



Joint Council

on international children's services

Joint Council on International Children's Services Response to CCAA's Announcement

May 15, 2003

Dear JCICS Members:

The China Center for Adoption Affairs (CCAA) announced today they will postpone adoption referrals and travel letters in an effort to prevent the spreading of SARS and "to guarantee the health and safety of life for the parties of adoptive relations". They are also recommending that families with travel plans consider delaying their travel to China.

This was a sensible and cautious decision on behalf of CCAA to protect the health and safety of adoptive children and their prospective parent(s). JCICS respects this decision and will work with the Chinese and the U.S. governments to inform our members of new developments.

JCICS urges our Members with programs in China to inform families of this temporary situation. At the present moment, it is not clear when this measure will be lifted, but it is very important that this is not be interpreted as an attempt to stop adoptions in China.

The CCAA has also asked that if a family has received their Notice to Travel and decides to proceed with their travel plans, that the "adoption organization involved should contact the local adoption registry in advance, and help the adopters to travel after the reservation has been made." JCICS encourages Member agencies to comply with this request.

Member agencies are also encouraged to continue recruiting and processing applications for families interested in adopting from China. While the situation may have changed, the need remains the same and many children are in need of permanent loving homes in China and throughout the world.

Joint Council will continue to keep our members informed as new information becomes available.