

FACT SHEET 1 applies in the following situations:

- The *Hague Convention* is not in force in the child's country of origin.
- The child is either related or non-related to the prospective adoptive parents.
- The adoption order has already been granted in the child's country of origin and Citizenship and Immigration Canada requires a homestudy.

OR

- The *Hague Convention* is not in force in the child's country of origin.
- The child is either related or non-related to prospective adoptive parents.
- The child's country of origin does not require the involvement of a British Columbia licensed adoption agency (or a facilitator contracted by a the BC licensed agency) beyond the completion of a homestudy.

In either of these situations, the prospective adoptive parent(s) are responsible for ensuring that the legal requirements of the country of origin have been met. They are also encouraged to collect all available medical information, family background and cultural information regarding the child and the child's family.

Steps:

1. Prospective adoptive parent(s) must apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada to sponsor the child. If the sponsorship application is approved by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, they will request a Letter of No Objection from the office of the Provincial Director of Adoption.
2. To obtain a homestudy required by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, or the child's country of origin, prospective adoptive parent(s) must apply to a BC licensed adoption agency.
3. Following the completion of the homestudy, the BC licensed adoption agency sends a letter to the office of the Provincial Director of Adoption confirming that the following requirements for a Letter of No Objection have been met:
 - a) Prospective adoptive parent(s) have a valid homestudy which approves them for intercountry adoption and for a child whose description is consistent with the child who is adopted, or will be adopted.
 - b) Ministry records were checked within 90 days of travel to ensure that there are no previous contacts with the Ministry that would present concerns about the prospective adoptive parent(s)' ability to parent.
 - c) If already granted, a copy of the adoption order from the child's country of origin has been viewed and submitted with the BC licensed adoption agency's request for a Letter of No Objection.
4. If there are no concerns the office of the Provincial Director of Adoption issues the Letter of No Objection to Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Please Note:

- A Letter of No Objection will not be issued after the child has entered Canada.
- A Letter of No Objection will not be issued if a prospective adoptive parent has a child welfare and/or criminal record in the following areas: child physical or sexual abuse, or child exploitation.
- The final decision regarding whether the child will be allowed to enter Canada rests with Citizenship and Immigration Canada.