

Mabwysiadu

Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Adoption

Mid & West Wales



Guide to
Inter-country Adoptions



What is inter-country adoption?

Inter-country adoption is where a resident from one country adopts a child from another country. The child moves legally and permanently from their birth family to the adopting family.

Inter-country adoption is allowed to proceed where:

- The child cannot be cared for in any suitable manner in his/her own country;
- The adoption would be in the best interests of the child and with respect to the child's fundamental rights as recognised in international law; and
- The adopter has been assessed as eligible and suitable to adopt from overseas by an adoption agency.
- Inter-country adoption should not result in improper financial gain for those involved.

The U.K. is part of an agreement called the Hague Convention which is a partnership between a number of countries to ensure that children are protected from abduction and trafficking. The inter-country adoption procedures, including assessment by the domestic adoption agency and processes between the countries are covered by the convention. In addition there are a number of countries which have been agreed as designated countries for adoption. This means that the U.K. will recognise an adoption order from a country on the designated list.

Where you adopt a child from a non-Hague Convention, non-designated list country, the adoption order from that country will not be recognised, and you will have to adopt in the U.K. courts.

How to apply for an inter-country adoption

If you wish to adopt a child from abroad you must contact an approved adoption agency for an assessment as an Adopter. The Mid and West Adoption Service consists of the adoption agencies in Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. You may contact and apply to the service for an assessment as an Adopter.

Contact the service at:
Mid and West Wales Adoption Service
Neuadd Brycheiniog
Cambrian Way
Brecon
LD3 7HR

OR Mid and West Wales Adoption Service
Building 1
Parc Dewi Sant
Job's Well Road
Carmarthen
SA31 3HB

Tel: 01874 614030

Tel: 01267 246970

Email: adoption@powys.gov.uk

Inter-country adoption may only be considered as a means of providing a family for a child who cannot be cared for in his/her own country. The agency will seek advice, including that from the Welsh Government as to whether this criterion is met at the time of an application.

If this involves adopting a child from another country it should be a country that you have links with, or knowledge of the culture, history and language. It is also important that a child establishes and maintains links with the country of their birth and for adoptive parents to consider issues of identity and possible discrimination in the future.

The agency will apply safeguards and standards equivalent to those which apply in U.K. adoptions to protect the welfare of the child. Please refer to the agency's guide "Information for people interested in adopting" for details of the process and criteria for adopters.

Applicants for inter-country adoption will be charged a fee to cover the agency's costs for the assessment. Please contact the adoption agency for details of current fees.

Post Assessment

A copy of your assessment report and related papers will be sent to the Welsh Government when completed. They will then be forwarded to the Department for Education (DfE). This is the department which will issue a Certificate of Eligibility which confirms to the overseas country that you are eligible to adopt.

Inter-country adoption is complex and the rules surrounding these adoptions can change. The DfE website (www.gov.uk/intercountryadoptions) has a wealth of information about inter-country adoption including specific guides relating to a number of countries. In addition the Welsh Government has a detailed guide on inter-country adoptions (www.wales.gov.uk).

The DfE will send your Certificate of Eligibility and related papers to the Central Authority for the country of your choice by courier. Your papers may first need to go through other bodies such as the country's embassy.

Your application for adoption will then be processed by the Central Authority in the overseas country. If your application is approved and you are identified as a match for a child you will be required to visit the child as part of the matching process.

To bring the child back to the U.K. you will need to make an application for entry clearance with the Entry Clearance Officer in the Embassy/Consulate closest to the child's home. If the child is from a non-Hague or non-designated country the Entry Clearance Officer will still need to consider entry of the child.

Registering the Adoption

For adoption from Hague Convention or designated list countries you would also be required to register the adoption with the General Register Office in order that the adoption is recognised under U.K. law. This avoids the need to re-adopt through the U.K. courts.

The General Register Office can be contacted at:

Adoptions Section
Room C202
General Register Office
Trafalgar Road
Southport
PR8 2HH

By telephone: 0300 123 1837

By email: adoptions@gro.gsi.gov.uk

Other helpful contacts:

Department for Education (DfE)
Intercountry adoption casework team

Ground Floor Area D, Mowden Hall
Staindrop Road
Darlington
Durham
DL3 9BG

Email ica.darlington@education.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone 0370 000 2288

British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF)

7, Cleve House,
Lambourne Crescent,
Llanishen,
Cardiff CF14 5GP
Tel: 02920 731155

Email: cymru@baaf.of.uk