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HAGUE ACCREDITATION

We are excited to announce Forever Families Adoption Services has decided to pursue Hague accreditation.

 Over the years, it has been our pleasure to help many of our clients build their families through adoption from The People's Republic of China. Sadly, as a result of China's recently implemented policy to no longer observe Hague's exempt provider status under which we work (designed for small agencies like ours for whom seeking licensure can be a great financial burden) we are currently unable to accept new home study applications from families pursuing adoption from China. As a result of our non-accredited status, we have had to turn away a number of new and returning families who desire to adopt from China.

Fortunately, Forever Families has Hague agreements in place with a multitude of Hague accredited placing agencies and remains able to provide homestudy and post placement services to families adopting from all other Hague countries. However, we must obtain our own agency accreditation to serve families intending to adopt from China. Indeed, bringing orphaned and waiting Chinese children to their forever families in the United States has been and remains a cause that is near and dear to our hearts.

We know the adoption process is costly. With that in mind, it has been our goal to keep our service fees as affordable as possible. We have managed to keep our operating expenses down so as to continue making adoption an option for as many families as possible.

Forever Families Newsletter

November 2011

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

My how time flies! I can't believe it has been four months since I assumed the role of Executive Director of this wonderful agency! Once again, I would like to thank Founder and former Executive Director Barbara Slaton for this once in a lifetime opportunity. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of our families' adoption journeys; it is with great love and respect for all children and the adults who want to give them the loving home they deserve that I begin this new chapter in my life. I feel privileged to be working with you!

As 2011 comes to an end and we approach the New Year, it is our goal to bring new programs and services to families wishing to adopt or have already adopted, both domestically and internationally. The first step for us has been to update our look and to redesign our website, which we hope to launch in November. We have also created a monthly newsletter to bring you agency and adoption related news/updates. We welcome your feedback!

Peace and Love,

Kirsten Wicht

Obtaining accreditation is a lengthy and costly endeavor. As a small adoption services agency with limited resources, this process is going to involve us making a leap of faith that we can, in fact, make it happen. Now, we're reaching out to you, our wonderful families, to seek your support with this critical next step. Won't you support us in this mission? Please consider making a donation to Forever Families – we can't do it without you.

CONSIDER GIVING

Click on the link below

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=CQB73RV5HSSSQ

Welcome Home



Camille E.
Libby B.

THE GIFT OF LIFE

I didn't give you the gift of life,
But in my heart I know.
The love I feel is deep and real,
As if it had been so.

For us to have each other
Is like a dream come true!
No, I didn't give you
The gift of life,
Life gave me the gift of you.
--- Unknown

November is National Adoption Awareness Month!

Take a look -- we found a wonderful calendar of activities created by Adoption.org (*copy and paste this website into your browser*):

<http://www.adopting.org/adoptions/adoption-month-calendar-an-activity-every-day.html>



Post Office Box 2085
Middleburg, VA 20118
540.687.5627
WWW.FFASVA.ORG

OBTAINING A BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Forever Families Adoption Services was given the following information/instructions from the Virginia Department of Vital Statistics regarding the new (effective July 1, 2011) method of obtaining a birth certificate. If you would like to obtain a birth certificate using this method, you must submit the required paperwork **PRIOR** to your final post placement visit with your adoption social worker. We advise you to submit the paperwork immediately following your **first** post placement visit, but definitely no later than 4-6 weeks prior to your **final** post placement visit.

Guidelines for Foreign Adoptions

Effective July 1, 2011 the code of Virginia §32.1 and §63.2-1200.1 governing foreign adoptions was amended. The passing of HB2157 eliminated the adoptive parents need to readopt a child from a foreign country if the child was admitted to the United States on an IR-3 or IH-3 visa. We [Vital Statistics] may prepare a Certificate of Foreign Birth administratively with the following documents:

1. A copy of the adopted child's passport that shows the Immigrant Visa (IV) Category as IR-3 or IH-3.
2. The certified final adoption order entered by the foreign court and certified English translation is also needed if the original order is not in English. *Please note, VDH will keep the original copy of your adoption order.*
3. An affidavit from the parents attesting to the fact that they are **currently receiving supervision** from a licensed or approved child placing (adoption/home study) agency in the United States. The name and license number of the supervising agency should be included in the affidavit. *Note: Forever Families' fee to prepare an Affidavit of Supervision is \$50.*
4. A Report of Adoption (VS21) form with Part 1 and Part 2 completed. The VS21 does not need to be certified by a court.
5. A completed application with applicable ID.
6. All applicable fees including the certificate fee and the administrative fee.

NOTE: It is not necessary for the adoptive parents to be residents of Virginia. Also, HB2157 is retroactive, if the adoptive parent(s) meets the above guidelines we can prepare a Certificate of Foreign Birth.

The application is available at www.vdh.virginia.gov under the birth certificates tab and then scroll down to "Easy as 1, 2, 3". Select "Mail In" (#1) and follow directions. The application is on the left side tool bar (Application for a Vital Record).

Send all of the above information and required fees (as noted on VDH website) to: Vital Records, PO Box 1000, Richmond, VA 23218-1000, ATTN: Kisha Simmons (Phone: 804.662.6217)