



FAMILY LAW

*Written by John Stocks
Attorney at Law*

Client: My spouse and I would like to adopt a child, maybe from a foreign country. What are the basics of doing this?

Lawyer: There is quite an increase of American citizens seeking to adopt children, especially children from other countries. International adoption is mostly a private legal matter between the adopting party and a foreign court, which operates under that country's laws and regulations. Our Department of State does provide valuable information, however, about the adoption processes in various countries and the U.S. legal requirements to bring a child adopted abroad into the United States. The difficult part is bringing the foreign born child(ren) to our Country, which requires meeting the requirements set by the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security (BCIS), the foreign country in which the child resides and usually state of residence of the adopting party. Also, the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is involved because oftentimes the issuance of a visa to nationals of other countries, including children adopted abroad or coming to the United States for adoption, are required. If thinking about adopting, consult a lawyer who has done both local and international adoptions, and ask him or her for more information.

Lawyer, John S. Stocks, answers questions posed to him by clients and/or by e-mails on the subject of FAMILY LAW.

Feel free to submit your family law question to John via e-mail. There is no charge for this and your question may appear in a future column. E-mail your question to: jstocks@vansiclen.com



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