



ADOPTION FOR SINGLES

Adoption for singles has become more difficult with increased restrictions by each country's government entity. The options and countries available to singles have decreased over the years. Typically, single applicants have a set of regulations to meet, may only qualify for a specific age range of children and/or need to be open to special needs children. The qualifications and adoption specifications vary by each country and adoption agency.

Therefore, it is important for single applicants to research their options and understand the restrictions and requirements (age, health issues, etc.) involved for adoption. Being a single applicant does not completely close the door for adoption. However, there are three main factors to consider:

1. Does the single applicant meet the country's requirements? (How old is the applicant? Does the single applicant have sufficient income to support a child? Does the single applicant have a support group of family/friends? Does the single applicant have a plan for caring for the child while working? Are there health issues with the applicant, etc.?)
2. Will a single applicant be open to an older child? Certain countries will only allow toddlers or older children to be placed in a single parent home. It is difficult (but not impossible) for a single applicant to be referred to a younger child (depending on adoption program).
3. Is the single applicant open to mild to moderate special needs? Certain countries only allow single applicants to apply for special needs children (Waiting Child Program).

Therefore, adoption is possible, but in general a single applicant needs to understand their options are limited. They may have a more difficult time or additional steps in the process and typically need to consider and be open to older or special needs children.

RESOURCES FOR SINGLE ADOPTERS:

BOOKS:

- Successful Adoption: A Guide for Christian Families
- Handbook on Thriving As an Adoptive Family: Real-Life Solutions to Common Challenges
- Single Parenting That Works: Six Keys to Raising Happy, Healthy Children in a Single Parent Home
- The Single Mom's Guide to Finding Joy in the Chaos
- 21st Century Parent (By Focus on the Family)
- Adopting on Your Own, The Complete Guide to Adoption for Single Parents
- Handbook for Single Adoptive Parents
- Single Mothers By Choice
- Choosing Single Motherhood