



Steps in International Adoption

These steps will vary depending on the country and program you choose.

1. Attend Bethany's international adoption information meeting and/or complete the pre-application which is available at www.bethany.org/prelim.
2. Receive notification of approval of the pre-application.
3. Complete Bethany's formal application and return it to Bethany with a \$550 non-refundable fee.
4. Receive approval of your formal application and are assigned a social worker.
5. Apply for your passports.**
6. A Bethany social worker begins the *family assessment*.
7. Complete the family assessment and training and immigration requirements, and pay the balance of the Bethany fee.
8. Complete the *dossier***
9. Bethany sends your family assessment and/or dossier to the country you have chosen.
10. Await your referral from the country you have chosen.
11. The country identifies a child for you and you receive a referral.
12. Accept the referral and complete the *acceptance documents*.
13. Begin the court process (in your local county or the birth country of your child).**
14. The birth country completes the necessary legal procedures before the child may travel.
This period of time varies by country.
15. Receive visa approval through the USCIS.
16. Travel to the country if desired or required.**
17. Complete the court and immigration process.
18. Your social worker begins the required post-placement reports.
19. Apply for a birth certificate and social security card after receiving your *final order of adoption*.

***Process varies from state to state; your social worker will explain the specific requirements for the country you select.*