

Bob and Cindy want to adopt a child. They are interested in adopting from another country. The two countries they are most interested in are China and Romania. They would like you to find the adoption laws from these countries concerning adoption by foreigners. Also, they would like information on what the procedures for adoption are and what to expect during the process. Finally, they want to know if any U.S. laws or Kansas state laws apply to the adoption.

My first search steps began with searching Washlaw. I searched through the China and Romania international links. China had a variety of links. Some were in Chinese while others no longer worked. It was difficult to find anything about adoption. The Romania links through Washlaw seemed to be only informational about the government. Many human rights links did not work and there was no information about adoption that was obvious enough to find.

I decided to search in Google for international adoptions from China and chose a link from The Alliance for Children, Inc.(I saw the word accredited in the link abstract), which is a non-profit international adoption agency based in Massachusetts, serving families throughout the USA and has been accredited from the Council on Accreditation. A link to Chinese adoption procedures is found on <http://www.allforchildren.org/china.html>. Other resources can be found at http://www.allforchildren.org/china_links.html that go to Adoption Conferences & Events, Adoption Magazines, Newsletters, and Research, Adoption Resources, Adoptive Family Support Groups, China, Books, Toys, Gifts for Adoptive Families, Chinese Culture Links, International Travel Tips, Chinese Language Links, and State by State.

Through Adoption Resources scroll down to the link http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/country/country_365.html which connects to The Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA). This website focuses on Intercountry Adoption China and was last updated on February 2006. The site has a disclaimer which states “the following is intended as a very general guide to assist U.S. citizens who plan to adopt a child from a foreign country and apply for an immigrant visa for the child to travel to the United States. Two sets of laws are particularly relevant: 1) the laws of the child’s country of birth govern all activity in that country including the adoptability of individual children as well as the adoption of children in country in general; and 2) U.S. Federal immigration law governs the immigration of the child to the United States.” The site goes into detail about the needed documents, China’s latest concerns about media awareness and various costs attributed to the adoption.

Another important link through The Alliance for Children, Inc. is at <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/>, which moves the search to About Child Welfare Information Gateway site at <http://www.childwelfare.gov/>. Child Welfare Information Gateway promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families by connecting child welfare, adoption and related professionals as well as concerned citizens to timely, essential information. I went to the state by state statutes link, entered Kansas, and chose intercounty and expenses database to be searched. This linked me to the Kansas Legislature at <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-statutes/getStatuteFile.do?number=/38-336.html>. Through the Kansas Legislature, the following statute 38-336 Chapter 38.-- minors Article 3.—Dependent or Neglected Children 38-336 was found. This is an enactment of a compact.

Next I Googled international adoptions from Romania, and chose the Joint Council of International Services found on <http://www.jcics.org/Romania.htm>. JCICS is an association of licensed, nonprofit international adoption agencies, promoting ethical practices and effective services for children. JCICS member agencies (including the Alliance) subscribe to established standards of practice designed to protect the rights of children, birth parents, and adoptive parents. I scrolled down to a link <http://www.jcics.org/Chris%20Smith%20-%20December%202005.htm> that directed me to the Speech of Hon. Christopher H. Smith of New Jersey in the House of Representatives, Wednesday, December 14, 2005 in regards to Romania's ban on intercountry adoptions. The speech was an argument to Romania to reopen the pipeline for adopting children and discusses the conflicting information given in regards to the numbers of abandoned children in that country. The ban has not been reopened and even the adoptions that were halfway through the process were stopped. Thus, Romania's intercountry adoptions are still banned.

From: Sheryl Baber Evans

To: Bob and Cindy Smith

Memo: Information results found in regard to intercountry adoption search.

I found both good and bad news during my search. The bad news is that Romania has banned all intercountry adoptions since 2005. To read about this decision you can go to Joint Council of International Services found on <http://www.jcics.org/Romania.htm>. They should provide any updated news concerning adoption.

The good news is I found some solid intercountry adoption information. The Alliance for Children, Inc. is a non-profit international adoption agency, based in Massachusetts, serving families throughout the USA and has been accredited from the Council on Accreditation. They have informative guides and resources that include a link to Chinese adoption procedures is found at <http://www.allforchildren.org/china.html>. Other resources can be found at http://www.allforchildren.org/china_links.html.

An important resource to consider studying is The Bureau of Consular Affairs at http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/country/country_365.html. This website focuses on intercountry adoption with China and was last updated on February 2006. Two sets of laws are particularly relevant: 1) the laws of the child's country of birth govern all activity in that country including the adoptability of individual children as well as the adoption of children in country in general; and 2) U.S. Federal immigration law governs the immigration of the child to the United States.

Finally, please go the Kansas Legislature's website, <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-statutes/getStatuteFile.do?number=/38-336.html> you

can read statute 38-336 DEPENDENT OR NEGLECTED CHILDREN. This is an enactment of a compact for adoption.

Finally, it is highly recommended that you obtain a qualified lawyer if you plan go through adoption procedures, such as Alderson, Weiler & Conklin at 785-232-0753, Joseph Huerter at 785-233-9467, or Mindy Reynolds at 785-228-2080. It is also best to look for certified adoption agencies that can offer support during the process. You can find a listing of qualified adoption agencies at <http://kansas.adoption.com/> or look for more information about adoption at <http://international.adoption.com/>.