

# Frequently Asked Questions for Special Needs Adoption

## **What is the Special Needs Program?**

This is a program that is designed for the placement of Children with a special need. These children have been deemed available for adoption, and are waiting for a family. These children typically have a mental or physical disability, or could be in the program because they are added out of the regular adoption program.

## **What kind of Medical Needs do these children typically have?**

The children in the program can have a wide range of needs. The need can be physical, or mental. Some of the physical needs can be corrected by surgery, and some are a permanent disability. The needs can range from minor to more severe. Some of the medical needs include; Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Hydrocephaly, blindness, and deafness.

## **How do we receive a referral?**

First you must complete these steps :

- \*Completion of MLJ application
- \* Complete "Characteristics of the Child you wish to adopt"
- \* Criminal background and child abuse registry checks in all states you have resided since age of 18.
- \* National Sex offenders Check ([www.nsopw.gov](http://www.nsopw.gov))

After these steps are completed, please send to our office attn: Amy Moore. We will send you a list of children that meet the special needs you listed. You can request more information on one of the children after you have reviewed the list.

## **What are the requirements for a family wanting to adopt a Special Needs child?**

You must meet the guidelines for the specific country you are wishing to adopt. You will also be required to complete ten educational hours that relate to the need of your child and how to receive services, in addition to the Adoption Preparation Education program that all families must complete.

## **What is the wait time? Is it faster for Special Needs?**

The referral process may be somewhat faster in the program, because these children are "waiting" for a family. However this does NOT mean your adoption time will be faster. You will have to go through each step of the adoption for the specific country. For each country there are different wait times. Please refer to the specific country after receiving your referral.

