Post Placement, Post-Adoption, Re-Adoption and Finalization Services

OFY is happy to provide families in Ohio with services and support throughout any required period of supervision and beyond! Once you have welcomed your child into your family, we are available to help you fulfill your reporting requirements, assist you with finalization/re-adoption and most importantly provide you with support and resources for every stage of post-placement. After the joy of finally coming home with your child, you can feel like it is the end of a long journey. In fact, it is just the close of the first chapter of your life together as a family! Now that you are home, OFY can help you with a variety of post-adoption services.

Post-adoption begins as soon as possible following your arrival home and often continues for several years after your child has joined your family. Of course, even if your official requirements are complete, OFY is always available to provide you with ongoing adoptive family support!

Post-Adoption Reporting:

Many foreign countries require post-adoption supervision for six months or longer to ensure that the child has been well-placed and is thriving in a loving family. Post-adoption reports are designed to track the child’s development and progress in adjusting to his or her new family and life in a new country. They may also provide assurances to political leaders and adoption officials in the child’s country of origin that the children they place in permanent families through inter-country adoption are receiving appropriate care and protection. The requirements and frequency of these reports vary from country to country. In addition, some countries expect a licensed social worker or the primary adoption service provider to prepare and submit the reports. Some countries require adoptive parents to submit reports at specific intervals for several years or until the child turns 18.

Post-Placement Services:

Some countries grant only provisional approval of an adoption pending a child’s residence for several months with the adoptive family in their country. Countries may require post-placement supervision for several months after the child is living in the United States before the adoption is finalized in the United States. Based on post-placement reports, the country of origin evaluates whether the child and parents are bonding and how well the child is settling into the new culture and family environment. Countries typically require that a licensed social worker complete and submit post placement reports at specific intervals. Timely submission of post-placement reports will help to finalize the adoption without delay.

The requirements and frequency of post-adoption reports vary from country to country, and some countries expect the reports to be prepared by a social worker or agency representative. Post-adoption reports are not as long and detailed as the homestudy. OFY may ask you to furnish photographs, written reports and medical reports to send to your child’s country of origin and/or participate in follow up interviews and home visits. Post adoption reports are individualized and
therefore separate reports are required for each adopted child. It is helpful to anticipate and understand the reporting requirements of your child’s country of origin. Be sure to check with your homestudy social worker to determine when your reports will be due and what the country requires.

**Re-Adoption Services:**

Some countries require a full domestic adoption (re-adoption) here in the U.S. In addition, a full domestic adoption or re-adoption in the US may be necessary if your foreign documents are insufficient, or it is required based on your immigration status. However, most foreign adoptions can be easily domesticated (given full credit or acceptance in the U.S) without a full domestic adoption.

For re-adoption, documents are filed to request that the court issue an order accepting the foreign adoption as if it had taken place in your state of residence. Once ordered, the foreign decree will be recorded and the child will receive all of the rights that would be afforded to a child adopted in your state of residence. The decree orders the State Health Department to issue a domestic birth certificate. It will also provide sufficient documentation for U.S. citizenship for children brought home on an IR4 visa. Another important aspect of the process of re-adoption is the name change accomplished with the petition. Often the foreign country’s decrees did not have the name you wanted for your child; this name change can also be accomplished with the re-adoption process. Re-adoptions are governed by state law. MLJ Adoptions, Inc. can provide re-adoptions for Indiana families only. After the court order is obtained, it will take approximately 90 days to get the new birth certificate from the Health Department; however, you can use the court order prior to receiving the birth certificate for most purposes (taxes, USCIS and SSN). Some counties in Ohio require that an attorney assist you with the re-adoption process while others allow the adoptive parents and/or OFY to complete the necessary paperwork.

**Finalization:**

Some inter-country adoptions are final in the child’s country of origin, and in others, the adoptive family is granted temporary guardianship of their child while completing a required post-placement period. To finalize the adoption of a child, the adoptive paperwork must be completed and filed with the court. Each jurisdiction in Ohio has its own requirements, and a family may need to obtain an attorney to complete the finalization process.