

POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

- Policy:** KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. takes all appropriate measures to insure that during the placement of a child, adoptive families experience placement, post-placement, and post-adoption services from only trained staff and providers on behalf of KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc.
- Purpose:** To make available to prospective adoptive families the services to provide support and insure completion the adoption process through finalization while emphasizing and focusing on the welfare and needs of the child throughout the process.
- Scope:** The procedures outlined below will apply to every client/family who has engaged KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. for post-adoption and /or finalization services.

Procedure:

1.0 TRANSFER OF CHILD

- 1.1 KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. will engage the services of only trained U.S. and in-country personnel affiliated with or working cooperatively with KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. KidsFirst verifies that all personnel have sufficient experience and training to fulfill their duties.
- 1.2 KidsFirst will take all appropriate measures to insure that adoptive families will be assisted by such personnel in a safe and secure manner in appropriate circumstances and locations under the guidance of the foreign providers in the child's country of origin.
- 1.3 KidsFirst will review the procedures of any placing country to assure that there is a clear understanding of how children are transferred from the home of the child (whether an orphanage, foster home or other home) to the adoptive parents. The procedures will vary from country to country. In some, custody of the child may be passed from the original home to another governmental agency or to a non-governmental intermediary, prior to the child being released into the custody of the adoptive parents.
- 1.4 KidsFirst, working within the process of the particular country, will assure that adopted children are at all times safe and secure, until the child is released to the custody of the adoptive parents.
- 1.5 KidsFirst's overseas staff will first ascertain that all paperwork has been completed granting custody of the child(ren) to the adoptive parents, whether in the form of a guardianship or an adoption decree. The staff will also assure that all required travel documents are issued by the placing country.

- 1.6 KidsFirst will conduct the child placement activities in the company of the adoptive parents. KidsFirst staff will transport the adoptive parents to the location where the child(ren) are being delivered into the custody of the adoptive parents and will monitor the transfer to assure that it is done in a safe, secure manner.
- 1.7 KidsFirst staff will remain available to adoptive parents throughout the overseas process and will provide such assistance as is necessary during this time.
- 1.8 KidsFirst staff will escort the adoptive family to any required appointments during this process, including those with governmental authorities, medical examinations for the child(ren), U.S. Embassy, etc.
- 1.9 KidsFirst requires that all families travel to bring the children home and does not permit the escorting of any child.

2.0 GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 2.1 KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. will employ only trained personnel to serve and support adoptive families in the final steps of post-adoption requirements and reporting.
- 2.2 At initial inquiry for adoption information, KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. will inform prospective adoptive families of the post-adoption services available to them through KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. in order to fulfill adoption regulations and agreements with their child's country of origin, and/or the State of Indiana.
- 2.3 KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. will inform prospective adoptive families in written form, as well as verbally, of the policies and procedures in the event of an adoption disruption or dissolution.
- 2.4 KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. will provide a written contract engaging the agency to provide post-adoption reports for the family as required by their child's country of origin, placing agency, and/or the State of Indiana.
- 2.5 KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. social service staff members will discuss with the prospective adoptive families the importance of fulfilling the post-adoption reports as required by their child's country of origin and/or the State of Indiana.

3.0 Post-Adoption Services/Reports

- 3.1 KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. social service staff will maintain written records of post-adoption services and reports in the adoptive family's permanent file.
- 3.2 Upon return to the United States, the adoptive family will contact KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. for post-adoption services, or the social work staff will make contact with the family to initiate the post-adoption services in accordance with the child's country of origin and/or the State of Indiana.

- 3.3 KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. will conduct post-adoption interviews and subsequent reports in the company of the adoptive parents and the adopted child.
- 3.4 KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. will not return a child to the country of origin under any circumstances. Once a United States family formally adopts a child from abroad, that child is recognized as a US citizen. In the event of a disruption or dissolution, the child would fall under the US regulations and laws governing a domestic adoption. Furthermore, KidsFirst International Adoption, Inc. does not have a program nor will ever have a program, where United States children are adopted into a foreign country by foreign parents.