Adoption Authority of Ireland

REGISTERING AN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION WITH THE ADOPTION AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

What is an intercountry adoption?

An intercountry adoption means the adoption of a child habitually resident in one state (the ‘state of origin’), whether a Hague Convention state or a non-Hague Convention state, who has been, is being or is to be transferred into another state (the ‘receiving state’) – (a) after the child’s adoption in the state of origin by a person or persons habitually resident in the receiving state, or (b) for the purposes of an adoption, in either the receiving state or the state of origin, a person or persons habitually resident in the receiving state.

Examples:

• Adoptive parents, habitually resident in Ireland adopt a child in USA and bring it to live in Ireland afterwards. This is an ‘intercountry adoption’.

• Adoptive parents, habitually resident in Spain, adopt a child in USA and bring it to live in Spain afterwards. This is an ‘intercountry adoption’.

• Adoptive parents, habitually resident in USA adopt a child in USA (i.e. their state of habitual residence and the child’s state of habitual residence). This is NOT an ‘intercountry adoption’. It is an adoption ‘other than an intercountry adoption’.

So, what else is important?

The date of the adoption is very important.

Adoptions effected abroad up to 1998 and from 1 November 2010 onwards must comply with a certain definition of a ‘foreign’ adoption which is set out in the Adoption Act 2010. This definition refers to the consequences and effects of the adoption.

Adoptions effected abroad between 1998 and 2010 must comply with a different definition of a ‘foreign’ adoption which is also set out in the Adoption Act 2010. This definition also refers to the consequences and effects of the adoption but is generally regarded as a ‘lower’ threshold than that mentioned above.

Generally speaking, the consequences of the foreign adoption must be on par with that of an Irish adoption, (i.e. the adoption must terminate the pre-existing legal relationship between the natural parent(s) and the adopted child. There are also two types of foreign adoptions – ‘simple’ adoption (which is akin to guardianship in Ireland and ‘full/plenary’ adoption which is akin to adoption in Ireland). Only ‘full / plenary’ adoptions can be recognised by Ireland (although there are provisions in the Adoption Act 2010 for the conversion of ‘simple’ adoptions to ‘full/plenary’ adoptions. Terms and conditions apply however).
FOR THIS REASON, NOT ALL FOREIGN ADOPTIONS CAN BE RECOGNISED.

What intercountry adoptions CAN be recognised by the Adoption Authority?

There are THREE types of adoption which MAY be recognised...

1. Intercountry and foreign adoptions effected prior to the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 (1 November 2010) may qualify for an entry in the ‘Register of Intercountry Adoptions’ (RICA) if they comply with the definition of a ‘foreign’ adoption outlined in Section 1 of the adoption Act 1991, as it was amended in 1998, unless the recognition would be contrary to public policy (for example, the adoption of an adult)

2. Intercountry adoptions effected after the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 (1 November 2010) may qualify for an entry in the ‘Register of Intercountry Adoptions’ (RICA) if they

   (a) comply with the definition of a ‘foreign’ adoption in Section 1 of the Adoption Act 1991, as it originally read and

   (b) were effected in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Hague Convention*

   unless the recognition would be contrary to public policy (for example the adoption of an adult). There is no provision in the Adoption Act for the recognition of an adoption effected in a Hague Convention state but outside of the terms and conditions of the Hague Convention.

3. Adoptions, other than ‘intercountry adoptions’ (see above) effected after the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 (1 November 2010) may qualify for an entry in the ‘Register of Intercountry Adoptions’ (RICA) if they

   (a) comply with the definition of a ‘foreign’ adoption in Section 1 of the Adoption Act 1991, as it originally read AND

   (b) the adopter (if they adopted alone) or the adopters both (if they adopted jointly) can provide evidence that they were (each) habitually resident in the child’s state of origin at the time of effecting the adoption.

   unless the recognition would be contrary to public policy (e.g. the adoption of an adult or the adoption of a child by a same gender couple).

In order to make a decision on your application the Authority is entitled to ask you for documentary evidence in respect of any part of your application (including proof of habitual residence abroad).

N.B Amongst other matters, the definition of ‘habitual residence’ abroad includes an intention to permanently settle in that country.
Adoptions by unmarried couples

Currently, unmarried couples (e.g. in a civil-partnership or cohabiting) are not eligible to jointly adopt in Ireland. The Adoption Authority therefore has decided that a matter of public policy arises in the recognition of foreign adoptions effected jointly by same-gender unmarried couples.

The Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 has been enacted but at the time of writing enabling legislation has not yet been enacted. As soon as this legislation is commenced, the Authority will re-examine applications currently on hands from same-gender couples.

OK, so I think I satisfy the conditions – how do I apply for recognition?

Complete the forms below and send them and documentary evidence to the Adoption Authority.
Register of Intercountry Adoptions established and maintained by the Adoption Authority of Ireland under Section 90 of the Adoption Act 2010

Application Form

Please answer all questions. Please do not enter ‘not applicable’ (‘N/A’) for any answer.

Name of applicant: ______________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Telephone number: _________________________________________________________

Email address of applicant: _________________________________________________

Relationship to adopted child (if any): _________________________________________

Section 90(3) of the Adoption Act 2010 states – ‘The following persons may apply to the Authority to enter particulars of an intercountry adoption effected outside the State in the register of intercountry adoptions’. Please indicate which category of applicant you are. Are you -

☐ ➢ the adopted person
☐ ➢ an adoptive parent
☐ ➢ another person having an interest in the matter

The Adoption Authority can recognise three types of adoption, Please tick the relevant type below. Is the adoption -

☐ A. An adoption effected before 1 November 2010?
☐ B. An adoption effected after 1 November 2010 where the adopters were habitually resident in the in the state of adoption at the time of adoption? (A definition of ‘habitually resident’ is at the end of this form.)
☐ C. An adoption effected after 1 November 2010 where the adoption was carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of the 1993 Hague Convention on Child Protection and Co-operation in Intercountry Adoption?
Details of Adopter #1

Please complete in BLOCK letters

1. Forename(s): ____________________________________________________
2. Current surname:_________________________________________________
3. Birth surname:___________________________________________________
4. Former surname(s): _______________________________________________
5. Date of birth: ___________________________________________________
6. Occupation: _____________________________________________________
7. Relationship (if any) to child prior to adoption:________________________
8. Relationship to Adopter #2 at the time of the adoption:__________________

Details of Adopter #2 (if applicable)

Please complete in BLOCK letters

9. Forename(s): ____________________________________________________
10. Current surname:_________________________________________________
11. Birth surname:___________________________________________________
12. Former surname(s): _______________________________________________
13. Date of birth: ___________________________________________________
14. Occupation: _____________________________________________________
15. Relationship (if any) to child prior to adoption _________________________
16. Relationship to Adopter #1 at the time of the adoption:______________

JOINT ADOPTER DETAILS (if applicable)

1. Date and place of marriage: _________________________________________

2. If either applicant had a previous marriage(s), give the date and place of marriage and (a) the date and place of dissolution or (b) the date of death of spouse.

____________________________________________________________________
Details of the adopted child

1. Birth forename(s): ____________________________
2. Birth surname: ______________________________
3. Adopted forename(s): ________________________
4. Adopted surname: ____________________________
5. Date of birth: _______________________________
6. Country and place of birth: ___________________
7. Sex: _______________________________

Detail of the adoption order

1. Date of adoption order: _______________________
2. Country and place of adoption order: ___________
3. Full name and address of agent / agency through which the adoption was arranged:
   __________________________________________________________________________
4. Full name of institution in foreign country from where child was adopted:
   __________________________________________________________________________
5. Full postal address of institution in foreign country from where child was adopted:
   __________________________________________________________________________

Hague Convention Article 23 Certificate (if appropriate)

Name of issuing Competent Authority:
   __________________________________________________________________________

Please enclose the original Article 23 Certificate with your application
Statutory Declaration #1

(Complete this Declaration if the adoption was affected before
28 April 1998 or after 1 November 2010)

In the matter of an application for an entry in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions under
Section 90 of the Adoption Act 2010

I/We _______________________________ and _____________________________
both of ______________________________________________________
and both aged 21 years and upwards do solemnly and sincerely declare and say as follows that -

• The consent to the adoption of every person whose consent to the adoption was, under the
law of the place where the adoption was effected, required to be obtained or dispensed
with was obtained or dispensed with under that law.

• The adoption has essentially the same legal effect as respects the termination and creation
of parental rights and duties with respect to the child in the place where it was effected as
an adoption effected by an adoption order.

• The law of the place where the adoption was effected required an enquiry to be carried out,
as far as was practicable, into the adopters, the child and the parents or guardian,

• The law of the place where the adoption was effected required the court or other authority
or person by whom the adoption was effected, before doing so, to give due consideration to
the interests and welfare of the child.

• I / we have not received, made or given or caused to be made or given any payment or other
reward (other than any payment reasonably and properly made in connection with the
making of the arrangements for the adoption) in consideration of the adoption or agreed to
do so

Declared before me by __________________________________ (name of declarant), who is
personally known to me (or who is identified to me by _________________________, who is
personally known to me), at __________________________________________________

on this _____ day of _______________________20____.

Signature ______________________________________

Description (a) ________________________________

(a) This declaration may be made before a Notary Public, a Commissioner for Oaths, a Peace Commissioner or other person
authorised by law to take and receive statutory declarations.
Statutory Declaration #2

(Complete this Declaration if the adoption was affected between 29 April 1998 and 1 November 2010)

In the matter of an application for an entry in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions under Section 90 of the Adoption Act 2010

I/We _______________________________ and _____________________________

both of ______________________________________________________

and both aged 21 years and upwards do solemnly and sincerely declare and say as follows that -

• The consent to the adoption of every person whose consent to the adoption was, under the law of the place where the adoption was effected, required to be obtained or dispensed with was obtained or dispensed with under that law.

• The adoption has, for so long as it is in force, substantially the same legal effect as respects the guardianship of the child in the place where it was effected as an adoption effected by an adoption order.

• The law of the place where the adoption was effected required an enquiry to be carried out, as far as was practicable, into the adopters, the child and the parents or guardian,

• The law of the place where the adoption was effected required the court or other authority or person by whom the adoption was effected, before doing so, to give due consideration to the interests and welfare of the child.

• I / we have not received, made or given or caused to be made or given any payment or other reward (other than any payment reasonably and properly made in connection with the making of the arrangements for the adoption) in consideration of the adoption or agreed to do so

Declared before me by __________________________________ (name of declarant), who is personally known to me (or who is identified to me by _________________________, who is personally known to me), at ___________________________________________________

on this _____ day of ______________________20____.

Signature ______________________________________

Description (a) ________________________________

(a) This declaration may be made before a Notary Public, a Commissioner for Oaths, a Peace Commissioner or other person authorised by law to take and receive statutory declarations.
In the matter of application to be put on the Register of Intercountry Adoptions established and maintained by the Adoption Authority of Ireland under Section 90 of the Adoption Act 2010

Adopter’s Residency Questionnaire

- This form should be completed only where the adopter was habitually resident in the country of adoption at the time of effecting the adoption.
- Each adopter should complete a questionnaire

Name of adopter ______________________________________________________

Date and place of birth _________________________________________________

Date and place of marriage (if applicable)___________________________________

Provide the following details for each country resided in since and including your birth on the table set out overleaf (see example enclosed)

- dates during which you resided there
- did you at the time intend to live permanently or non-permanently in that country?
- did your immediate family (that is, husband, wife or children – if applicable) live with you in that country or did they remain in your country of birth?
- did you maintain a permanent residence in your country of birth whilst living in that country?
- were you employed in that country? If ‘yes’, state
  - By whom?
  - Period of employment?
  - On what basis (fixed or indefinite period)?
  - Did you pay tax in that country?
ADOPTER’S COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE

Maintain a residence = Own or rent a residence
Permanent = No plans to move from this country to live elsewhere
Non-permanent = Had plans to move from this country at some time to live elsewhere

Country #1 (Country of birth) ________________________________
Dates that the adopter lived here ________________________________
What members of the adopter’s family lived with them?_______________
Did the adopter maintain a residence in this country? _________________
Did the adopter work in this country? _______________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Country #2 ________________________________
Dates that the adopter lived here ________________________________
Did the adopter live here permanently or non-permanently ________________
What members of the adopter’s family lived with them?_______________
Did the adopter maintain a residence in this country? _________________
Did the adopter work in this country? _______________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Country #3 ________________________________
Dates that the adopter lived here ________________________________
Did the adopter live here permanently or non-permanently ________________
What members of the adopter’s family lived with them?_______________
Did the adopter maintain a residence in this country? _________________
Did the adopter work in this country? _______________________________
_________________________________________________________________

(Photocopy this form as required)
ADOPTER’S COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE - EXAMPLE

Country #1 (Country of birth) _____________IRELAND________________________
Dates that the adopter lived here _____________1957-1980____________________
What members of the adopter’s family lived with them? Lived with birth family
Did the adopter maintain a residence of their own in this country? ____NO____
Did the adopter work in this country? ____Student, then John Brown & Co, Main
Street, Swinford, Co. Mayo. 1976-1980, non-permanent, paid tax. Then
emigrated to USA_____________________________________________________

Country #2____________________United States of America____________________
Dates that the adopter lived here ___1980-1983_______________________________
Did the adopter live here permanently or indefinitely: ____non-permanently____
What members of the adopter’s family lived with them? __No immediate family __
Did the adopter maintain a residence in this country? ____No________________
Did the adopter work in this country? ____Various, No tax paid______________
____________________________________________________________________

Country #3____________________Canada_____________________________________
Dates that the adopter lived here ______1983- to date___________________________
Did the adopter live here permanently or indefinitely: non-permanently, then permanent
_________________________________________________________________________
What members of the adopter’s family lived with them? __Wife and child ______
Did the adopter maintain a residence in this country? ____Yes, family home _____
Did the adopter work in this country? ____Mapleleaf Ltd., Toronto, 1983-1993
______Department of Forestry 1993-to date, Tax paid__________________________
Adoption Authority’s Definition of ‘Habitual residence’

Habitual residence ought to be adopted on a voluntary basis and for settled purposes as part of the normal element of a person’s life. It is a factual concept that is based on residence for a reasonable period of time.

The Adoption Authority will consider the following factors in determining whether habitual residence has been established:

- Duration (for example, physical presence in the State for a reasonable period of time);
- Regularity;
- Conditions and reasons for the stay in the territory of the State in respect of which habitual residence is claimed;
- The social connections with that Member State (for example, a dwelling within the territory of the State in respect of which habitual residence is claimed); and
- The circumstances of fact specific to each individual case.

Proof of ‘habitual residence’ required

Acceptable forms of proof – please provide as many proofs as possible

- Driving licence (for the child’s state of origin, current at the time of effecting the adoption).
- Utility bills in the name of one or both of the adopters showing their address in the child’s state of origin.
- Mortgage payment receipts (for a mortgage in the child’s state of origin).
- Bank statements(s) (with an address in the child’s state of origin).
- Rent payment receipts (for rent paid in the child’s state of origin).
- Proof of ownership of property in the child’s state of origin.
- Statement of employment from an employer in the child’s state of origin.
- Statement of school attendance for other school-going children in the adopted child’s state of origin.
APPLICATION FOR AN ENTRY IN THE REGISTER OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

ALL APPLICATIONS:

☐ APPLICATION FORM
☐ CIVIL MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (if appropriate, not a photocopy)
☐ CIVIL MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (English translation, if appropriate)

TYPE ‘A’ ADOPTIONS (PRE 1 November 2010)

☐ SWORN AFFIDAVIT(S) (One per adoptive parent)
☐ ORIGINAL ADOPTION ORDER (not a photocopy)
☐ ORIGINAL ADOPTION ORDER (English translation, if appropriate)

TYPE ‘B’ ADOPTIONS (POST 1 November 2010) HABITUALLY RESIDENT IN THE COUNTRY OF ADOPTION

☐ RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE(S) (one per adoptive parent)
☐ PROOF OF HABITUAL RESIDENCE (for each adopter)
☐ SWORN AFFIDAVIT(S) (One per adoptive parent)
☐ ORIGINAL ADOPTION ORDER (not a photocopy)
☐ ORIGINAL ADOPTION ORDER (English translation, if appropriate)
☐ Article 23 Certificate (Original) (for a Hague Convention adoption)

TYPE ‘C’ ADOPTIONS (POST 1 November 2010) BETWEEN HAGUE CONVENTION STATES

☐ SWORN AFFIDAVIT(S)(TYPE A) (One per adoptive parent)
☐ ORIGINAL ADOPTION ORDER (not a photocopy)
☐ ORIGINAL ADOPTION ORDER (English translation)
☐ Article 23 Certificate (Original)