



Report to Congress on Departmental Efforts on Pending China Adoptions

Section 7019(e) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (Div. F, P.L. 118-47) and Senate Report 118-71 and the Full- Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4)

China limited international travel in March 2020 and suspended intercountry adoptions in October 2020. In August 2024, China announced it was ending intercountry adoptions. Since 2020, the Department has urged China to resume intercountry adoptions in process and, after the August 2024 announcement, to finalize the adoptions of all U.S. families matched with a child. These efforts have included high-level meetings with Chinese officials to discuss all adoptions, as well as working-level discussions focused on the processing of specific cases.

China finalized about 40 final stage cases in 2023-4 but did not proceed with cases in earlier stages of the adoptions process, including more than 270 children in China who had been matched to an American family. As of May 1, 2025, 224 U.S. families indicated to the Bureau of Consular Affairs they are still committed to finalizing their pending adoption.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of engagements between the Department and the government of China in which adoptions were a key topic of discussion. The list of engagements includes some of the meetings listed in last year's report and progress up until present.

FY 2025

Since China's announcement, the Department has repeatedly engaged Chinese officials in Washington and Beijing about the pending U.S. cases.

- In May 2025, Acting Overseas Citizens Services (OCS) Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) Elizabeth Gracon met with Chinese Embassy's Minister Qiu Wenxing requesting that China allow intercountry adoptions for Chinese children already matched with U.S. prospective adoptive parents.
- In April 2025, Department officials met with Chinese Ambassador Xie Feng, discussing the possibility of exceptions and China's decision-making process.
- In January 2025, then-Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources (D-MR) Richard Verma requested during a call with the Chinese Ambassador that China finalize matched cases.
- In November 2024, then-D-MR Verma met with the Chinese Ambassador and requested China finalize matched cases.

- In November 2024, then-U.S. Ambassador to China R. Nicholas Burns met with Executive Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu and raised the issue of adoptions.

FY 2024

In FY 2024, Consulate Guangzhou issued 24 adoption certificates to children whose families had received a China-specific travel authorization, the final step required for intercountry adoptions, prior to the COVID-related closure of adoptions.

- In September 2024, then-OCS DAS Angela Kerwin met with the Chinese Embassy's Minister Qiu Wenxing and urged China to complete the pending cases and provided a list of the pending cases.
- In June 2024, then-U.S. Ambassador Burns sent a letter to the Minister of Civil Affairs (MCA), China's Central Authority for Adoptions, requesting a meeting.
- In April 2024, then-DAS Kerwin traveled to Beijing and met with the Chinese MCA Director General Guo Yuqiang to urge the continuation of pending adoption cases. Then-DAS Kerwin also met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) officials while in Beijing to press for expedited processing of adoption cases.
- In January 2024, then-DAS Kerwin met with the Chinese Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission to press for the continuation of pending

adoption cases. The Chinese Embassy stated it would pass the Department's message and request to the MCA.

- The Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Children's Issues (CI) collaborated with the National Council for Adoption (NCFA) in delivering an NCFA letter requesting a resumption on pending adoptions to the MCA.

FY 2023

- In July 2023, then-DAS Kerwin met with the Chinese Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission and addressed intercountry adoptions and the need to establish clear and transparent communications between the Central Authorities of our two countries.
- In May 2023, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and Consulate General Guangzhou consulted with representatives from Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands. CI consulted with European counterparts during April's Intercountry Adoption Network meeting in the Hague. In both consultations, partners discussed how to engage with China.
- In March 2023, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues Michelle Bernier--Toth brought up pending adoption cases in a meeting with Chinese embassy officials.
- In February 2023, then-DAS Kerwin met with Chinese Embassy officials to request a resumption of pending adoption cases and

clarity on the program. The Chinese government maintained its COVID-related suspension on intercountry adoption processing.

FY 2022

- In an August 2022 meeting with Xu Xueyuan, then the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy, then-DAS Kerwin urged China to complete cases in progress. The Chinese government maintained its COVID-related suspension on intercountry adoption processing throughout the fiscal year.

FY 2021

- In January 2021, CI Special Advisor Bernier-Toth, met with MCA Director General Guo, where she pressed for clarity on the suspension on adoptions from China. The MCA did not respond to subsequent requests for meetings.