

# COUNTRY SITUATION

## THAILAND

Reviewed by local contacts



TABLE OF CONTENTS	
<b>GENERAL SITUATION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE &amp; ALTERNATIVE CARE OPTIONS</b>	<b>2</b>
COMMENTS OF ISS/IRC	6
<b>ADOPTION</b>	<b>7</b>
COMMENTS OF ISS/IRC	16
<b>LEGISLATION</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>PARTICULARLY RELEVANT SOURCE OF INFORMATION</b>	<b>18</b>

## GENERAL SITUATION

### Geographical situation

The Kingdom of Thailand is located in the centre of mainland Southeast Asia. To the North Thailand borders Laos and Myanmar, to the east Laos and Cambodia, to the south Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia and to the west the Andaman Sea and Myanmar. The capital is Bangkok.

### Political situation & governance

- The Kingdom of Thailand is a constitutional monarchy ([Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 \(2017\)](#)) ruled by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who serves as head of state. It is a parliamentary (bi-cameral) democracy. The National Assembly is composed of a Senate and a House of Representatives.
- The State administration is divided into [three levels](#): central, provincial (76 provinces and 1 Special Administrative Region) and local.
- Buddhism is observed by the majority of Thai people and receives special protection.
- According to the [World Justice Project](#), Thailand's overall Rule of Law Index score dropped in 2022 and is now 80 out of 140 whilst regionally it is ranked 9 out of 15. Following the [Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2021](#), Thailand rates 72 out of 167 countries and has moved out of the "hybrid regime" category into the "flawed democracy" category indicating therefore some improvement.

### Population

- The total population is 71,601,103 ([World Bank, 2021](#)), of which, 13,768,871 (19,2%) are children and adolescents (hereinafter, C&A) ([UNICEF, 2023](#)).
- The under-five mortality rate is 8.3 per 1000 live births ([UNICEF, 2021](#)). The total number of live births registered in 2021 was 544,570 ([National Statistics Office \(NSO\) 2021](#)).
- The official language, Thai, is spoken by approximately 90% of the population. There are significant regional variations between Thai dialects and other languages are also spoken ([DFAT Country Information Report Thailand, 2020](#)).
- The largest ethnic group is Thai (97.5%). The remaining are Burmese (1.3%), others (1.1%) and unspecified (less than 0.1%). According to the State report submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2019 ([CERD/C/THA/4-8](#), para. 15), 62 ethnic groups have been officially recognised.

### Economic & social situation

- About 22% of children are living in multidimensional poverty with the highest deprivation in the areas of education and health. Child poverty rates were higher in rural areas (23%) than urban areas (19%), with the highest rates found in the Northeast region, followed by the North region, while the lowest rate was in Bangkok. ([UNICEF, 2019](#)).
- Thailand's poverty reduction slowed from 2015 onwards. Whilst Thailand has made overall and significant progress in reducing poverty from 58% in 1990 to 6.8% in 2020, 79% of poor remain in rural areas ([World Bank, Rural Income Diagnostic, 2022](#)).
- GDP growth has picked up modestly since the surge in COVID-19 cases in 2021, but economic activity remained below pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2022 ([Thailand Economic Monitor](#)).
- The high level of inequality is sufficiently ingrained to marginalise particular sections of society from accessing adequate levels of education and health care. A large number of Thais continue to suffer from poverty, social exclusion or discrimination due to gender, ethnicity or geographic location (BTI, Transformation Index, [Thailand Country Report 2022](#)).
- [Human Development Index](#): 0.800 (2021), ranking 66th out of 191 countries.

### Children's rights



- **Children on the move and statelessness:** Thailand is home to over 200,000 stateless children who are without their fundamental right nationality and legal identity (UNICEF Thailand, [Annual Report 2021](#)). In 2019, the IOM ([International Organisation for Migration](#)) estimated there were between 300,000 and 400,000 migrant children.
- **Human trafficking:** Thailand is a destination, source, and transit country for human trafficking for both Thai nationals and foreigners and traffickers also use it as a transit country for victims from different countries. C&A from Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia have been victims of sex trafficking in brothels, massage parlours, bars, karaoke lounges, hotels and private residences ([DFAT Country Information Report Thailand, 2020](#)).
- **Violence against children:** Children experience insidious forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. Domestic, family, and/or gender-based violence is a significant problem in Thailand. 58% of parents use violent discipline and the country has one of the highest prevalence of child marriages in the region with 20% of women aged 20 to 24 years first married or in a union before the age of 18 ([UNICEF, 2022](#)). In addition, 9% of internet users aged 12-17 in Thailand were victims of grave instances of online sexual exploitation and abuse ([ECPAT, INTERPOL and UNICEF, 2022](#)).

## CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE AND ALTERNATIVE CARE OPTIONS

### Applicable laws and policies & competent authorities

- Relevant articles of the [Constitution](#): 27, 54 and 71
- The [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) (88 articles), which is the main law regulating alternative care, outlines the fundamental powers and responsibilities of government authorities and private organisations in providing protection to children. According to the Department of Children and Youth (DCY, 2023) and ISS/IRC local contact the Act is currently under revision.
- Child protection and family support fall under the domain of several divisions of the [Ministry of Social Development and Human Security](#) (MSDHS), primarily the [Department of Children and Youth](#) (DCY) which is the main agency responsible for children's welfare in Thailand, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, the Department of Social Development and Welfare, and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in addition to the functions under the Office of the Permanent Secretary.
- The **Juvenile and Family Courts** are established by the [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) and regulated by the [Juvenile and Family Court and its Procedure Act B. E. 2553 \(2010\)](#). In provinces where such courts do not exist, a Provincial Court shall have the power to hear juvenile and family cases.
- Other relevant laws include the [Child and Youth Development Promotion Act, B.E. 2550 \(2007\)](#) and its amendment (no.2) B.E. 2560 (2017) and the Promotion of Development and Protection of Family Institution Act B.E. 2562 (2019).
- Thailand has in place **multiple national policies, plans and strategies** for the protection and promotion of children's rights, such as the recently adopted [National Action Plan of Alternative for Children Phase 1 \(2022-2026\)](#), the [National Child and Youth Development Plan \(2017-2021\)](#), the National Strategic Plan for Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Solution (2017- 2026) and the National Strategy on the Promotion and Protection of Children and Youth in the use of Online Media (2017 – 2021).
- Additionally, also in terms of policies and at the operational level, the DCY, with support from civil society and UNICEF Thailand, developed the [Manual of protocols and procedures protecting and responding to children at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence](#) (Manual hereinafter) to assist professionals in gaining knowledge and having systematic guidelines for child protection procedures according to related standards and regulations. According to local sources, this Manual has been distributed and is being used by competent officials.



## Family support & prevention of unnecessary family separation

- The DCY has implemented what is referred to as its **“6Ps” approach** (Policy, Potential, Protection, Prevention, Partnership and Participation) for the protection of C&A. Under this framework, it has focused on strengthening the child protection network at the sub-district level. The [National Action Plan of Alternative for Children Phase 1 \(2022-2026\)](#) has defined as one of its five key components and goals the development of mechanisms that prevent unnecessary separation of children from the family. Similarly, and according to the DCY the new version of the Child Protection Act (currently being drafted) will place more importance on local child protection mechanisms, prevention of unnecessary family separation and the guarantee that child protection measures shall be based on the best interests of the child.
- According to the [National Action Plan of Alternative for Children Phase 1 \(2022-2026\)](#), the DCY offers allowances to 175.000 children in poverty with a budget of 175 million Baht.
- Some examples of programmes implemented by NGOs: [Parenting for Lifelong Health \(PLH\)](#) by the Peace and Culture Foundation in Chiang Mai which aims to equip parents to improve parenting and reduce violence against children, the KTF programme by [Step Ahead Thailand](#) providing financial literacy, income generation assistance, education support and positive parenting and conflict resolution training or the [Child Sponsorship Programs](#) by HOLT Thailand by which families receive health and nutrition support and education and economic empowerment.
- Crisis assistance is provided through [One Stop Crisis Centres](#) (OSCC) established to respond to and also prevent violence against women and girls.

## Gatekeeping mechanism & family reintegration

- Art. 6, [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) refers to The Minister of Interior, Minister of Social Development and Human Security, Minister of Education and Minister of Justice to be responsible for the enforcement of the Act, and in relation to their respective Ministries, the power to appoint **“competent officials”** to enable the implementation of the Act.
- Once a child is separated from his or her family due to abuse or neglect, abandoned or relinquished, the circumstances are to be investigated and welfare and family support is to be provided where possible. In cases of **removal**, a **“competent official”**, appointed by the [MSDHS](#), is designated in order to provide assistance and protection to the child (arts. 28 – 31, [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#)). In cases of abuse, the child will be temporarily separate the child from the family for the purpose of investigation for no longer than 7 days (being able to request an extension for a total of no more than 30 days). A case manager can also be designated to fulfil certain duties including the coordination of a multidisciplinary team to plan and conduct fact-finding investigations and assess services for children and families.
- In relation to **abandonment**, art. 25, [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) states that guardians of a child are forbidden to abandon a child at a nursery or health care facility, or with a person employed to look after the child, or at a public place or any other place, with the intention of not taking him or her back. Following the provisions of the [Civil and Commercial Code](#) (art. 1598/21) **parents can voluntarily relinquish** their children in Thailand.
- **Family reintegration:** art. 35, [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) requires that “efforts should be made towards restoring the child to his or her family promptly”.

## ALTERNATIVE CARE OPTIONS

**Competent authorities:** The DCY is the main government agency tasked with overarching responsibility for children's welfare (including alternative care).

**Main reasons for being placed in alternative care:** poverty, abandonment, abuse and neglect, and ageing caregivers among others ([UNICEF, 2015](#)).



**Care reform:** In 2019, the government, in collaboration with ACT, developed a Draft National Action Plan of Alternative Care for Children (also referred to as the **Alternative Care Roadmap**) to ensure that the alternative care practice in Thailand reflects the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. In 2023 the [National Action Plan of Alternative Care Phase 1 \(2022-2026\)](#) was published. Its goals and expected outcomes are: (1) vulnerable children and families have access to adequate and diverse family-strengthening services, (2) a process is put in place to systematically filter and prevent unnecessary alternative care and apply to all forms of formal alternative care, (3) in every formal alternative care environment in Thailand; a standard is put in place to serve the best interest of the child, (4) an increase of family-based care options and a decrease in the reliance on institutional care, and (5) has agencies to comprehensively and systematically coordinate alternative care provision, both within state agencies and between state and private agencies.

The Government established the Child Protection Fund for use as capital for providing welfare assistance, safety protection and behaviour promotion of a child, including the child's family and foster family ([Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#), Art. 68).

**Statistics:** The 2019 Thailand Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) found that 23.5% of children in Thailand live with neither biological parent. This increased to 26% in rural areas and is most prevalent in the North East region at 36% ([NSO & UNICEF, 2020](#)).

### Kinship care

**Legislation/policy:** [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#), Art. 33(2).

**Types:** The use of informal kinship care in Thailand is widespread as it is a well-established cultural practice ([DCY, One Sky Foundation, UNICEF Thailand and Kanchanaburi Office of Social Development and Human Security, 2021](#)). Formal kinship care is arranged and supported by the State and the number is capped annually. There is a funding ceiling, whereby the state provides funding for a maximum of approximately 5.000 kinship carers per year.

**Carers:** The most common kinship carers are maternal grandparents ([DCY et al, 2021](#)).

**Available support:** the DCY provides child allowances to support 5,400 children under kinship care ([National Action Plan of Alternative Care, Phase 1 \(2022-2026\)](#)). However, local informants report a lack of awareness and understanding by potential beneficiaries of existing welfare provisions and their rights to these provisions.

**Children's profiles:** Some studies ([DCY et al, 2021](#)) point that the average age of children in kinship care is much lower than the average for residential care.

### Foster care

**Legislation/policy:** [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) (art. 33(4)) and the 2001 Department of Public Welfare Regulation on Foster family-type child care. The **Foster Care Programme** began in 1999 and is overseen by the Bureau of Woman and Child Protection and Welfare (BWCPW) under the Department of Social Development and Welfare (DSDW) within the MSDHS. The programme is divided into two operations: one that is completely government-run and another that is a partnership between the public and private sector. Development of national standards for foster care is under way ([ACT](#)).

**Requirements for carers and support:** No information available



**Monitoring & complaint mechanism:** After approval, a social worker from the respective agency of registration will regularly visit the child and the foster family, once every two months during the first year, evaluating the child's living conditions, health, education, behaviour, emotional wellbeing, among others.

**Support and follow-up:** The Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office provides a host family network by searching for families that are voluntary and have the potential to become foster families, as well as providing preparation and support mechanisms to fulfil foster family duties ([Manual](#)). According to the DCY, child allowances to support 339 children under foster care are being provided at the rate of 2.000 baht per person per month ([National Action Plan of Alternative Care, Phase 1 \(2022-2026\)](#)). For children in formal foster care, their situation is meant to be reviewed every two months ([Manual](#)).

**Statistics:** No information available.

## Institutional care

**Legislation/policy, including deinstitutionalisation:** [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#), Arts. 33(6) and 56 (establishing the institutionalisation of children as a last resort).

**Types:** Children's homes or residential centres are welfare centres which provide care and development for over six children in need of assistance. There are mainly 3 types: **1) government-run children's homes** under the supervision of the DCY, **2) private registered children's homes** or centres and **3) private unregistered children's homes** which are run by private individuals or organisations (mainly NGOs and faith-based organisations) who have chosen not to register with the government and therefore do not meet the legal requirements. The [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) establishes fines for anyone operating a centre without the required license (Art. 82).

In addition, **boarding schools** under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, also function as residential care facilities.

Finally, **Reception Homes and Shelters for Children and Families** are tasked to provide emergency or temporary shelter, and basic services, such as mental physical and mental health care that are necessary for the children and assess the service needs of the children and families forwarding them to other relevant agencies responsible.

**Legal requirements for private children's homes:** The [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) requires anyone providing a home to more than 6 children (who are not their own children) to register with the Provincial Social Development and Human Security offices as a children's home.

**Statistics:** Thailand has a large number of unregistered private residential care facilities and other settings ([ACT and One Sky Foundation, 2017](#)), this coupled with limited data collection mechanisms means it is difficult to know the exact extent of all forms of care in Thailand.

The majority of the children (67.4%) reside in the 51 government boarding schools throughout Thailand ([UNICEF, 2015](#)). According to the government's statistics ([National Action Plan of Alternative Care, Phase 1 \(2022-2026\)](#)) there are 396 private residential facilities, both registered and unregistered, which care for around 6.200 children. Of all the private children's homes almost 50% operate without a required license ([ACT, 2021](#)) and 63% are located in Northern Thailand ([Thailand CRC Coalition Alternative Care Working Group, 2016](#)). The number of private unlicensed homes has not been determined but [One Sky Foundation](#) estimated that the total number to be more than 600.



In relation to government-run homes, there are 30 in total. Most of them are large with over 100 children ([ACT](#)).

### Leaving care

**Legislation/policy:** [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#), arts. 30(6), 33, 56 and 58.

Once entered into alternative care, it has often been found that the child shall remain under such care until they reach their legal age ([DCY and UNICEF, 2022](#)).

**Aftercare support:** In accordance with Article 58(3) of the [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) the guardian of a children's home or welfare centre will monitor and follow up on a child who has been discharged from the centre, offering advice, guidance and assistance to ensure that the child will not return to the previous circumstances. In addition, Art. 33 *in fine* establishes that in cases in which the child has reached 18 years of age but is still in a condition warranting further assistance, the Permanent Secretary or the Provincial Governor, as the case may be, may order such person to be granted further assistance until he or she reaches 20 years of age and in certain cases until 24 years of age if need be.

### Focus on specific groups of children

**Children with disabilities and children living with HIV/AIDS:** [Data from UNICEF](#) confirms that residential care is far from being used as a measure of last resort, and especially for children with disabilities and children living with HIV. They continue to experience prolonged institutionalisation which is often perceived as the only option available due to the lack of essential services and capacities of families and communities. A higher proportion of registered private residential facilities as well as boarding schools care for children living with HIV/AIDS than the proportion of residential care facilities caring for these children in the government sector.

## Comments of the ISS/IRC

### Progress:

The ISS/IRC welcomes the shift that is occurring in Thailand (see [ACT, 2021; National Action Plan of Alternative Care, Phase 1 \(2022-2026\)](#); information also provided by ISS/IRC local contacts): there is growing awareness on the evidence proving institutional forms of care are harmful for children and [increased efforts by the government](#) to understand the alternative care landscape and to focus on family strengthening and prioritisation of family-based care. Indeed, the adoption of the [National Action Plan of Alternative for Children Phase 1\(2022-2026\)](#) is the perfect example of this, as it states the need for emphasising "the measures to prevent unnecessary alternative care through family strengthening and to increase family-based alternative care options".

According to the National Action Plan, this instrument aims to offer a policy framework and charts the course for developing alternative care with the DCY as the changemaker. It can be adopted as a common guideline for all sectors involved in implementing alternative care. It can help develop a mechanism to oversee alternative care to ensure the child's best interests.

IRC/ISS also congratulates the country on the drafting and future adoption of the new Child Protection Act to be in conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, following the recommendations made the Committee on the Rights of the Child back in 2012 (see para. 12, [CRC/C/THA/CO/3-4](#)).

In Thailand, civil society is strong and diverse, and plays an important role in policy development and service provision for the promotion and protection of child rights. Civil society organisations have established a strong



collaborative relationship with the government, and this will certainly facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for children and families to stay together.

### **Remaining challenges to be addressed:**

The current system tends to be more reactive with limited focus and resources on preventing separation (UNICEF, Review of Alternative Care in Thailand, 2015). According to [Alternative Care Thailand \(ACT\) \(2021\)](#), family strengthening services are scarce and scattered and many are provided by NGOs.

[UNICEF \(2015\)](#) highlighted that insufficient attention is given to family reintegration. Reintegration efforts are undermined by the disproportionate focus on meeting standards of care and providing support to residential care facilities and by the fragmentation of the alternative care system in which there is no formal guidance, clear roles and responsibilities and mechanisms for coordination and accountability.

Despite the government's support for deinstitutionalisation, residential care is far from being used as a measure of last resort, and especially for children with special needs, children living with HIV and children who have experience violence, abuse, or neglect. The inadequate and incomplete harmonisation of the current legal framework with international standards namely the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Guidelines of the Alternative Care of Children, which allows long-term institutionalisation (up to 24 years old in certain cases) clearly undermines gatekeeping practices and efforts to promote and prioritise family-based care ([UNICEF, 2015](#)).

Currently no comprehensive standards or guidelines are in place to regulate all forms of alternative care. This lack of common regulatory framework coupled with the distribution of responsibilities among many different authorities (MDSHS, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Education) has clearly contributed to the fragmentation of the system, at both the regulatory and operation levels ([UNICEF, 2015](#)).

As the [report by Child Frontiers \(2014\)](#) on the National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region highlighted, there is lack of clear and standardised procedures in relation to the child protection system. There is therefore need for more detailed guidance on the criteria, procedures and minimum standards for locating, assessment, referral, care planning, monitoring and recordkeeping. Similarly, coordination and accountability mechanisms need to be improved. The lack of multi-sectoral coordination of different government authorities prevents the effective monitoring of all children in care and especially in boarding schools and private facilities. The future care reform must definitely take this into consideration and all the Ministries and government bodies and agencies need to be involved in the process.

The private sector, especially for residential care, operates with very limited accountability to government authorities. The number of unlicensed private children's homes is alarmingly high and as [UNICEF \(2015\)](#) pointed out, it seems to function even as a parallel system with its own standards of care and management processes.

Finally, and in relation to foster care, according to [UNICEF \(2015\)](#), foster care remains at the margins of the alternative care system due to socio-cultural biases against non-kin related care and is limited to a few small programmes, which are fragmented and have never been fully integrated with kinship or residential care.

## **ADOPTION**

**Ratification of the 1993 Hague:** The Convention was ratified by Thailand on 29 April 2004 ([HCCH](#)) and its entry into force was on 1 August 2004.

**National laws/policies:** The main laws regulating adoption are the [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#) (art.





33(3) and [Child Adoption Act BE 2522 \(1979\)](#) as amended in 1990 and 2010. Additionally, relevant legislation and regulations also include the Ministerial Regulations issued under the Adoption Act, [Civil and Commercial Code](#) (Chapter IV) and the [Guidelines on Intercountry Adoption of a Thai child](#).

#### CENTRAL AUTHORITY

##### Child Adoption Center (CAC)

Department of Children and Youth (MSDHS)  
255 Ratchawithi Road (Ratchathewi District)  
Bangkok 10400  
Tel.: +66 (2) 3068821; +66 (2) 3068801  
Fax: + 66(2) 3547511  
E-mail: [adoption@dcy.go.th](mailto:adoption@dcy.go.th)  
Website: <http://www.dcy.go.th/webnew/oppnews/>

**Contact persons:** Mrs. Prapimdao Satak (Director, Child Adoption Center) and Ms. Chintana Watcharakul (Director of Central Authority and Intercountry Adoption Group).

The CAC is under the supervision of the DCY of the Thai [Department of Social Development and Welfare](#) (DSDW, formerly known as the DPW or Department of Public Welfare). DSDW's adoption activities are supervised and approved by the **Child Adoption Board** of Thailand. The Board mainly comprises representatives of various concerned departments and Ministries. The Director - General of the Department of Social Development and Welfare is the Chairman of the Board. The Director of Child Adoption Center of the Department of Social Development and Welfare is the secretary of the Board.

Source: [HCCH – Thailand – Central Authority](#) and [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#)

#### FULL/SIMPLE ADOPTION

Adoption in Thailand is **simple**. The adoption will be regarded as a simple adoption unless the Article 23 Certificate of the 1993 Hague Convention (issued by the Thai authorities under the Convention) states that the adoption is a full adoption.

If a “simple” adoption is to be undertaken in an intercountry adoption case, the competent authorities seek the birth mother or family's consent(s) to a “full” adoption where this is in the child's best interests.

Source: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#); [Adoption Authority of Ireland](#).

#### SUBSIDIARITY PRINCIPLE

Intercountry adoption should only be considered after a long-term family solution has been actively sought, including domestic adoption. Domestic adoptions should and certainly are given priority over intercountry adoptions.

Source: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#)

#### CHILD ADOPTABILITY

Only children, who have an unknown filiation, orphans, declared by the judiciary as abandoned or whose parents or legal guardians have given consented to the adoption, may be adopted.

According to the [Ministerial Regulation B.E. 2554](#), a competent official will examine the qualification and facts as to the livelihood and suitability of a child intended for adoptions as follows: (1) History and basic data about the family; (2) Living and care conditions; (3) Intentions and opinions in being an adopted child.



The **DCY** is the public authority responsible for establishing children's adoptability.

Sources: [Civil and Commercial Code](#) (Chapter IV, Arts. 1598/21, 1598/22 and 1598/23) and [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#).

## PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS (PAPs)

### Age limits

PAPs must not be less than twenty-five years, provided they are at least fifteen years older than the adopted person. The upper age limit for PAPs is not codified by Thai law.

### Status

The PAPs must be married couples or single women. In relation to married couples, they need to have been married at least 1 year. In the case of single women, they are considered for the adoption of a child with special needs.

### Residence or any other criteria indicated in the law

The competent official will examine the suitability of the PAPs considering: 1) history and basic data about family, 2) conditions of the residence and environment, 3) career and the economic situation of the family, 4) conditions of the mental state in accordance with the psychological examination, 5) Criminal background check, 6) Perspectives and suitability in looking after the child and providing him or her with an education and 7) Reasons for an adoption application

### Limit on the number of PAPs' files which are accepted from receiving States

Quotas to limit adoption files from more than 20 countries have been. The quotas vary and depend on the numbers of children who were adopted each year and numbers of adoption files are remaining. Additionally, the CAC considers the quality of work of the contracting states including the period of the relationships between two contracting states.

### Preparation

The PAPs must go complete a preparation course in the receiving State (intercountry adoptions), or in Thailand (domestic adoptions). The CAC has its own training programs.

Sources: [Civil and Commercial Code](#) (Art. 1598/19); [Australian Central Authority](#); [Ministerial Regulation on the examination of the qualifications and facts as to the livelihood and suitability of the adoption applicant, the person authorized to consent the adoption and a child intended for adoption B.E. 2554](#) and [Guidelines on Intercountry Adoption of a Thai child](#)

## CONSENTS

### Consent of the child

If the child is not less than fifteen years of age, the adoption can take place only with the consent of the adopted person.

### Consent of biological parents

Adoption can only take place with the consent of the parents but if one of them has died or has been deprived of his/her parental power, consent thereto must be given by the father/mother who has parental power.

If there is no person to give consent, or parents cannot express his or her consent thereto or refuses to give his or her consent, and the refusal has been made unreasonably and has adversely affected the health, progress and welfare of the child, the mother or father, the prospective parents or the Public Prosecutor may apply to the Court for an order allowing the adoption in lieu of giving the consent.



In a case where the child to be adopted has been deserted and been under supervision of an institution for child welfare under the law on child welfare and protection, the institution shall give consent on behalf of his parents. Before giving up their children for adoption, social workers will inform the birth about DCY's welfare services and about the consequences of adoption, more specifically, they are told that upon signing the consent they are giving up their parental rights and what this entails.

The signing of consent must be performed in front of the **authorised official**.

### **Withdrawal of consent**

The consent can be revoked. However, the Civil Code (Chapter IV) is silent on this point.

The [Ministerial Regulation No. 9 BE 2543 \(2000\) issued under the Child Adoption Act BE 2522](#) does establish that during the pre-adoption placement the birth parents can request the cancellation of the application for adoption (see Probationary period section).

Sources: [Civil and Commercial Code](#) (Arts. 1598/20, 1598/21 and 1598/22) and information provided by local contacts.

## **PROCEDURE**

The adoption process is **administrative**, not judicial.

### **Domestic adoption**

1. If the applicant is domiciled in Bangkok Metropolis, the application shall be submitted to the Director-General at the CAC. If the applicant is domiciled in other provinces, the application shall be submitted to the Provincial Governor at the Provincial Office of Public Welfare, District Office and Sub-District Office together with the letter of consent of the person or persons who legally have the power to give consent to adoption and all the **required documents** which are the following: 1) a copy of the identify card or other substitute card; 2) a copy of the house register; 3) a copy of the marriage register or divorce register (if any); 4) a medical certificate evidencing good physical and mental conditions; 5) two 4.5 x 6 cm photographs for the applicants and spouse (if any) taken within the past six months; 6) a letter of consent of the spouse or a court order (if any).
2. When all required documents are received, the CAC scrutinizes them and sends the application on the waiting list.
3. The Child Adoption Board then approves the PAPs and child background.
4. After the matching takes places, photographs and information about background and health condition of the child will be sent to the competent authority in order to be forwarded to the PAPs for consideration.
5. If the PAPs accept the child, the case will then be presented to the Child Adoption Board. If the Child Adoption Board grants its approval, the case will be submitted to the Minister of Social Development and Human Security for approval of pre-adoption placement. In domestic adoption cases, the PAPs shall receive the child probationary placement in person.
6. A **pre-adoption placement** takes places for at least 6 months.
7. During the probationary period, the competent officer or an officer of the child welfare organisations shall visit the child and the family.
8. If the Director-General or Provincial Governor considers the result of the probationary placement of the child to be satisfactory, they will notify the Child Adoption Board. However, if they consider the result to be unsatisfactory, they may extend the period o probationary placement not more than twice and by not more than 6 months for each extension.
9. The Child Adoption Board will then approve the **adoption registration**.



## Intercountry adoption

1. The application must be submitted to the DCY through the competent authority to carry out adoption in the PAP's country of residence. The **required documents** to be attached to the application are the following: 1) a copy of passport or identify card; 2) a copy of the marriage register or divorce register (if any); 3) a medical certificate evidencing good physical and mental conditions and indicating the applicant's infertility (if any); 4) the psychological assessment of the applicants made by psychologist or psychiatric doctor; 5) document certifying occupation and income; 6) a financial statement dated within the past six months; 7) document certifying asset; 8) four 4x5 and 6 cm photographs for the applicants and spouse, their children and home area; 9) documents from the relevant authority in the applicant's country certifying the eligibility of the applicant to adopt a child according to such country's adoption law; 10) documents from relevant authorities certifying that the adopted child's entry into the country may be done in compliance with the laws of such country; 11) a copy of alien work permit and 12) two references; 13) criminal records; 14) confirmation form of the competent authority that after the adoption is finalised under Thai law it will also be legalised under the concerned law of the applicant's country 15) preparation course certificate; 16) extract of the applicants' divorce and the commitment to give custody of their children (if applicable) and 17) biography. The application must be submitted through the competent authority to carry out adoption in the PAP's country of residence.  
In addition to the application and all the above listed documents, the competent authority in the applicant's country will send DCY three additional documents: 18) a document certifying that the applicant has the qualifications and suitability for child adoption under the concerned legislation in their country; 19) a document certifying that it will supervise the probationary placement and provide three bi-monthly progress reports and 20) a study report on the applicant's living conditions and family.  
It is required that all of the documents have to be original and verified by the Royal Thai Embassy or General Consulate in the applicant's country or sent through diplomatic channels. Thai is the official language, but documents can also be sent in English. Documents in other languages have to be attached with their translation.
2. When all of required documents are received, the CAC scrutinizes them and sends the application on the waiting list (3-6 months)
10. The waiting list period/matching the child is minimum 1-2 years. See "Matching" section.
11. The Child Adoption Board approves the PAPs and child background (2-6 months)
12. After the matching, photographs and information about background and health condition of the child will be sent to the competent authority in order to be forwarded to the PAPs for consideration (2-6 months).
13. If the PAPs accept the child, the case will then be presented to the Child Adoption Board. If the Child Adoption Board grants its approval, the case will be submitted to the Minister of Social Development and Human Security for approval of pre-adoption placement (2 weeks).
14. In the case the adoption application is processed through the authorised agencies, DCY is entitled to review and investigate (if needed) the background of the child to be adopted in order to confirm that legally available for inter-country adoption. This investigation will have to be done before submission the case to the Child Adoption Board.
15. The PAPs travel to Thailand to receive the child and meet with the Child Adoption Board and the **Memorandum of Agreement** is signed. Only in two circumstances the PAPs are allowed not to receive the child in person: a) if the child has legally travelled to the country where the PAPs are for a period of not less than 6 months and b) if the PAPs have been previously granted an approval to register a child for adoption and in this subsequent adoption are unable to receive the child due to a reasonable necessity (they will need to have sent the Director-General a letter with an expression of intent to cover the expenses of the child and the competent official who will escort the child to the PAPs' residence). The PAPs will have to stay on for about two weeks in Thailand for this arrangement and they will proceed with the visa application for the child at their embassy before returning to their country.



16. A **pre-adoption placement** takes place for at least 6 months. Bi-monthly reports prepared by the PAPs must be sent to the DCY during the probationary placement.
17. If the Director-General or Provincial Governor considers the result of the probationary placement of the child to be satisfactory, they will notify the Child Adoption Board. However, if they consider the result to be unsatisfactory, they may extend the period of probationary placement not more than twice and by not more than 6 months for each extension. The Director of the CAC shall supervise the probationary placement of the child until the completion of the period prescribed by the Director-General.
18. The Child Adoption Board will approve the adoption registration (1-2 months). The Thai Embassy/Consulate will then be informed of said approval and will contact the PAPs in order for them to sign the registration under Thai law (1-2 months).
19. After receiving a copy of adoption registration done at the Embassy/Consulate or at the District office in Thailand, the CAC will issue the certificate of conformity to the Central Authority of the receiving State (1-2 months).

Sources: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#), [Child Adoption Act BE 2522 \(1979\)](#), [Ministerial Regulation No. 9 BE 2543 \(2000\) issued under the Child Adoption Act BE 2522](#) and [Guidelines on Intercountry Adoption of a Thai child](#).

## MATCHING

With regard to intercountry adoptions, the matching panel is referred to as the **Committee for selection of foreign adoptive families for children**. The Committee is comprised of a multidisciplinary team composed of the Director of the CAC as Chairman, the Superintendents of the 8 Babies' Homes, a representative from the Development Promotion and Welfare for Child, Youth and Family Division, the Director of the Intercountry Adoption Group and the Director of the Child Adoption Board.

The panel will consider applications based on several factors such as the suitability of the PAPs, which will be evaluated in accordance with the [Ministerial Regulation on the Notification of the Child Adoption Board on criterion, procedure and conditions of child adoption preparedness B.E. 2554](#), rotation of each receiving state/countries, order priority by taking into consideration factors such as whether applicants are childless, their age suitability for the child's age, their health, and waiting time amongst others.

In practice, it is relatively unusual to see children over the age of 10 referred to non-Thai-speaking families. Most of the children are aged between 1 and 7 years old and may have special needs. Younger children tend to be placed with younger applicants.

Children with special needs usually include children with health problems, children with serious health problems, children with disabilities, older children (over than 4 years old), sibling groups, HIV/AIDS positive and others such as children whose parents have a history of drug and alcohol use and psychological or intellectual impairments, etc.

After the matching period, photographs and information about the child's background and health condition will be sent to the competent authority to be forwarded to the PAPs for consideration. If the PAPs accept the child, the case will then be presented to the Child Adoption Board. If the Child Adoption Board grants its approval, the case will be submitted to the Minister of Social Development and Human Security for approval of pre-adoption placement.

Sources: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#), [Ministerial Regulation on the Notification of the Child Adoption Board on criterion, procedure and conditions of child adoption preparedness B.E. 2554](#) and [Siam Legal International, Thai Embassy](#).

## PROBATIONARY PERIOD





Under Thai law, there is a **6-month probationary placement** for children. This requirement shall not apply to cases where the applicant is a blood brother or sister half-blood brother or sister, great grandfather or great grandmother grandfather, grandmother, uncle, aunt, or lawful guardian of the child to be adopted.

In domestic adoption, during this period, the competent officer or an officer of the child welfare organisations shall visit the child and the family. In intercountry adoptions, two reports each month must be sent to the DCY during the probationary placement.

During the probationary placement of a child, if the PAPs withdraw their application, they shall return the child to the person who has the power to give consent to the adoption or to the competent official. During this period, the father or mother of the child may also request for cancellation of the adoption application by submitting an application to the Director-General or the Provincial Governor. If the Director-General or the Provincial Governor order the cancellation, the child shall return to their birth family. The PAPs will therefore have the right to file an appeal against said order with the court of first instance within 30 days since the order's receipt. The order of the court shall be final. However, if the Director-General or the Provincial Governor deems the cancellation to be against the welfare of the child, the PAPs will continue to look after the child.

Source: [Ministerial Regulation No. 9 BE 2543 \(2000\) issued under the Child Adoption Act BE 2522](#) (Arts. 19, 24, 25 and 27).

## ADOPTION DECISION

After the probationary placement of the child is complete, the Director-General or Provincial Governor will consider if the result of the probationary placement of the child was satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Once they have notified their evaluation to the Child Adoption Board, the Board will then approve the adoption.

Source: [Child Adoption Act BE 2522 \(1979\)](#), arts. 19 and 27.

## REGISTRATION

Once the adoption is approved its registration shall be carried out in accordance with the law either at the respective Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate or at a District Office in Thailand.

After receiving a copy of adoption registration done at the Embassy/Consulate or at the District Office in Thailand, the CAC will issue a certificate of conformity to the Central Authority of the receiving State.

For purposes of registration of adoption, the consent given by the person or persons who have the power to give consent to the adoption shall be regarded as the consent to the registration.

Source: [Child Adoption Act BE 2522 \(1979\)](#), art. 27.

## ADOPTION EFFECTS

**Rights:** A new legal parent-child relationship is established generating therefore new rights and obligations however the adoption does not terminate the pre-existing legal parent-child relationship.

**Name:** After the adoption registration is completed, the child can change their first and last name at the District Office in Bangkok or district office in any provinces in Thailand. The District Office will issue a document certifying the change of the child's name or child's surname. No changes can be made however in the original document such as birth certificate and the District Office is not able to issue a new birth certificate.

**Nationality:** The adopted child can choose his or her nationality when he or she reaches 20 years of age. They can renounce Thai nationality by contacting the Thai Embassy or Consulate in their country of residence. They can also hold dual citizenship and the passport can be renewed at the Thai Embassy or Consulate.



Sources: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#); [Adoption Authority of Ireland](#).

## POST-ADOPTION FOLLOW-UP

For intercountry adoption, the adoptive parents are required to send follow-up post adoption reports every 5 years until the child reaches 18 years old, either in English or Thai.

These reports will provide information on the child's physical, health, emotional, social development and learning and adaptation processes. The reports will also include information in relation to the need or interest of the child to find his/her birth family.

Source: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#).

## ADOPTION BREAKDOWN

When the competent official receives a notification from an adoptive parent wishing to discontinue an adoption when the child is still a minor, the competent official will ask the PAPs about the problems or reasons causing the discontinuation and any other relevant information to solve such problems and improve the relationship.

If the adoptive parents insist, the competent official shall investigate the facts and problems causing the discontinuation. The investigation be carried out within 60 days from the date of notification. The elements the competent official will analyse will be the following: 1) reasons for such discontinuation, 2) mental state and social environment of the adopted child and 3) evaluation of the reasons for discontinuation.

During this procedure, the competent official can consult with the adoptive parents, the adopted child, the person who gave the consent for the adoption and child specialists such as psychologists, social workers, doctors and psychiatrists.

When the above mentioned procedure is finished, and the adoptive parents still wish to discontinue the adoption, the competent official shall summarise the whole process and the results of the consultations to the Director General or the Governor so that they can issue a letter of certification either to register the adoption discontinuation or to attach it to the Court request in accordance with Art. 1598/31 of the Civil and Commercial Code.

Sources: [Ministerial Regulation on the procedure for providing consultation and remedy prior to discontinuation of child adoption B.E. 2554](#); [Civil and Commercial Code](#).

## SEARCH FOR ORIGINS

**Authorities responsible for preserving the information concerning the child's origins:** The CAC and more specifically its post adoption service group, the children's homes or the babies' homes and the local accredited agencies/bodies in Thailand.

**Time limits:** The records and information must be preserved as long as possible.

**Who can access the information:** The DCY has a policy to disclose information upon approval of the three parties, namely the adopted child, biological parents, and adoptive parents.

- Adoptees. The post adoption section or group at the CAC will assist them to trace their parents or relatives. The consent must be given by the adoption triad.
- Adoptive parents. They are allowed to access the information in relation to the adoption if the child is between 10 and 18 years old with DCY's authorisation. For adoptees under 10 years of age, the birth



family search may be requested only when in need of a serious physical or mental treatment and a medical report must be provided.

- Birth family. They are permitted to access information about the adoption with DCY's authorisation.

**Support:** The CAC provides counselling services during and after the process has been completed. The CAC wants to develop guidelines on good practices and other tools to improve their policies and practice.

Sources: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#) and information provided by the CAC.

## ADOPTION ACCREDITED BODIES (AABs)

Currently, there are four non-profit child welfare organisations which are accredited to process adoptions, but they do not have authority to approve an adoption decision. The Child Adoption Board is tasked with this function. The four accredited child welfare organisations are:

- [Holt Sahathai](#)
- [Thai Red Cross](#)
- [The Pattaya Orphanage](#)
- [Friends for All Children Foundation](#)

To be accredited, child welfare organisations need to submit an application to the Director-General at the CAC (form AC.1). If the Director-General considers it appropriate to grant a license, it shall be issued in form AC.2 and it will need to be displayed at a place that can easily be seen in the office of the child welfare organisation.

The accreditation is granted yearly. It can be revoked if the accredited body does not comply with the national legislation. Sanctions can also be applied.

Sources: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#) and [HCCH information on accredited bodies; Child Adoption Act BE 2522 \(1979\); Ministerial Regulation No. 9 BE 2543 \(2000\) issued under the Child Adoption Act BE 2522](#) and [US Department of State \(Bureau of Consular Affairs\)](#).

## SANCTIONS

The penalties under the 2003 Child Protection Act are regulated in its Chapter 9.

The 1979 Child Adoption Act establishes that any person who violates Art. 6, which introduces the prohibition of independent or private adoption or Art. 18 which prohibits any person taking or sending children out of Thailand for the purpose of arranging their adoption (unless they have a permit from the Minister), shall be punished by imprisonment for more than 3 years and/or by a fine of not more 30.000 Baht.

If applicants refuse to return the child during or after the probationary period when the cancellation of the adoption has been requested and when the Director General or the provincial governor order the cease of the placement of the child (the applicant is deemed not suitable to be authorised to adopt a child) they shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not more than six months or by a fine of not more than Baht ten thousand or by both such imprisonment and fine.

Whoever disseminates the picture, name or any statements which will lead other people to come to know the child to be adopted or the adopted child, the biological family or the PAPs (except where necessary for official purposes) will be punished by imprisonment for a term of not more than 6 months or by a fine of not more than 10.000 Baht or by both such imprisonment and fine.

Sources: [Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 \(2003\)](#), arts. 78-88; [Child Adoption Act BE 2522 \(1979\)](#), arts. 34, 36 and 37.

## COSTS



There is no administrative fee charged by the adoption authority. The cost incurred or associated with the adoption process will be collected to help the adoptive family complete said process.

According to the [US Department of State](#), the costs associated with the adoption process are the following:

- Thai Visa fees – \$325
- Standard medical exams can be \$150 for child ages under 2 years old and \$350 for child ages from 2 to 15 years old, excluding special tests or treatments and vaccinations
- Passport – 1,000 Baht (\$35)
- Legalization of documents – Thai legalization processing fee is \$15 per document per seal;
- Emigration/exit fees – 700 Baht (\$25) departure tax included in the airplane ticket; no need to separately pay at the airport when departure. Fine for overstaying in Thailand is 500 Baht (\$17) per day, reaching a maximum fine of 20,000 Baht (\$670) when overstaying 40 or more days.

All these costs can be either paid directly by the PAPs or through the accredited bodies and they will generally be paid in cash.

Sources: [HCCH country profile \(2022\)](#); [US Department of State](#).

## STATISTICS

From 1980 to 2022, 14.035 intercountry adoptions and 113.930 domestic adoptions were registered.

As it can be seen in the table below, during the pandemic the number of intercountry adoptions decreased significantly. In 2017 there were 1566 intercountry adoptions and in 2020 only 174. The trend has changed in recent years, as in 2021 and 2022 we the number is increasing again.

Number of intercountry adoptions/year	
2017	1566
2020	174
2021	325
2022	315

In 2022 the United States, France, Germany, Canada, and Australia accounted for most intercountry adoptions (receiving States).

Sources: Information provided by the CAC.

## Comments of the ISS/IRC

### Progress:

ISS/IRC reiterates its satisfaction for the fact that Thai authorities have always been taken into great consideration the principle of subsidiarity. There seems to be a solid understanding and awareness of the subsidiarity principle both in theory and in practice. As the shared statistics show (see the number of domestic adoptions vs. the number of intercountry adoptions), priority is always given to finding a national solution first. There have been significant challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is worth noting that despite the challenges, the relevant authorities have tried to provide more and more clarity to PAPs and adoptees and have also tried to operate within this difficult context offering solutions and alternatives. According to the information received by the Australian Central Authority (NSW), the CAC supported PAPs in organising several video calls to meet the children.



There seems to be a solid understanding and awareness of the subsidiarity principle both in theory and in practice. As the shared statistics show (see the number of domestic adoptions vs. the number of intercountry adoptions), priority is always given to finding a national solution first. The CAC works actively to promote domestic adoption.

Another positive development, according to the internal guidelines and among its activities the CAC has planned the publication of different awareness raising documents on the Convention in both Thai and English which will be publicised through the media so that they can reach the wider public.

**Remaining challenges to be addressed:**

Despite the existence of a clear and strong legal framework, some challenges remain.

*Consent of the child and birth parents* – In general, there appears to be very limited involvement of children in decision-making processes on their future. As reported by [UNICEF \(2015\)](#), service providers understand children’s participation in terms of telling them about decisions made on their behalf or convincing them to accept such decisions. For instance, when referring to consent to adoption, the law only requires children above the age of 15 to give their consent and it does not specify the basic requirements of such consent. So, it would be advisable to lower the age of consent and always guarantee this consent is free and informed. In relation to birth parents, it seems unclear what type of resources and support (of any kind) are offered and provided to birth parents before, during and after they consent to adoption. Moreover, the fact that the power to consent can be delegated to child welfare organisations raises the issue of potential conflicts of interest.

*Preparation of children and their right to be heard* – Whilst the Child Adoption Act recognises children’s right to receive information and counselling the extent to which this happens in practice is not clear. According to the ISS/IRC local sources in the case of older child placements, the file information does record that efforts were taken to inform and counsel the child on the effects of adoption. Therefore, it becomes unclear whether the child genuinely had an opportunity to understand the effects of adoption. The same can be said in relation to the right of the child to be heard and to express their views and opinions.

*Preparation of PAPs* – A relevant challenge is the lack of standardised and clear preparation courses for PAPs, counselling and information regarding the consequences of domestic/intercountry adoption.

*Search for origins* – Another pending challenge is the lack of clear regulations, resources, and support in relation to the search for origins. There is no instrument guiding the practice on the preservation of information and search for origins more generally and the fragmentation of the system described previously also affects if and how the information is preserved as it varies case by case.

*Role of AABs* – The role AABs play and the accountability processes and mechanisms in place seem to be regulated rather vaguely in the relevant legislation.

**LEGISLATION**

**International instruments**

	<b>Signature (S) / Ratification (R) / Accession (A) / In Force (F)</b>
<a href="#">United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)</a>	27 Mar 1992 (A)





<a href="#">Optional Protocol</a> to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000)	11 Jan 2006 <b>(A)</b>
<a href="#">Hague Convention</a> on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (1993)	29 April 2004 <b>(R)</b> 1 August 2004 <b>(F)</b>
<a href="#">Hague Convention</a> on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children (1996)	-
<a href="#">United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</a> (2006)	30 March 2007 <b>(S)</b> 29 July 2008 <b>(R)</b>
<a href="#">Apostille Convention</a> (1961)	-

### Regional instruments

	<b>Signature (S) / Ratification (R) / Accession (A) / In Force (F)</b>
<a href="#">ASEAN Charter</a> (2007)	16 September 2008 <b>(R)</b>

### Domestic legislation/regulation

	<b>Language</b>
<a href="#">Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Child Protection Act, B.E. 2546 (2003)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Civil and Commercial Code</a>	In English
<a href="#">Child and Youth Development Promotion Act, B.E. 2550 (2007)</a> and its amendment (no.2) B.E. 2560 (2017)	In English
<a href="#">Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E 2551 (2008)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Nationality Act (No.4), B.E. 2551 (2008)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Juvenile and Family Court and its Procedure Act B. E. 2553 (2010)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Civil Registration Act (No.3) B.E. 2562 (2019)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Criminal Code</a>	In English
<a href="#">Protection for Children Born Through Assisted Reproductive Technologies Act, B.E. 2558 (2015)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Child Adoption Act BE 2522 (1979)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Child Adoption Act (No. 3) B.E. 2553 (2010) (Amendment)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Ministerial Regulation No. 9 BE 2543 (2000) (Issued under the 1979 Child Adoption Act)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Ministerial Regulation on the Notification of the Child Adoption Board on criterion, procedure and conditions of child adoption preparedness B.E. 2554 (Issued under the 2010 Child Adoption Act)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Ministerial Regulation on the procedure for providing consultation and remedy prior to discontinuation of child adoption B.E. 2554 (Issued under the 2010 Child Adoption Act)</a>	In English
<a href="#">Cabinet's Resolution on the Measures on preventing the sale or children (1979)</a>	In English

## PARTICULARLY RELEVANT SOURCES OF INFORMATION



### Periodic review by the CRC Committee

- Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Thailand, [CRC/C/THA/CO/3-4](#), 17 February 2012
- Reply to List of Issues: Thailand, [CRC/C/THA/Q/3-4](#), 27 October 2011
- Combined third and fourth periodic report of States: Thailand, [CRC/C/THA/3-4](#), 14 September 2011

### Other organisations

- [UNICEF Thailand](#) – General information about children and adolescents
- [Hague Conference on Private International Law](#) – Information on the intercountry adoption process
- [Intercountry Adoption Australia](#) – Information on the intercountry adoption process
- [US Department of State \(Bureau of Consular Affairs\)](#) – Information on the intercountry adoption process
- [Adoption Authority of Ireland](#) – Information on the intercountry adoption process

\*\*\*\*\*

