



*Children's Bridge*

International Adoption  
Consultants

## QUESTIONS TO ASK A FACILITATOR

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Most Canadian families who undertake an adoption from another country choose to work with a facilitator. A facilitator is an individual or organization that will assist you in coordinating your adoption, both in Canada and in your child's country. They should assist you with paperwork, travel and escort arrangements as well as offer pre and post adoption support services. Asking the following questions will significantly reduce the risk of encountering any unforeseen situations with your facilitator.

- What experience do you have as a facilitator?
- What credentials and professional adoption experience does your staff have?
- How many adoptions has your organization completed to date?
- May I speak with parents who have completed an adoption with you?
- Will you provide an opportunity for me to see and meet some of the children who have been adopted through your organization?
- What kind of support and assistance will I receive?
- What will the adoption cost? Can you provide a detailed cost breakdown?
- Are you a non-profit organization? How are your revenues distributed? (i.e. salaries, orphanage assistance, activities and programs for parents etc.)
- Does your organization provide assistance and/or fundraising for the institutions from which the children are adopted?
- What is the background and experience of your staff?
- How does your organization keep updated on legal and adoption issues?
- Who comprises your Board of Directors? What experience do they have?
- What kind of communication can I expect from you during the adoption process and waiting period?
- What kind of translation and legal services do I require? Do you provide these or am I responsible for this?
- Once I have my entire dossier ready, how long will it take before it is sent to our child's country?
- How are we escorted in our child's country?
- Do we travel alone or in a group? If in a group, do we have the opportunity to contact and/or meet these people prior to travelling? When?
- What types of travel arrangements are made with respect to our adoption? What is the quality of the

accommodation we can anticipate?

- Why type of information will I receive about my child prior to traveling?
- How do you prepare us for the trip?
- What types of pre and post adoption services does your organization provide?

It is important to note that there are some very important differences in the process and facilitation of international adoptions that can make a significant impact on how smoothly and efficiently your adoption proceeds. It is important that you understand the adoption process and the services and track record of your facilitator. Ask many questions along the way! Once you have selected an experienced facilitator, relax and enjoy every minute of your adoption journey.