

Children

If you are travelling to China with your child and there is a possibility of a custody dispute developing while you are away, you should talk to a lawyer before leaving home. A special publication, *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*, is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (see "For More Information").

Your child custody arrangements in Canada may not be recognized in China. In extreme cases, you or your child may not be allowed to leave. Check your status with the Chinese Embassy or a consulate in Canada before you travel. In regard to custody questions, contact the Department's consular case management division at **1-800-387-3124** (in Canada) or **(613) 943-1055**.

If a person younger than 18 is travelling alone or with only one parent or another adult, notarized documentation certifying that the trip is permitted by both parents should be carried.

Parents should also be aware of the problem of international child abduction in cases where children may be considered citizens of other countries, including China. If a child enters China with a parent who does not declare Canadian citizenship on arrival, Canadian officials may not be in a position to intervene on behalf of the other parent. This is true even though there may be a valid child custody order in Canada. Further information on this issue is available from the Department's publication *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*.

Many Canadians have adopted children from China. While the procedures are relatively complex, there are no fundamental obstacles to this process, provided that all of the relevant laws of China, Canada and the province of residence of the adopting parents are satisfied. General information is available on several Internet sites (for example, **www.adopting.com/countries.html#China**).