

# THE BARKER ADOPTION FOUNDATION

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## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: SOUTH KOREA





### **FACTORS LEADING CHILDREN INTO CARE:**

- Societal stigma against single parenting/ parenting when unwed
- Lack of resources and social/familial support
- Birth parents typically are known and make an adoption plan for their child with the help of adoption professionals in South Korea

### **HOW CHILDREN OFTEN ENTER CARE:**

- Voluntary relinquishment of parental rights by birth mother (and sometimes birth father as well)
- Abandonment at safe haven centers such as fire and police stations, and hospitals (less common)

### **COMMONLY FOUND MEDICAL NEEDS & ISSUES:**

- Prenatal alcohol/cigarette smoke exposure
- Minor Mental illness of parent (depression / anxiety)
- Intellectual disability in the birth family
- Speech and/or language delays
- Minor Delays in Meeting Developmental Milestones
- Lack of prenatal care
- Minor to moderate heart conditions (Atrial Septal Defect/ Ventricular Septal Defect/Patent Foramen Ovale/ Patent Ductus Arteriosus)
- Prematurity
- Low Birth Weight
- Minor seizure disorders
- Birth marks (café au lait spots; hemangioma)

### **AVAILABLE CHILDREN:**

- Children are most often six months to 24 months old at time of referral, 18-30 months old at time of custody. Children are very well cared for in foster homes.
- Both male and female children need families, though more children are male. Prospective adoptive parents must be open to both sexes to be an appropriate fit for the program.
- When birth parents are known extensive psycho-social history is provided. In all cases, all medical records are available and are generally very detailed.