home until you have been chosen by the selection committee and subsequently your online Letter of Intent (LOI) has been sent to the China Center of Adoption Affairs. **It is imperative that photographs and medical information of the children in Shared Waiting Child program not be posted on the internet for any reason until a family has been chosen and has received the Letter of Seeking Confirmation of Adopter.** All information given to you about the child is confidential and is not to be reproduced in any fashion without express permission from HFC except for the purpose of consultation with medical personnel. If you have any questions, please contact the China Department.

SHARED WAITING CHILD PROGRAM AGREEMENT

By signing below, we understand and agree to abide by the aforementioned procedures, fees, and paperwork deadlines in HOPE for Children’s Shared Waiting Child program. If we have questions about this procedure, we agree to ask them before signing and submitting this form.

**We recommend that you give a copy of this agreement to your social worker who is performing your home study so he or she is aware of these requirements.*

Adoptive Applicant

Date

Adoptive Applicant

Date