

## THAILAND

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Procedures for applicants wishing to adopt a child from Thailand are as follows:

1. You should contact your local authority's social services department to discuss your wish to adopt a child from Thailand and to request a home study assessment.
2. If you are approved to adopt a child from Thailand, your home study assessment report, medical reports, police checks and references will be sent to the Department of Health. If you live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, your papers will be sent to the Scottish Executive, National Assembly for Wales or Health & Social Services Executive.
3. Once the Department of Health is content with the local authority's recommendation, a Certificate of Eligibility will be issued and signed by a Department of Health official. You will need to arrange for the documents listed in Appendix A to be notarised. You will be asked to send to the Department of Health the name and address of your Notary Public, and the appropriate fee for the legalisation of your documents (fees are set out below).
4. The Department of Health will arrange for the Certificate of Eligibility and home study report to be notarised and all the documents to be legalised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and by the Royal Thai Embassy.
5. Once the papers have been legalised, the Department of Health will forward the documents by courier to the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) in Thailand.
6. The DPW will consider your application under the adoption laws of Thailand. If you are eligible, the DPW will approve the application and will identify a child for you. The matching will be decided by the DPW matching panel. The decision will then be presented to the Adoption Board who will ratify the match.
7. Once the matching has been ratified, the DPW will forward the details of the child (photograph, health and social background report) to the Department of Health who will forward them to you by guaranteed next day delivery. The Department of Health will also notify your local authority/agency of the child's referral. You should discuss the referral with your social worker and seek medical advice if needed. If you decide to accept the child the Department of Health will convey your acceptance to the DPW.
8. If you feel unable to accept the child, you should give full reasons in writing and state if you wish to have another child identified for you. You should return all the child's documents to the Department of Health who will forward them to the DPW. The DPW will consider your reasons and wherever possible will identify another child.
9. Once the DPW issue the placement authority in your favour you should apply for entry clearance through the British Embassy in Thailand. Please refer to the Intercountry Adoption Procedure fact-sheet and the Home Office leaflet on Intercountry Adoption. The relevant child's documents will be sent to the British Embassy by the DPW, so you will only be required to submit the remaining required documents.
10. When the DPW notify you of the date for the adoption hearing, you will need to travel to Thailand to collect the child and attend the adoption hearing. At the hearing, you will be required to sign a guardianship document, stating that you will look after the child and agreeing

for you and your child to be assessed by your local authority upon your return to Britain. It also states that the adoption will only be ratified under Thai Law after a period of 6 months, when three satisfactory bi-monthly reports have been received by the DPW. At the end of the hearing you will be given all the relevant documents including the child's passport.

11. On arrival back in Britain you should notify your local authority that you are home with your child so that arrangements can be made for a social worker to visit and prepare the required reports. Each report will be sent to the Department of Health who will forward them to the DPW. You should confirm with your local authority that you intend to apply to adopt under UK law, so that the social worker can prepare the report for the British Court at the same time.

12. Once the DPW is satisfied with the reports they will finalise the adoption under Thai law. The Royal Thai Embassy in London will write to you to confirm that your adoption documents are complete and asking you to make an appointment to attend the Embassy to sign the documentation. The Royal Thai Embassy requires that your child and two independent witnesses also attend.

13. The process in Thailand is currently taking approximately 12 months depending on the availability of a child to suit the prospective adopters. However due to an increase in the number of applications the Department of Public Welfare has received, it is likely that the waiting time will increase. The Department of Health will monitor the referral times and will contact the DPW if required.

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

14. To adopt a child from Thailand you will have to comply with both UK and Thai Adoption Law.

## **UK LAW**

15. Under UK law people who wish to adopt may be single, male or female or married. In the case of a married couple, the application must be made jointly. Where a couple are not married but are living together, only one of them may apply to adopt.

16. If either you or, in the case of a married couple, your spouse or any adult member of your household has been convicted of certain specified offences, the adoption agency may not accept an adoption application from you. See regulation 8A(2) and Schedule 2 of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 1983 as amended by The Children (Protection from Offenders) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 1997.

17. You must be 21 years of age before you may apply to adopt.

18. The UK does not recognise the effects of an adoption order made in Thailand and thus you will need to adopt your child again in the UK. Once you have brought your child to the UK, you **must** tell your local authority that you intend to adopt the child under UK law. An adoption order may not be made until the child has lived with you for at least one year.

19. Until you have adopted your child under UK law, your local authority is required to carry out periodic visits to your home to review the welfare of your child. Your social worker will

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## Thailand

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prepare a report on you and your child for presentation to the court in connection with your application for an adoption order. This report is prepared under Schedule 2 of the Adoption Rules 1984. Once the adoption order is granted, your social worker will no longer need to visit you or your child.

### THAI LAW

20. The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) is the government department responsible for adoptions in Thailand.

21. You must be at least 25 years of age, married and be at least 15 years older than the child to be adopted. Couples over the age of 50 will only be considered to adopt children over 2 years old.

22. If you already have three or more children you will only be considered to adopt older or special needs children.

23. There is no adoption hearing in Thailand. The DPW will issue a 'guardian release' which grants the child permission to travel to the UK. Once in the UK, three bi-monthly reports must be completed by the relevant Social Services Department and submitted to the DPW via the Department of Health. If the reports are deemed to be satisfactory the DPW will finalise the adoption under Thai law. This decision will be conveyed to you via the Department of Health. You will then need to attend the Royal Thai Embassy to register the adoption order under Thai Law (within 6 months).

### Fees

Home study assessment	Fees vary. Can be up to £3,500.
Legalisation by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office	£12 (cheque)
Legalisation by the Royal Thai Embassy	£3 (postal order)
Visa for the child (subject to changes in the exchange rate)	£240 payable in Bhat (Thai currency)

Other costs are for the notarisation of your documents; flights to and from Thailand and accommodation.

The DPW do not charge any administration fees. You will only be required pay for your child's medical and passport fee. However you are advised to confirm with the DPW before you travel, if any additional fees will be levied.

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**Thailand**

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**USEFUL ADDRESSES**

The Department of Health	The Adoption Unit, Room 122 Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG. Tel: 020 7972 4014. Fax: 020 7972 4257 Email: <a href="mailto:lyahyaou@doh.gov.uk">lyahyaou@doh.gov.uk</a>
Scottish Executive	Children and Young People's Group, Young People and Looked After Children, Area 2b-S, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. Tel: 0131 244 5480/5443. Fax: 0131 244 3547 Email: <a href="mailto:Michelle.Lafferty@scotland.gov.uk">Michelle.Lafferty@scotland.gov.uk</a>
National Assembly for Wales	Children & Families Unit, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ. Tel: 029 2082 3875 Fax: 029 2082 3142 Email: <a href="mailto:Vivian.Martin@wales.gsi.gov.uk">Vivian.Martin@wales.gsi.gov.uk</a>
[Northern Ireland] Health & Social Services Executive	The Child Care Unit, Dundonald House, Belfast, BT4 3SF. Tel: 028 90 52 4388
Home Office Immigration & Nationality Dept.	Room 1101 Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Rd, Croydon CR9 3RR. Fax: 020 8760 8777.
Foreign & Commonwealth Office's web site	<a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk">http://www.fco.gov.uk</a>
The Royal Thai Embassy	29 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JB Tel: 020 7589 2944
Department of Public Welfare	Child Adoption Centre, 255 Ratchavitha Road, Bangkok 10400 Thailand.
British Embassy	Wireless Road, Bangkok, 10330. Tel: 00 66 2 253-0191-9 Fax: 00 66 2 254 9579.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

1. An official Application Form obtained from the Department of Public Welfare Thailand;
2. Your Marriage certificate and if you have been divorced, you decree absolute;
3. Letter from your employer confirming your occupation and salary. If you are self-employed the letter should come from your accountant and state your profession and income;
4. Proof of financial status, eg bank statements and other investments;
5. Proof of assets, eg letter from mortgage lender;
6. At least 2 letters of reference;
7. Letter from the Home Office Immigration & Nationality Department giving a general statement that they are likely to permit the immigration of a child to be adopted (obtained from the address above).
8. Letter from the relevant Social Services Department stating that they agree to supervise the pre-adoption placement for a period of at least 6 months and to provide at least three bi-monthly reports to the Department of Public Welfare.
9. Four recent passport size photographs of you, as well as a few photographs of your immediate family, your home and area surrounding your home.

**Documents provided by your social services department and the Department of Health**

10. Department of Health's Certificate of Eligibility to Adopt;
11. Home study assessment report;
12. Police report on each applicant.
13. Medical reports on each applicant.

**The above documents 1-13 (with the exception of the photographs) will need to be notarised by a Notary Public. Please do not have your supporting documents notarised until you have been asked to do so by the Department of Health.**