

# WELCOME HOME

## WELCOME HOME!

The journey of adoption that you began so long ago with such anticipation and excitement has resulted in the ultimate blessing. Congratulations to your family! We hope that your journey was a good one and you are now settling into your new life with your child(ren). As you know, your adoption journey continues with obtaining all the necessary documents for your child and fulfilling your post-adoption requirements. Your International Adoption Specialist (IAS) will continue to work with you and provide case management services during your post-adoption supervision period. Your IAS can continue to be reached via their AGCI email.

AGCI will work collaboratively with your family and your post-adoption agency to ensure all requirements are met during the post-adoption phase. We are also here to provide support to your family during this time. This packet outlines South Africa's post-adoption report requirements and when your reports are due. Your agency has been sent an email detailing the post-adoption report requirements, number of reports needed, and the dates reports are due in our office. Please check-in with your social worker and confirm your first post-adoption visit. Be sure to set up appointments for your next several post-adoption visits right away to avoid a last-minute rush. Once your post-adoption reports arrive at AGCI, they will be processed and sent to South Africa.

AGCI requires post-adoption reports for all adoptions. As a child-centered agency it is important to continue supporting families after their children come home, and one of the best ways is through post-adoption reports. These reports are extremely important, not only as updates to your child's birth country, but also for the future of all adoptions. Over the past few years, international adoption and post-adoption requirements have increased and, in some cases, a failure to comply with post-adoption report requirements has caused countries to close to all future adoptions. Please help AGCI continue to find forever families for orphaned children around the world by completing your post-adoption reports accurately and on time. Not doing so could have dire consequences for the children and families who come after you.

We strive to be there for you as your family transitions back into a daily routine. Please know that all families face challenges during this time. AGCI's Adoption Team will be available to support you through any struggles you may have in the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need any support in the coming weeks, months, and years.

Blessings,  
AGCI's Adoption Team

# SOUTH AFRICA POST-ADOPTION SCHEDULE

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child(ren)'s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived Home Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Child(ren) at Adoption \_\_\_\_\_

REPORT	WRITTEN BY	DUE TO AGCI	DATE COMPLETED	DATE SENT TO AGCI
3 months	Social Worker			
6 months	Social Worker			
12 months	Social Worker			
2 year	Social Worker			
3 year	Social Worker			
4 year	Social Worker			
5 year	Social Worker			

## REPORT REQUIREMENTS

- Post-adoption reports will be prepared and signed by a licensed social worker or equivalent competent authority in your state of residence and notarized. The assigned worker must complete the home visit no more than 30 days prior to the due date, with all family members present.
- One original, notarized report on your local agency's letterhead must be mailed to AGCI at the address below by each due date (the agency can mail it directly to AGCI, or can mail to your family, who will then forward it to AGCI). Copies of the local agency's license and the social worker or equivalent professional's license (if applicable) must be attached to each report behind the signature page.
- With each report, 10 to 15 photos of the child must be submitted. Photos should follow specified requirements as detailed below.
- If adopting siblings, separate reports must be prepared for each child.

# SOUTH AFRICA POST-ADOPTION SCHEDULE

## PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

- Please provide 10 to 15 good-quality color photos, including at least one family photo, some full-body photos of the adopted child, and close-up photos of the child's face.
- Please be sure your child is appropriately clothed in all photos (swimsuits are acceptable).
- Please email photos to [postadoption@allgodschildren.org](mailto:postadoption@allgodschildren.org).
- Include your family's name and the child's full name when you email your photos.

## SEND REPORTS AND PHOTOS TO

All God's Children International  
Post-Adoption: South Africa  
1400 NE 136th Ave. Suite 201  
Vancouver, WA 98684

If you would like to submit photos for use on AGCI marketing materials, please email full-sized, high-quality photos to [postadoption@allgodschildren.org](mailto:postadoption@allgodschildren.org) and note in your email that the photos are for use in AGCI's marketing materials. We appreciate all submissions!

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## MEDICAL INSURANCE

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-66) was signed by President Clinton on August 10, 1993. It amended the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974. The law now requires any group health plan, which provides coverage for dependent children of plan participants, to provide benefits to a child placed with participants for adoption under the same terms and conditions that apply to a biological child of a plan participant.

Additionally, the law prohibits carriers from restricting coverage of adopted children on the basis of a pre-existing condition. Therefore, health insurance coverage for adopted children is now available to all families covered by group health plans as soon as those families assume legal and financial responsibility for the child.

You should contact your employer's human resources department or your medical insurance company to be sure you understand how and when to enroll your adopted child under your policy.

AGCI will write letters, if needed, to your insurance company confirming your adoption.

## MEDICAL EVALUATION

Once you and your child have arrived home, AGCI strongly recommends scheduling a full medical evaluation for your child as soon as possible. Your child should be evaluated for all conditions your international adoption specializing pediatrician recommends.

# READOPTION/REGISTRATION

## READOPTION PROCESS

While your adoption was finalized in the foreign country, it is wise to complete an adoption registration or a readoption in your local courts. This is not required but is extremely beneficial to families, and AGCI strongly recommends it for all adoptive families. The primary reason being that registering or readopting can provide your child with a U.S. Birth Certificate. There will be times in your child's life in which they need an original Birth Certificate. Having a U.S. Birth Certificate makes it immensely easier to obtain an original than trying to go through their country of birth. Other reasons to register or readopt include:

- U.S. documents are easier to replace than foreign ones if lost or destroyed.
- U.S. documents are more recognizable by schools and other organizations.
- Having U.S. documents makes certain processes, such as obtaining a driver's license or joining the military, immensely easier.
- If you desire to change your child's legal name, you can do so during the Readoption process.

## READOPTION VS. REGISTRATION

Readoption is the process of conducting an adoption process in your local courts for a child whose adoption is already finalized in the foreign country. Again, this is not a required step; your child's adoption is already finalized but is strongly encouraged. Readoption is a state and/or county function, and procedures are not uniform between states and counties. The best resources for learning about the readoption process in your state and county will be your local county court, an adoption attorney (<https://adoptionart.org/find-an-attorney/attorney-directory/>), and your home study agency. Families should recognize that some states have readoption requirements such as post-adoption visits and/or updating some documents, such as child abuse and police clearances. You can research your state and county's requirements during the first few months you are settling in.

To make the process of obtaining U.S. documentation easier on adoptive families, some states have implemented a process known as Registration of a Foreign Adoption. Registration of the adoption provides the benefits of readopting, but without the court process. Registration of a foreign adoption typically involves completing necessary forms, attaching supporting documentation, and paying a registration fee. If you would like to learn if your state has a process for registering foreign adoptions, discuss with your home study agency or conduct an online search using such terms as "registration of a foreign adoption in [state]."

# READOPTION/REGISTRATION

AGCI encourages your family to readopt or register your adoption as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please reach out to AGCI.

**Once you have readopted or registered your adoption, please send AGCI a copy of the certificate/decreed/registration. AGCI will save a copy in your adoption records.**

# U.S. CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP

## VISA

As AGCI only provides intercountry adoption services in countries which are party to the Hague Convention and the adoption was finalized in the foreign country, your child will immigrate to the United States on an IH-3 Visa. The IH-3 visa is issued to adopted children where a full and final adoption takes place in the child's country of birth.

## AUTOMATIC U.S. CITIZENSHIP

The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 became effective February 27, 2001. The Act allows foreign-born adopted children of U.S. citizens to acquire U.S. citizenship automatically upon entry into the U.S. if they satisfy certain requirements before age 18. This Act creates provisions to automatically provide certificates of citizenship, at no extra charge, to adopted children who enter the U.S. on an IR-3 or IH-3 visa within 45-90 days of entry into the United States. Children are no longer issued a permanent alien resident card.

**Please provide AGCI with a copy of your child's U.S. Certificate of Citizenship after you receive it.**

## NAME CHANGE

If you intend on changing your child's name during the readoption process, you should contact USCIS Buffalo Field Office immediately to request they DELAY sending your child's Certificate of Citizenship until after the name change. If approved, this may save you having to change the child's Certificate of Citizenship. Otherwise, you will need to reapply for a Certificate of Citizenship after the name is changed.

USCIS Buffalo Field Office: (800) 375-5283

# U.S. PASSPORT

## PASSPORT APPLICATION PROCESS

AGCI recommends that you obtain a United States passport for your child. A United States passport is required for travel outside of the U.S.

The United States passport does not replace AGCI's Certificate of Citizenship requirements. The passport does expire and there is no guarantee it will be reissued. The Certificate of Citizenship does not expire and will register your child's citizenship status at a federal level.

For information about applying for a passport, please go to [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html) or call the National Passport Information Center.

National Passport Information Center

Toll-free: 1-877-487-2778

Automated information is available 24 hours a day

Speak with a representative Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. EST, excluding federal holidays. If you intend on changing your child's name during the readoption process, you will likely want to wait until after the name change to apply for a passport.



# SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

## SOCIAL SECURITY CARD PROCESS

If you intend on changing your child's name during the readoption process, you will likely want to wait until after the name change to apply for a social security card, or after the readoption, apply for a name change on your child's social security card.

Once you have obtained your child's Certificate of Citizenship, you will need to apply for a social security number for your child. To learn more about the documentation required and the process, visit the following website:

[Learn what documents you will need to get a Social Security Card | SSA](#)

You can apply online ([Request a Social Security number | SSA](#)). You can also apply in-person at your local social security office. If you choose to apply in-person, we encourage you to call the office ahead of time to ensure you bring the correct documentation.

We recommend ensuring you have the following documents to apply for a social security number:

- U.S. Certificate of Citizenship
- Original Birth Certificate
- Original/Foreign Passport
- Foreign Adoption Decree
- U.S. Adoption Decree (if applicable)