

# MS 206 Adoption of Children by Volunteers

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**Responsible Office:** International Operations

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## Table of Contents

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### Table of Contents

- 1.0 Purpose
  - 2.0 General Policy
  - 3.0 Procedures Prior to Adoption
  - 4.0 Medical Care for Adopted Children
  - 5.0 Delegation of Authority
  - 6.0 Effective date
- 

## 1.0 Purpose

This Manual Section sets forth Peace Corps policy and procedures on the adoption of children by Volunteers.

## 2.0 General Policy

Volunteers should recognize that adopting children during their Volunteer service may be a complicated process which may place an enormous burden on the Volunteer(s) and, subsequently, the Volunteer(s)' project(s). Therefore Volunteers who adopt a child during their Peace Corps service must have their Country Director's approval to continue service after the adoption. If the Country Director has determined that the adoption is not likely to preclude the continued effective service of the Volunteer(s), the Peace Corps will provide the same allowances and health benefits to adopted children of Volunteer, following their adoption, as are provided other dependent children residing at Post with their Volunteer parent(s).

## 3.0 Procedures Prior to Adoption

The Country Director should suggest that before making a decision to proceed with the adoption of a child, the Volunteer(s) consult with appropriate consulate personnel to understand the legal requirements and complications of the adoption, both in the host country and the United States.

Volunteers must personally obtain the necessary approvals for an adoption and, when

appropriate, for the child's exit from the host country and entry into the United States.

Country Directors may permit the Volunteer(s) to continue in service after the adoption of a child if they are satisfied that the adoption is not likely to preclude continued satisfactory service, in light of the considerations set forth in MS 263, "Volunteer Pregnancy".

Proceeding with an adoption, if the Country Director has determined that it would prevent further satisfactory service by the Volunteer(s), will normally result in the administrative separation of the Volunteer(s) concerned; in which case return travel to the United States for the Volunteer(s) --but not the child--will be paid by the Peace Corps.,

If the Country Director determines that the Volunteer(s) may continue service following the adoption of a child, the child must have a complete medical examination, at Peace Corps expense, immediately prior to or on the date of adoption. This examination is important, as the results will be used to determine the extent of Peace Corps' responsibility for the medical care of the child (see paragraph 4 below).

If an adoption takes place, it should be documented on a Form PC-440 and sent to the Office of Special Services (M/OSS).

## **4.0 Medical Care for Adopted Children**

The Peace Corps will provide health care to adopted children of Volunteers if the medical condition for which care is sought did not exist prior to the adoption. However, adopted children may receive health care for pre-existing conditions if:

- Such care is provided on an emergency basis to preserve the life of the child; or
- Care is for treatment of routine minor medical problems, such as parasites.

NOTE: For details on health care to dependent children of Volunteers, see MS 262 "Peace Corps Medical Services Program" and MS 266 "Post-Service Medical Benefits for Volunteers, Trainees, and Dependents".

## **5.0 Delegation of Authority**

The specific duties and responsibilities assigned to named offices in this Manual Section may be performed by persons designated to fill those offices in an "Acting" capacity.

## **6.0 Effective Date**

The provisions of this Manual Section shall become effective on the date of issuance.