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## Embryo Adoptions

By Dana Sanders

For many couples desperately trying to bear children, infertility is a reality. Usually, a couple with

fertility problems attempts many chances at having a biological family—including in vitro fertilizations. Many couples wish to experience the joy of carrying and giving birth to a child, but physically cannot produce a viable embryo. After trying all viable options, many couples give up hope. However, there is an option that has given infertile couples the ability to have children, even if they are not biologically their own. If a woman is capable of carrying a child to term, this option may be the light at the end of the infertility tunnel. Embryo adoption allows an adoptive couple who cannot conceive on their own the ability to carry and give birth to that life, creating a family of their own.

When a couple tries in vitro fertilization, egg and sperm are combined in a laboratory setting to create embryos. These embryos are then frozen using a cryogenic process to keep the embryo alive. Only one of these embryos is implanted, leaving the rest sitting in the preservation freezer waiting for the couple to make a decision. If the couple does not want more children, they can donate the embryos to be used by an infertile couple. Several organizations deal especially in embryo adoption and accept embryo donation from generous couples. One such organization, The National Embryo Donation Center (NEDC) was created to provide options for the couples facing the problem of what to do with these embryos. Another organization, Snowflakes Embryo Adoption, is part of the organization Nightlight Christian Adoptions. Nightlight specializes in assisting all potential adoptive parents with traditional adoptions or embryo adoptions. Before embryo adoption, couples were forced to either destroy the embryos or donate them as research subjects.

Embryo donations can be either open or anonymous adoptions. Upon donation of the embryos, the donating couple can choose to reveal their personal information to those who become parents and carry the embryo. Similarly, couples interested in adoption can request the adoption to be conducted anonymously. Since adoption can only take place after the child has been born, using the term "adoption" for this process is somewhat of a misnomer. Embryo adoption is a legal proceeding that involves specific documentation. Unlike adoption, when the child is born, the names of the adoptive parents will appear on the birth certificate. Once the legally-binding donation contract has been signed, the donating couple cannot place any claim on the child, especially after the child's birth.

## Embryo Adoptions

Just like in vitro fertilization, embryo adoption is not guaranteed to result in a pregnancy or a child. Unfortunately, only about two–third of the embryos survive the thawing process. There is only a 20 to 25 percent chance embryo implantation will successfully result in a pregnancy. However, if a couple desires to carry and give birth to a child, these chances may be their best bet.

Economically speaking, embryo adoption runs about a third the amount of standard in vitro fertilization. For many couples, the economic aspect of infertility treatments result in closing many doors. In addition to these costs, travel expenses must be included since many organizations require you visit their location for initial screening and the actual implantation process. If the first embryo implantation does not result in pregnancy, the couple usually has a couple of additional chances. The embryo adoption process at NEDC provides couples with three chances of implantation of the adoptive embryos. Much like in vitro fertilization, the more chances necessary for embryo adoption increases the cost. Granted this is a small price for the joy of giving birth to a child and creating a family, it is outside of the means of some infertile couples. Before embarking on the embryo adoption experience, all decisions need to

be made to ensure this process is an option.

Embryo adoption gives couples with the inability to have biological children but have the desire and love to start a family a second chance. To decide if embryo adoption may be an option for your and to learn more about the process, consult the Snowflakes website at

[www.nightlight.org/snowflakeslanding.asp](http://www.nightlight.org/snowflakeslanding.asp)

or the National Embryo Donation Center at

[www.embryodonation.org](http://www.embryodonation.org)

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Looking for information about adoption? Go to

<http://www.aaadoption.com>

All About Adoption is an

Adoption and Infertility Information Directory and Resource Site which provides a consolidated listing of the best Adoption and Infertility sites in one easy to navigate location.

### **What You Need To Know About China Adoption**

**By Jeanette Pollock**

## Embryo Adoptions

We all know about China's population problem. Most of us are horrified at the Chinese one-child policy.

China, in 1979, implemented the policy restricting the number of children a family can have to just one child.

Unfortunately, a lot of controversies have stemmed from this policy. The Chinese people have been accused of doing everything from abortions to cannibalism in the wake of this government policy.

Also stemming from this policy is the ever-increasing incident of parents abandoning young daughters.

In China, sons are more valued, as tradition holds sons as the heirs of a bloodline.

However, you should know that the one-child-policy is no longer enforced in some places. This does not significantly affect, however, the number of daughters abandoned each year.

One solution the Chinese government has developed is the china adoption program.

While most countries would be difficult to deal with in cases of international adoption, the China adoption program has made a very clear-cut and easy to follow roads in these international adoption cases.

The government has specifically formed different agencies in order to help out with the China adoption program.

Some other countries have opened such similar adoption programs only to shut them down because of some problems. However, the China adoption program has been continually operating ever since 1996.

In China adoptions, there are some requirements that potential parents must fulfill in order to be considered eligible.

First of all, China adoptions work with parents at least 30 years and not more than 60 years old at the time of the adoption.

Parents who are 45–50 years old can adopt children who are 1–3 years old, while children 4 years or older may be adopted by couples 51–55 years of age.

You also need a basic income of 10 thousand dollars annually plus an additional annual income of 10 thousand dollars for every person in the family, including the child.

China adoptions also require that the couple be married for at least six months and have lived together.

If you already have 4 children, you will need to contact a China adoption services agency in order to determine whether or not you will be allowed to adopt yet another child.

## Embryo Adoptions

If you have already adopted a child from China, you would have to wait a year before you can be considered eligible for another adoption.

If you have a birthed child, though, you will have to wait until he/she is six months old until you can submit an application for China adoptions.

If the parent is single, China adoptions usually work with single women 30 years of age.

If you are, in fact, single, you need to be certified a heterosexual. If you are living with a housemate, you need to complete a home study that describes your relationship with the housemate in detail.

You need to certify that the housemate is heterosexual. China adoptions also require that the housemate present different documents such as a medical examination and police clearance.

The China adoption program, of course, depends upon the number of children available. You need to contact an agency in order to make your China adoption a bit easier.

The china adoption agency can make things easier for you by becoming your contact to the China adoption program. There's some travel required in China adoptions, and a agencies can help you maximize your usage of that time.

Jeanette Pollock is a freelance author and website owner of

<http://www.justadoptiontips.com>

. Visit

Jeanette's site to learn more about china adoption.

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