Adoptions are not common in Malaysia. Adoptions of non-relatives are generally difficult and the procedures relating to such adoptions can be time-consuming.

Prospective parents may be required to remain in Malaysia for two or more years during the process. Pursuant to the laws of Malaysia, prospective adoptive parent(s) who are non-Muslims may not adopt Muslim children.

The following is a guide for American citizens who are interested in adopting a child in Malaysia and applying for an immigrant visa for the child to come to the United States. This process involves complex foreign and U.S. legal requirements. U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and consular officers give each petition careful consideration on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the legal requirements of both countries have been met for the protection of the prospective adoptive parents, the biological parents and the child. Interested American citizens are strongly encouraged to contact American consular officials at the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia before formalizing an adoption agreement to ensure that appropriate procedures have been followed, which will make it possible for the U.S. Embassy to issue a U.S. immigrant visa for the child.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Knowledgebase