

# Information Booklet on the Intercountry Adoption Process for Prospective Adoptive Parents

## **What It Is:**

This booklet has been produced by the Adoption Board with the help of parents, representative groups, health boards, social workers and the Department of Health and Children.

We hope you will find it useful in providing you with some information to make an initial appraisal of intercountry adoption as an option for you and your family.

If you decide to proceed it represents the beginning of your journey through the process.

It is one of a number of documents available to prospective adopters regarding the intercountry adoption process - as your individual path through the process becomes clearer you may need to seek additional information on a number of issues referred to in this booklet. In particular, you may wish to refer also to Booklet No.2 in this series "Understanding the Assessment Process".

## **What It's Not:**

The booklet is not an exhaustive account of intercountry adoption procedures.

It is not intended to be used as an interpretative guide to the legislative provisions of Adoption law in Ireland.

It does not represent the views of any particular group, agency or individual.



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## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of the booklet is to provide you with some information which will help you to understand the adoption process and to make an initial appraisal of intercountry adoption as an option for you.

### **1.1 Adoption in Ireland**

Adoption as we know it today was introduced in Ireland under the Adoption Act, 1952. Approximately 40,000 children have been formally adopted since then. One of the factors which has changed adoption over that period has been the steady decline in the number of children available for adoption, as birth parents have better supports to help them to rear their own children.

### **1.2 Intercountry Adoption In Ireland**

Intercountry adoption started late in Ireland, relative to other Western countries. Some countries such as Sweden, Netherlands and the U.S.A., have been involved in intercountry adoption since the late 1940s and 1950s following the Second World War and the Korean War. In the late 1980s media attention was focused on the plight of children in orphanages in Romania. This led to an unprecedented number of Irish couples going to Romania to arrange the adoption of a child. Since then more and more Irish couples have been turning to intercountry adoption as an option and many foreign children have been adopted by Irish couples under Adoption Laws both here and abroad.

### **1.3 Statistics**

From 1991 to 2002, 1766 children have been adopted abroad. The bulk of these children have Romanian origins, while more recently countries such as Russia, Guatemala, China, Thailand, Belarus and India have become more "popular" countries of origin.

## **2. Irish Law and Policies For Intercountry Adoption**

### **2.1 Relevant Irish Adoption Laws**

As already mentioned adoption was introduced in Ireland under the 1952 Act. It was amended by Acts in 1964, 1974, 1976, 1988, 1991 and 1998. Intercountry Adoption was only dealt with specifically in the 1991 and 1998 Acts. Copies of these Acts are available from the Government Publications Sales Office. A contact address and phone number is available on page 26

### **2.2 The 1991 and 1998 Adoption Acts**

The 1991 Act dealt almost entirely with the recognition of foreign adoption orders and procedures to be followed by Irish adopters. It provided that the Adoption Board would approve prospective adopters of foreign children and issue declarations of eligibility and suitability in advance of their adopting overseas. Effectively, it also gave applicants the statutory right of assessment as to suitability and eligibility.

In addition, it made provision for a child adopted abroad to be registered on a new Register of Foreign Adoptions. Providing certain requirements were met, this allowed the foreign adoption to have the same effect as an adoption order effected under Irish law. The definition of what constituted a "foreign adoption" was amended by the Adoption Act, 1998. The definition is given in the "terminology" section on page 18. You should pay close attention to this definition as it outlines key aspects regarding compatibility with Irish law, as well as, the consents which must be obtained for the adoption to be valid under Irish law.

## **3. International Conventions**

Irish legislation and policy making in intercountry adoption in the coming years will be bound by international conventions. Two key conventions which will govern this area are outlined below.

### **3.1 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Ireland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992. The Convention is in essence a "bill of rights" for all children. Article 21 of the Convention stipulates that in countries where adoption is recognised and/or allowed, it should only be carried out in the best interests of the child and then only with the authorisation of competent authorities and safeguards for the child.

### **3.2 The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption - Key Principles**

The Hague Convention aims:

- to establish safeguards which promote the paramourncy of the interests of the child;
- to establish minimum requirements in terms of structures and procedures to support these safeguards;
- to establish co-operation between countries to ensure that these safeguards prevent abduction, sale or traffic of children;
- to secure recognition in contracting states of adoptions made in accordance with the Convention.

The Convention recognises that the first option of care for a child should be in its own country, culture and family of origin. It recognises intercountry adoption as offering the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her State of origin. Ireland has signed but not yet ratified this Convention. Legislation is being prepared at present so that the Convention can be ratified as soon as possible.

## **4. Stages in the Adoption Assessment Process**

### *Stages*

**Initial:** You make contact with the health board or registered adoption society. If you want to proceed you ask for the relevant forms to be sent out.

**Application:** You complete your form and forward it to the local health board or agency and a preliminary assessment is carried out.

**Education/  
Preparation:** This consists of structured group sessions organised by the health board or agency. The course is a prerequisite for moving on to the next stage.

**Home Study/  
Assessment:** You will be assigned a social worker who will carry out a series of interviews. At least one of these will be in your home. A final report will be prepared by the social worker.

**Decision:** Your assessing agency's placement committee will consider the social workers report and recommendation in the case and make a recommendation to the Adoption Board. The Adoption Board will decide whether to issue a declaration of eligibility and suitability on this basis.

## **5. The Partners in the Adoption Process**

### **5.1 Prospective Parents**

- **Information provider**

Your role in the process is obviously the most important one. It begins with your application and your co-operation in bringing together the necessary information to begin to determine eligibility and suitability.

- **Role in educating yourself about the process and the new life ahead**

A key aspect of the role of prospective parents is in educating yourself about the challenges that lie ahead both within the process before you bring your child home and your life afterwards. This involves exploring all of the issues in an open and reflective way. It also involves educating yourself about the country, culture and perhaps language of your child both before and after the child arrives.

- **Role in helping to "select" yourself as an adoptive parent**

Under the new assessment framework parents are partners in the assessment of suitability. The social workers are responsible for compiling the final report and making a recommendation concerning your suitability to adopt a child from another country. The State has the ultimate responsibility in deciding if you have the capacity to parent an adopted child. However, the framework is based on the principle of self determination and you should see yourself as playing a role in the

decision-making process by evaluating your own family as a resource.

## **5.2 The Adoption Board**

- **Functions**

The Adoption Board is an independent statutory body. The Board consists of a chairman and eight ordinary members appointed by the Government. The primary function of the Board is to grant or refuse applications for adoption orders in relation to Irish adoptions; to register and supervise the Registered Adoption Societies; to grant or refuse to grant declarations of eligibility and suitability in relation to intercountry adoptions; and to maintain the Register of Foreign Adoptions.

- **Role in the Intercountry Adoption Process**

The Adoption Board grants declarations of eligibility and suitability for prospective adoptive parents. The Board makes its decision to grant or refuse a declaration on the basis of a suitability assessment report prepared by a Health Board or Registered Adoption Society. If a foreign adoption proceeds, the Board is also involved in granting recognition of an adoption effected abroad, assuming that the foreign adoption complies with the definition of a foreign adoption specified in the Adoption Act, 1991 as amended by the Adoption Act, 1998. See page 18 for the definition. See also page 21 for a list of countries whose adoptions are recognised in Ireland. The Adoption Board also transmits adoption applications on behalf of Irish residents to the People's Republic of China, Belarus, Thailand and the Philippines. More information on the procedures agreed between the Board and these countries is available from the Adoption Board.

## **5.3 The Health Boards**

- **Functions**

Health Boards have a wide range of functions in relation to adoption and child care issues generally. In intercountry adoption one of the primary roles is that accorded under section 8(1) of the Adoption Act, 1991. This provision specifies that a Health Board must carry out assessments of eligibility and suitability for adoption for persons ordinarily resident in its functional area. This function may be carried out by Registered Adoption Societies on behalf of the Health Boards. When the adoptive family return with the child the Board also has a role in relation to the health and

welfare of the child.

- **Role in the Adoption Process**

- ***Process of Application***

The Health Boards deal with inquiries in relation to adoption and fostering under their child care programmes. They provide information to applicants, issue application forms and ensure that the necessary documentation has been collated.

- ***Social Worker Function***

- ***Education / Preparation***

Under the new standardised framework for intercountry adoption assessment procedures, the social work team will provide an education / preparation course for prospective adopters to help them to understand and reflect on the issues involved in intercountry adoption. This course will include input from adoptive parents and other stakeholder representatives.

- ***Home Assessment***

The social work team will assign a specific worker to your case and this worker will bring you through a number of structured interviews in order to clarify or resolve any outstanding issues raised at the preparation stage and to prepare a final report on your suitability.

- ***Decision-making Function***

After the social worker has prepared the final report and shared its contents with you, the report is sent, via a senior social worker to the placement committee in your health board or agency. This committee is a representative group which has a number of functions. In the inter country adoption process, it is concerned with deciding (on the basis of the social worker's report and supporting documentation) whether an application for a declaration of eligibility and suitability should be recommended to the Adoption Board for approval. See page 17 for information on what happens if you receive a negative recommendation.

## **5.4 Parent Representative Groups**

- **Partners with Health Boards**

Voluntary groups and parent representative groups are important partners in the intercountry adoption process. They act on committees at

local and national level. They have a vital role in providing information

and support pre- and post- adoption for prospective adopters. Under the new assessment framework such groups will be increasingly involved in a structured way in the education/preparation stage. It is likely that you will meet some adoptive parents during this stage. It is never too early to make contact with a support group who have important insights into the intercountry adoption process at all of its stages. A full list of parents groups is on pages 26 and 27.

## **6. Who Is Allowed Adopt?**

- **Eligibility Criteria are Provided for Under the Adoption Acts 1952 -1998**

You will be eligible to apply to adopt if you fall into one of the following categories:-

- i. You are a married couple living together. This is the only circumstance where the law permits the adoption of a child by more than one person.
- ii. You are a married person living alone. In these circumstances the spouse's consent to adopt must be obtained, unless they are living apart and are separated under (i) a court decree or (ii) deed of separation or (iii) the spouse has deserted the prospective adopter or (iv) conduct on the part of the spouse results in the prospective adopter, with just cause, leaving the spouse and living apart.
- iii. You are the mother, father or a relative of the child (relative meaning a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt of the child and / or the spouse of any such person, the relationship to the child being traced through the mother or the father).
- iv. You are a widow or widower.
- v. You are a sole applicant not covered in any of the categories above and the Adoption Board is satisfied that, in the particular circumstances of the case, it is desirable to grant an order.

You should note that under the legislation it is not permissible for two unmarried persons to adopt jointly.

In considering your eligibility there are also a number of other factors which will be considered.

- You must be at least 21 years of age if the child is not a relative. If the child is to be adopted by the natural mother or father, or a relative of the child only one of you must have attained the age of 21 years.

- You must be ordinarily resident in the State and have resided in the State for at least one year before the date of the making of the adoption order.
- **Suitability**

The legal standard you have to meet in order for a declaration of suitability and eligibility for intercountry adoption to be made are set out in law. The standards set out below are intended to be used by all parties to the process as indicative of good practice within this legal framework.

  - (1) Your capacity to safeguard your child throughout his or her childhood.
  - (2) Your capacity to provide the child with family life that will promote his or her development and well being and pay due regard to the physical, emotional, social, health, educational, cultural, spiritual and other dimensions. The resources that families can draw on will vary from family to family and may change over time. Whatever circumstances your family find yourselves in, you will be able to demonstrate your understanding of the importance of maintaining an on-going and meaningful relationship with your child.
  - (3) Your capacity to provide an environment where the child's original nationality, race, culture, language and religion will be valued and appropriately promoted throughout childhood. This will include your capacity to recognise the differences between yourselves and your child within these areas and to recognise and try to combat racism and other institutional and personal oppressive forces within society.
  - (4) Your capacity to recognise and understand the impact being an adopted child from an overseas country has on the development of your child's identity throughout their childhood and beyond.
  - (5) Your capacity to recognise the need for and to arrange for appropriate support and intervention from health, social services, educational and other services throughout childhood.

Many of these topics will be explored in a general way during the preparation/education stage of the process. During the interview / home study stage the social worker will further explore your capacities by considering key indicators of the presence of these capacities. The topics will emerge from (i) documentation prepared during the Education/Preparation course, (ii) those topics you have identified as requiring further discussion, and (iii) topics the social worker assesses as relevant to understanding your capacity to parent an intercountry adoptee.

## **7. Questions, Questions and More Questions.**

Many couples ask why it is necessary to be asked to participate in what can be considered a very intrusive exploration of their lives. It is very important that you are clear from the outset that there are valid issues of a sensitive nature which need to be explored in terms of parenting somebody else's child. The education/preparation stage which all applicants participate in prior to the home study/assessment stage will help you to put these questions in context.

An information booklet "Understanding the Assessment Process" is also available. If you have concerns about the assessment process you should read this booklet which explains the process in more detail. You should look on the assessment as being concerned with helping you to fully reflect on the impact of the decision which you are about to make and to ensure you have the knowledge and support to fully experience the joys of the adoption experience.

Adoption is a service for children. When a health board or agency carries out an assessment of suitability of applicants they do it on behalf of the adoptive child. Under the new assessment framework, it is intended that both you and the health board or agency work together to decide whether you have the resources, skills and knowledge to give a child a home.

## **8. Before You Apply - Things to Consider**

When you come to consider intercountry adoption there are a number of questions which you should ask yourself. You may not have the answers, but understanding the relevance of these questions will be vital to your decision whether to proceed.

- **What has brought you to consider intercountry adoption? What is your motivation?**

- **If you are a couple, are you equally motivated?**
- **Do you understand what is involved in the assessment process?**
- **If you were to be granted a declaration do you know what procedures and arrangements will have to be dealt with before having a child placed with you?**
- **What is the likely early life experience of an adoptive child from another country?**

In this context it is important to be aware that many intercountry adoptees may have spent their very early lives in an institutional setting. This could present you, as parents, with very different challenges to other new parents. Some children coming from this background may have different emotional and psychological needs than other children of a similar age.

Information and support regarding the effects of institutionalisation is available from a variety of groups. In particular the Parent's Network for the Post-Institutionalized Child specialise in this area and may be able to help - see page 27 for an address and phone number.

- **How will you cope with health / medical needs the child might have?**  
Despite medicals being completed abroad at the time of placement it is not always possible to predict the future needs of your child.
- **How will you cope with the difference of culture, race and language of the child?**  
Most of the children adopted abroad have a different racial origin to their adoptive parents. Many parents and practitioners advocate visiting the country to learn as much about the country and culture as possible. It might be helpful to learn some of the language of the child's country especially if they are at an age where they have already begun to acquire some language. Some adoptive families incorporate aspects of the child's culture into their lives, through celebrations of special holidays, cooking the local cuisine, following sport and other cultural events. Parents groups are an invaluable resource and support in this regard whether they are families with children from the same country or even more multi-racial groups.

These issues should make you think twice. This isn't to suggest that you should have answers, simply that you understand that this process is the beginning of a long, at times arduous, but ultimately rewarding journey to giving a child a new home.

## **9. When You Apply - The Road Ahead**

- **Waiting Times**

The level of demand for assessment is very high in certain areas. There will inevitably be "waiting" at various stages of the process. For many the longest wait may be at the beginning of the process before being called for assessment. However, there are other stages when just "waiting" may be the hardest part.

- **Time Commitments**

Despite all of the "time" on your hands at different stages of the process there is a significant commitment of time required for other stages. For example, the preparation/education stage, the "home study" stage, visits to the child's country of origin and the child's eventual placement all bring with them a time commitment. You should consider how you will be able to manage your time to meet these commitments, both in the short term and of course in the longer term when the child arrives.

- **Financial Commitments**

It is important for prospective parents to be as clear as possible on the costs which will be incurred throughout this process. Clearly, rearing a child is always costly, however there are additional factors to consider in intercountry adoption. There are the costs associated with the travel, translation of documents, agency fees, State fees (in the countries of origin). The very best source of information on this aspect of intercountry adoption are other parents. Parents groups with members who have adopted from your country of choice are best equipped to give the detail of costs and perhaps advice on how to minimise costs. Again, you should consult these groups at an early stage -see the list of addresses and phone numbers on pages 26 and 27.

## **10, Decisions Are Made -What Next?**

The booklet "Understanding the Assessment Process" gives more details of the different stages from application to decision. At the end of the assessment process you will either be granted or refused a declaration. The booklet "After the Declaration" in this series gives information on the next steps if you are granted a declaration. What happens if you are not granted a declaration is dealt with in section 11 below.

## **11. Disputes, Complaints and Appeals**

In the course of the intercountry adoption process, there is the possibility that the service delivery or indeed the outcomes of decision-making will become a matter of concern for you.

- *In terms of service delivery:* you should be in a position to make complaints or air grievances without fear of endangering your application. Each Health Board has formal and informal complaint mechanisms in place to facilitate a constructive airing of your views or complaints. You should seek details of these mechanisms at a local level.

While the assessment procedures are based on a model in which you have a self-selection role, the State has the ultimate responsibility in deciding if you have the capacity to parent an adopted child. Sometimes that may mean that despite your willingness to parent a child, the State may feel you do not have the resources or support you need to do it.

- *In terms of the decision-making process:* you should note that you will be given a full opportunity to view the contents of the social worker's report and to raise any issue with which you do not concur. The social worker will consider these, and if agreed the report can be amended. If there is not agreement, after mediation by the supervisor, you will be afforded an opportunity to provide written comment on the matters in dispute and this should be submitted with the report to the Placement Committee for consideration. At all stages in the process you will be entitled to have your views considered, and if you are unhappy with the recommendation or , decision, you will have the right to appeal that recommendation/decision to the next level of authority. You can also appeal directly to the Adoption Board on a decision in relation to your application at any stage.

## 12. Some Terminology

This section includes some key definitions of terminology which you should understand. The short glossary also includes some terms which you might hear in the context of adoption.

"Foreign Adoption"      This definition is taken from the 1991 Adoption Act, as amended by the 1998 Adoption Act. It is a very important definition. It has been referred to already in a number of places in this booklet. It means *"an adoption of a child who at the date on which the adoption was effected was under the age of 21 years, or if the adoption was effected after the commencement of this Act, 18 years, which was effected outside the State by a person or persons under and in accordance with the law of the place where it was effected and in relation to which the following conditions are satisfied:*

- (a) the consent to the adoption of every person whose consent to the adoption was, under the law of the place where the adoption was effected, required to be obtained or dispensed with was obtained or dispensed with under the law either*
  - (i) at the time the adoption was effected, or*
  - (ii) at a subsequent time when, if the adoption which was initially granted did not have the effect in that place of terminating a pre-existing legal parent-child relationship, it was converted into an adoption having that effect by virtue of such consent being obtained or dispensed with under that law, the date on which the adoption was initially granted being construed for the purposes of this Act as the time the adoption was effected".*
- (b) the adoption has, for so long as it is in force, substantially the same legal effect as respects the guardianship of the child in the place where it was effected as an adoption effected by an adoption order,*

- (c) *the law of the place where the adoption was effected required an enquiry to be carried out, as far as was practicable, into the adopters, the child and the parents or guardian,*
- (d) *the adoption was effected for the purpose of promoting the interests and welfare of the child,*
- (e) *the adopters have not received, made or given, caused to be made or given any payment or other reward (other than any payment reasonably and properly made in connection with the making of the arrangements for the adoption) in consideration of the adoption or agreed to do so,*
- and "adopter" and "adopted child" shall be construed accordingly;*

"Declaration" This refers to the declaration of eligibility and suitability granted by the Adoption Board following a recommendation from the assessing Health Board or Adoption Society. Countries of origin, through the State or its agents will seek an assurance that the couple have been appropriately assessed and counselled before placing a child with them.

"Order" or "Adoption Order" An adoption order secures in law the position of the child in the adoptive family. On the making of the adoption order the parent(s) lose(s) all legal rights over the child and is freed from all duties. These rights and duties are transferred to the adoptive parents. The child is regarded in law as the child of the adoptive parents as if s/he were born to them in marriage. Legal adoption is permanent.

"Simple" vs. "Full" Adoptions Full adoption is the only kind of adoption currently recognised under Irish Adoption Law. The effects of full adoption are as described above on the making of an adoption order. In some countries adoption does not have the same effects as full adoption under Irish Law. Simple adoptions are not homogenous and have different legal effects in different

jurisdictions. The key issue is that some of the legal links between birth parents and the child remain. The Adoption Board is only permitted to register adoptions which have the same effects as full adoption under Irish law. A list of "recognised" countries is provided on page 21. It is essential that prospective adopters refer to this list to avoid their child ending up in a legal limbo.

"Mediating Agencies"

Currently, once prospective adopters have their declaration they make their own arrangements regarding the placement of a child. Apart from China, Belarus, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam where applications and placements are processed on a State to State basis, adopters often use the services of mediating agencies. At the time of writing the bulk of these agencies are third country agencies (i.e. their business headquarters is neither in Ireland or the state of origin of the child). They are not covered by any legislative provisions or regulation in this country. They are not registered with the Adoption Board. Details of their services and fees are best accessed through parents groups or directly with the agencies themselves. The legislation to ratify the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption is currently being prepared. It is likely that the issue of mediating agencies will be dealt with to provide a legislative basis for their establishment, registration and a monitoring of their activities.

### **13. Foreign Countries whose Adoption Laws have been considered by the Adoption Board**

#### **13.1 Countries/States/Territories Recognised/Not Recognised in Asia**

<b>Recognised</b>	<b>Not Recognised</b>
Armenia	Georgia Russia
China	Lebanon
Hong Kong	Nepal
India	Pakistan
Indonesia	South Korea
Israel	Turkey
Japan*	
Malaysia	
Papua New Guinea	
Philippines	
Singapore	
Sri Lanka	
Taiwan	
Thailand	
Vietnam*	

- \* These are countries where there is/was a dual system of adoption, i.e. Plenary Adoption (Full) and Simple Adoption (Foster Care). Only Plenary Adoptions effected in these countries can be recognised.

**13.2 Countries/States/Territories Recognised/Not Recognised in Africa**

<b>Recognised</b>		<b>Not Recognised</b>
Ethiopia	South Africa	Morocco
Ghana	Uganda	Sudan
Kenya	Zambia	Mozambique
Liberia	Zimbabwe	Nigeria
Mauritius*		
Rwanda		
Sierra Leone		
Malawi		
Nicaragua		
Trinidad		
Tabago		

\* These are countries where there is/was a dual system of adoption, i.e. Plenary Adoption (Full) and Simple Adoption (Foster Care). Only Plenary Adoptions effected in these countries can be recognised.

**13.3 Countries/States/Territories Recognised/Not Recognised in Australia/ New Zealand**

<b>Recognised</b>	<b>Not Recognised</b>
Australian Capital Territory	
New South Wales	
New Zealand	
Northern Territory	
Queensland	
Tasmania	
The Cook Islands	
Victoria	
Western Australia	

**13.4 Countries/States/Territories Recognised/Not Recognised in America**

*(a) North America*

<b>Recognised</b>	<b>Not Recognised</b>
Alberta, Canada British Columbia, Canada Manitoba, Canada Newfoundland, Canada Ontario, Canada Quebec, Canada Saskatchewan, Canada Alaska, U.S.A. Arkansas, U.S.A. California, U.S.A. Colorado, U.S.A. Connecticut, U.S.A. Florida, U.S.A. Georgia, U.S.A. Idaho, U.S.A. Illinois, U.S.A. Kansas, U.S.A. Massachusetts, U.S.A., Michigan, U.S.A. Minnesota, U.S.A. Maine, U.S.A Missouri, U.S.A. Nevada, U.S.A. Washington, U.S.A Wisconsin, U.S.A New Jersey, U.S.A. New Mexico, U.S.A. New York, U.S.A. North Carolina, U.S.A. Ohio, U.S.A. Oklahoma, U.S.A. Oregon, U.S.A. Pennsylvania, U.S.A. Texas, U.S.A. Utah, U.S.A. Vermont, U.S.A. Virginia, U.S.A.	

**(b) South America**

<b>Recognised</b>	<b>Not Recognised</b>
Argentina Azerbaijan Bolivia* Brazil Chile Colombia* Ecuador Paraguay* Peru* Trinidad & Tobago Venezuela*	

**(c) Central America**

<b>Recognised</b>	<b>Not Recognised</b>
Belize El Salvador St. Lucia	Guatemala

\* These are countries where there is/was a dual system of adoption, i.e. Plenary Adoption (Full) and Simple Adoption (Foster Care). Only Plenary Adoptions effected in these countries can be recognised.

**13.5 Countries/States/Territories Recognised/Not Recognised in Europe**

<b>Recognised</b>	<b>Not Recognised</b>
Albania Belarus Belgium* Bulgaria Bosnia Herzegovina Cyprus England France* Finland Germany Greece Hungary Jersey Kazakshtan Latvia Lithuania Luxembourg* Malta Northern Ireland Norway Poland* Romania Russia Scotland Slovakia Spain Switzerland Ukraine Wales	

\* These are countries where there is/was a dual system of adoption, i.e. Plenary Adoption (Full) and Simple Adoption (Foster Care). Only Plenary Adoptions effected in these countries can be recognised.

## **14. Contacts for Further Information on Adoption**

Adoption Board,  
Shelbourne House,  
Shelbourne Road,  
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4,  
Tel: (01) 2309300,  
Fax: (01) 6671438,  
e-mail: [adoptioninfo@health.irlgov.ie](mailto:adoptioninfo@health.irlgov.ie),  
Web address: [www.adoptionboard.ie](http://www.adoptionboard.ie)

Adopted and Fostered Peoples  
Association of Ireland (AFP AI),  
99 Grace O'Malley Road,  
Howth,  
Co. Dublin

Adoptive Parents Association of  
Ireland,  
Glendalough Post Office,  
Co. Wicklow,  
Helen Gilmartin, Secretary,  
Tel: (0404) 45184,  
Fax: (0404) 45700,  
e-mail: [apai@eircom.net](mailto:apai@eircom.net),  
Helen Scott, Public Relations Officer,  
(01) 8252043

Barnardos Adoption Advice Service,  
Christchurch Square,  
Dublin 8,  
Tues 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.,  
Thurs 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
Tel: (01) 4546388

Government Publications,  
Sun Alliance House,  
Molesworth Street,  
Dublin 2,  
Tel: (01) 6710309

Inter-Country Adoption Association  
(Cork),  
8 Manor Lawn,  
Thornbury View,  
Rochestown,  
Co. Cork,  
Tel: (021) 896103,  
Fax: (021) 896188

International Adoption Association,  
80 Tower Road, Clonsilla, Dublin 22  
(Send Stamped Addressed Envelope),  
Web address: [www.iaaireland.org](http://www.iaaireland.org)

International Orphan Aid,  
Unit 6B, Killinarden Business Park,  
Tallaght, Dublin 24,  
Tel: (01) 4664158,  
Fax: (01) 4664160,  
[info@internationalorphanaid.ie](mailto:info@internationalorphanaid.ie),  
[www.internationalorphanaid.ie](http://www.internationalorphanaid.ie)

Parents Network for Post  
Institutionalised Children (PNPIC),  
53 Castlelands,  
Balbriggan,  
Co. Dublin,  
Tel: (01) 8411530,  
e-mail: pnpicireland@eircom.net

Parents of Adopted Romanian  
Children (P.A.R.C.),  
53 Castlelands,  
Balbriggan,  
Co. Dublin,  
Tel: (01) 8411530,  
e-mail: parcireland@eircom.net

Thai Adoption Support Group,  
67 Larchfield Road,  
Goatstown, Dublin 14,  
Web address: [indigo.ie/~fennwbl/](http://indigo.ie/~fennwbl/)

The following 5 organisations publish regular journals or newsletters:

BRITISH AGENCIES FOR ADOPTION  
AND FOSTERING (BAAF),  
Skyline House,  
200 Union Street,  
London SE1 OLY,  
Tel: 0044 207 5932000,  
Fax: 0044 207 5932001

NORCAP (UK),  
112 Church Road,  
Wheatley,  
Oxfordshire OX33 1LU,  
England,  
Tel: 0044 1865 875000,  
Fax: 0044 1865 875686

POST ADOPTION CENTRE (P.A.C.),  
8 Torriano Mews,  
Torriano Avenue,  
London NW5 2RZ,  
England,  
Tel: 0044 207 2840555

PPIAS  
(Parent to Parent Information on  
Adoption Services),  
Lower Boddington,  
Daventry,  
Northamptonshire NN1 1 6YB,  
United Kingdom,  
Tel: 0044 1327 260295,  
Fax: 0044 1327 263565

Robin Hilborn,  
Box 1353,  
Southampton,  
Ont. NOH 2LO,  
Canada,  
(Publication: Post Adoption Helper)

## **15. Contact Addresses for Health Boards and Adoption Societies Undertaking Assessments At Present**

**Intercountry Adoption Section,  
Health Service Executive,  
South Western Area,**

Dartmouth House,  
Kylemore Road,  
Ballyfermot,  
Dublin 10

**Tel: (01) 6201100**

**Intercountry Adoption Section,  
Health Service Executive,  
Midland Area,**

Tivoli House,  
Dublin Road,  
Longford,

**Tel: (043) 50584**

**Intercountry Adoption Section,  
Health Service Executive,  
North Eastern Area,**

Adoption Services,  
St Mary's Hospital,  
Dublin Road,  
Drogheda, Co Louth,

**Tel: (041) 9832963**

**Health Service Executive  
North Western Area,**

*Donegal,*

Social Work Department,  
10 St Eunan's Court,  
Convent Road,  
Letterkenny,  
Co Donegal,

**Tel: (074) 9167026**

**Intercountry Adoption Section,  
Health Service Executive,  
Midland Area**

Social Work Department,  
ACC Building, Harbour Street,  
Tullamore,  
Co Offaly,

**Tel: (0506) 28036**

**Intercountry Adoption Section,  
Health Service Executive,  
Mid Western Area**

Intercountry Adoption Department,  
Parkbeg House  
2 Elm Drive, Caherdavin Lawn,  
Ennis Road, Limerick,

**Tel: (061)206480**

**Intercountry Adoption Section,  
Health Service Executive,  
North Western Area,**

Regional Adoption Services,  
Custon House,  
2 The Quays,  
Sligo,

**Tel: (071) 9136550**

**Intercountry Adoption Section,  
Health Service Executive,  
Southern Area,**

Ground Floor Unit 4,  
South Ring Business Park,  
Kinsale Road,  
Cork,

**Tel: (021) 4927250**

**Inter-country Adoption Section,  
Health Service Executive,  
Southern Area**  
6 Denny Street,  
Tralee,  
Co. Kerry,  
**Tel: (066) 7184822**

**Senior Social Worker,  
Clann,**  
The Annexe,  
West City Centre,  
Seamus Quirke Road,  
Galway,  
**Tel: (091) 548432**

**Inter-country Adoption Section,  
Regional Adoption Service,  
Health Service Executive  
South Eastern Area,**  
2 St. Andrew's Terrace,  
Newtown,  
Waterford,  
**Tel: (051) 860048,  
Fax: (051) 860396**

**Inter-country Adoption Section,  
PACT,**  
15 Belgrave Road,  
Rathmines,  
Dublin 6,  
**Tel: (01) 4976788,  
Fax: (01) 4966565,  
e-mail: pact@eircom.net**

**Senior Social Worker,  
Clarecare,**  
Harmony Row,  
Ennis,  
Co. Clare,  
**Tel: (065) 6828178**

## **16. Reading List on Issues in Intercountry Adoption**

<b>AUTHOR,</b>	<b>TITLE,</b>	<b>PUBLISHER/DATE</b>
MELINA, Lois,	Raising Adopted Children A manual for Adoptive Parents,	Harper & Rowe N.Y.1989 ISBN 006 0957 174
ROWE, Jane,	Yours By Choice,	Tavistock Routledge Kegan 1992 (latest edition)
KECK, Gregory, KUPECKY, Regina,	Adopting the Hurt Child,	PINON Press ISBN 1-57683-094-2 1995
GILMARTIN, Helen,	Adoption Handbook,	Adoptive Parents Association of Ireland (1998)
CHENNELLS, Prue, MORRISON, Marjorie,	Talking About Adoption to your Adopted Child,	ISBN 1 873868 553, BAAF Skyline House 200 Union Street London SE1 OLY, 1998
JEWETT, Claudia,	Helping Children Cope with Separation and Loss,	Collier McMillan, 1994