

Important Wait Time Factors

Decrease in Dossiers

China's new adoption requirements that took effect May 1, 2007 were designed to reduce the application flow for China and did so successfully. Prior to the new regulations for adoption, an average of 25-50+ dossiers per month from AWAA ALONE, were sent to China. After the requirements changed, the average dropped SIGNIFICANTLY to an average of 4-16 dossiers sent per month being sent from AWAA. Therefore, the goal was achieved, but will not be actualized until the CCAA reaches those dossiers logged in May 1, 2007.

Log in Dates Processed Each Month

The number of login days the CCAA is able to process each month significantly effects the current China wait time. Over the last several years the CCAA has processed anywhere from 2 to 14 days worth of login dates each month, with an average of 3-8 days per month. When the CCAA is unable to process at least 30 days worth of login dates, the wait time grows. The amount that the wait time grows depends upon how many log in days the CCAA processes within the month. Over the last 2 years, the current wait time has continued to grow each month.

Referral Matching by LID's

Each month the CCAA matches families with children on the basis of their Log in Date (LID), which is the date that the dossier paperwork is received and stamped in China. Each month, China matches the same dates for all agencies worldwide and if the CCAA does not have enough children registered to meet the amount of families waiting on the next Log in date, they will not move forward to match families on the next date until the next month, so that all families waiting and all agencies waiting will receive matching at the same time. This allows for a fair system, yet a slow one at this current time because of the high volume of families waiting to be matched. Log in Date will vary throughout the month for each agency, based upon when an agency sends their dossiers to the CCAA. There can be months where agencies will not receive any new referrals if they do not have any families logged in on the dates which the CCAA is currently matching.

Orphan Registration

There are thousands of dossiers at the CCAA waiting to be matched with a child, though the exact amount of waiting dossiers is unknown. While there are many orphans in China, not all orphanages or children are registered with the CCAA for adoption. Unfortunately, there are extremely rural orphanages that lack the resources needed to register with the CCAA. The CCAA is working to register more orphanages; however, this is a lengthy and complicated process. It is also a lengthy process to register each child as a "legitimate orphan" as paperwork must be in place before a child can be registered at the CCAA in order for the child to be legally adoptable. Brian Luwis, our CEO, is also the founder of the Institute for Orphan Advocacy and continues to advocate for orphans around the world.

No one is able to accurately predict how long the China wait time will become due to the large number of unknown factors, such as:

- the number of infants that will be available for adoption and paper ready this year

- the number of completed domestic adoptions within China
- the number of families from around the world who have login dates between the last referral LID that was matched and the upcoming ones to be matched
- the number of families who will withdraw from the China adoption process due to the increased wait time
- the number of families who will adopt children through the Waiting Children Program and will no longer have their dossier submitted in the healthy line
- the number of families who will switch programs during their process and no longer adopt from China. In the past year, all agencies (including AWAA) have seen a number of families withdraw from the China program or complete an adoption through the Waiting Children program.

We continue to see an increase in families who adopt through the Waiting Children Program and who are already home with their children. Due to these factors, we know that the actual number of dossiers still at the CCAA on any LID from June 2006 through May 1, 2007 has declined, as we have seen this within our own statistics as well as have heard the same of other agencies.

AWAA will continue to update families as often as possible as new information becomes available. It is important to us that your family continues to be informed on the China process. Families may contact their Family Coordinator or waitingchildren@awaa.org with any questions concerning the process.