

U.S. Adoption Decree and Birth Certificate Instructions for Placement Services Clients

Please make certain to read through the introductory information about the post placement period in the WHFC Client Portal, especially the information about visa type.

If Your Child is from The Philippines (or possibly Korea, if adoption as some time ago):

As you are aware, your child has arrived under the guardianship or placement authority of WHFC. Once your 6 month post-placement period is complete and WHFC is in receipt of all needed items (3 sets of photos, 2 physician's reports, 3 agency reports), you will be sent the original legal documents from your child's country of birth and WHFC's Consent to the Adoption. These items will be needed when you finalize the adoption in your state of residence.

We are also happy to provide these items directly to your attorney if you prefer. If so, please email Christina Cetrone (ccetrone@whfc.org) with your attorney's name, address, and phone number.

You should discuss the appropriate procedures for finalization in your state with your local social worker. In most states, you will need to work with an adoption attorney. When searching for attorneys, make certain that the individual you choose is familiar with adoptions from Korea or The Philippines. Your local agency, other adoptive families in your community, or www.adoptionattorneys.com may all provide good ideas.

It is very important that you remember to mail a copy of your child's US decree to WHFC. A photocopy or fax is sufficient and should be sent Attn: Christina Cetrone at 781.899.2769 or ccetrone@whfc.org.

If Your Child is from any other country (including more recent Korea adoptions in which you attended court in Korea):

Each state will have an appropriate procedure for providing your family with a U.S. adoption decree and/or birth certificate. It may be called re-adoption, re-finalization, validation or another term. For the purposes of this document, re-adoption will be used to refer to all appropriate state procedures. Please discuss this with your local adoption agency to learn the proper procedure for your state. Your local agency, other adoptive families in your community, or www.adoptionattorneys.com may all provide referrals to adoption attorneys if needed.

If your child arrived on an IR-4 or IH-4 visa: In order for your child to be a citizen, you will need to re-adopt in your state.

If your child arrived on an IR-3 or IH-3 visa, re-adoption is highly recommended, but not needed for citizenship. There are many reasons why re-adoption is highly advisable. If you do not re-adopt, you are creating certain risks for your child.