



Child Migration

Application Checklist (Thailand and Laos)

Who should apply for a Child Migration Visa?

Child Visa Subclass 101

To get this visa, the child must be:

- Sponsored by their parent or their parent's partner
- Single
- Younger than 18 years of age, or:
- A full time student between 18 and 24 years of age, or
- 18 or older and unable to work due to a disability and dependent on the sponsoring parent.

See: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/child-101>

Adoption Visa Subclass 102

This visa is for applicants (under 18 years of age) who have been lawfully adopted by an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen.

An adoptive parent will usually lodge the application for this visa on behalf of the child.

To be able to get the visa, the child must:

- Be younger than 18 years of age,
- Be living outside of Australia,
- Be either already adopted or in the process of being adopted by their sponsor,
- Meet health and character requirements,
- If the child is under 18 years of age at the time of application, but will turn 18 before the application is decided, they will not be eligible for this visa.

The child must also be sponsored by an adoptive parent who is:

- An Australian citizen,
- The holder of an Australian permanent resident visa, or
- An eligible New Zealand citizen.

See: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/adoption-102>

Dependent Child Visa Subclass 445

A child applying for this visa must be the dependent child of a parent who holds a temporary Partner visa or a Dependent Child visa. A parent usually lodges the application on behalf of the child.

The child must be:

- A biological child, stepchild or adopted child of the parent,
- Sponsored by the same person sponsoring their parent with limited exceptions,
- Able to meet health and character requirements,

- Single (not married, engaged or de facto)
- Younger than 18, or else be one of the following:
 - Financially dependent on the parent holding the temporary partner visa,
 - Incapacitated for work due to the total or partial loss of bodily or mental functions,

To be granted this visa, the child’s parent or step-parent must already hold one of the following temporary visas:

- Temporary partner visa (subclass 309 or subclass 820)
- Dependent child visa (subclass 445).

See: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/dependent-child-445>

Orphan Relative Visa Subclass 117

To apply for this visa, a child must:

- Lodge their application outside of Australia,
- Be younger than 18 years old,
- Be sponsored by their relative who is:
 - The brother, sister, grandparent, aunt, uncle or step-equivalent of the child,
 - Older than 18 years of age,
 - An Australian citizen, an Australian permanent resident or an eligible New Zealand citizen.
- Not be married or in a de facto relationship,
- Be in the situation where their parents are unable to care for them,
- Meet health and character requirements.

See: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/orphan-relative-117>

How do I lodge my application?

Applicants from Thailand and Laos are not currently eligible to apply for this visa online. All applications should be lodged in person at an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) in Thailand, operated by VFS Global, where your biometrics (generally photo and fingerprint) can also be collected

Bangkok	Chiang Mai
The Trendy Office Building 28th floor, Sukhumvit Soi 13, Klongtoey-Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110 (NANA BTS station, exit 3) Telephone: 02 118 7100 Email: info.auth@vfshelpline.com	Siriphanich, 191 Huaykaew Road, Suthep, Muang, Chiang Mai (opposite MAYA Lifestyle Shopping Centre) Telephone: 02 118 7100 Email: info.auth@vfshelpline.com
Further information on the Australia Visa Application Centres in Thailand, please see: www.vfsglobal.com/Australia/Thailand	

Lodging from Laos

If you are lodging a visa application from Laos, you can post your application to the Australian Visa Application Centres in Thailand, or you can visit the AVAC in person.

More information about posting your application from Laos can be found on the VFS Global website here: www.vfsglobal.com/australia/Laos.

Biometrics collection

Most applicants lodging visa applications in Thailand, regardless of nationality, need to attend in person to provide their fingerprints and a digital facial photograph as part of visa application processing. The collection of biometrics is conducted at an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) in Bangkok or Chiang Mai. Please take your original passport with you. For further information on biometrics, see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/biometrics>.

How much will this visa cost?

There is a charge for this application. This will not be refunded if your application is unsuccessful, or if you decide to withdraw your application after you have lodged it.

VFS Global will charge fees for lodgement and biometrics collection in addition to the scheduled fee charged by the Australian Government for visa applications.

For Australian Government fees, see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/visa-pricing-estimator>

For VFS Global fees, see: www.vfsglobal.com/Australia/Thailand

What happens after I have lodged my application with an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC)?

Once you have lodged your application at an AVAC, it is forwarded to the Department for assessment. The AVAC issues you with a receipt of your payment and tracking number so you can track your application.

How long will it take?

Global visa and citizenship processing times will be updated monthly, providing you with an indicative timeframe for processing applications. Processing times are impacted each month by changes in application volumes, seasonal peaks, complex cases, and incomplete applications. Processing times include applications lodged online and by paper.

For current processing times, please visit: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>

If you wish to travel during a peak period such as February, March or April, we strongly encourage you to apply for your visa as early as possible, at least one month before your intended travel date.

Please note that we are unable to provide any updates on the progress of your application if it is within the global processing time.

Do not make arrangements to travel to Australia until you are advised in writing that you have been granted a visa. We are unable to expedite visa applications on the grounds of pre-booked travel commitments.

Should I provide original documents?

Do not provide original documents unless specifically requested. You should provide 'certified copies' of original documentation. Documents not in English must be accompanied by accredited English translations. 'Certified copies' are copies authorised, or stamped as being true copies of originals, by a person or agency recognised by the law of the country in which you currently reside.

For further information on certifying translating documents see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/on-paper/certified-copy>

What if my circumstances change after I lodge my visa?

If there are any changes in your circumstances following lodgement of your application, you are obliged to inform us about them. You may use Form 1022 Notification of Changes in Circumstances for this purpose.

What will help me get my application processed faster?

You should ensure you lodge a complete application with all relevant information and supporting documents.

A decision on your application may be made without further requests for information.

Note: the Visa Application Charge (and any other associated service fees) will not be refunded if a decision is made to refuse to grant the visa because you did not satisfy the criteria for grant of the visa.

Do I need to have a health examination?

The Department uses an online health system to record your health examination results and conduct your health assessment. Generally, medical examinations can be conducted only after a visa application has been validly lodged. After the application is lodged, the case officer will provide you with a “Health Assessment” letter (by email, mail or fax). The Panel Physician will need to see this letter as part of the medical examination process and you should take the letter with you when you go to the Panel Physician for your examination.

Medical examinations must be undertaken by a doctor from a list of approved doctors provided by the Department of Home Affairs. A list of these doctors is on the Department’s website:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us/offices-and-locations/list>.

Please note: Applicants may be asked to attend a health examination more than once if further examination or follow-up is required.

Do I need to provide police clearances?

You may be requested to provide police clearances, depending on your circumstances. If requested, applicants need to provide police clearance certificate(s) from every country the applicants (if aged 16 years and over) have resided in for a total of 12 months or more during the last 10 years. For instructions on obtaining a certificate from an overseas government or law enforcement authority, refer to the relevant country information on our website: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us/offices-and-locations/list>.

If you are required to provide an Australian police clearance certificate, you must complete the Australian Federal Police (AFP) National Police Check application form which is available at the AFP National Police Checks page on the AFP website: <https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/services/criminal-records/national-police-checks>.

About your visa

We electronically record all visas issued to non-citizens providing them permission to travel, enter and/or remain in Australia. The Australian Government does not provide visa labels.

When you receive your Australian visa you are issued with a visa grant notification letter that explains the conditions of your visa including period of validity and entry requirements. You should retain this for your own reference and may wish to carry it with you when you travel as it contains important information about your visa. The information contained within the visa grant notification letter will help you check your visa details online using the Department’s Visa Entitlement Verification Online service, known as VEVO.

Can I ask another person to deal with the Department on my behalf?

Australian privacy law prevents the Department from responding to enquiries from people not authorised by the visa applicant. This includes the person providing support to the application. If you want to authorise another person to be able to discuss your application with this office, or receive correspondence about your application, you must do so in writing. If you have not advised of an authorised recipient appointment in your visa application form you can:

- Submit a completed Form 956 or 956A which **must be** signed by the both applicant and authorised person, or,
- Advise the Department in writing (for example, by email or letter) and include the name and address of the authorised recipient.

For further information on appointment an authorised recipient visit: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview>

For more information on appointing a Migration Agent visit: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-migration-agent>

Application Document Checklist

You must provide all relevant documents when you apply. Some documents could take time to obtain. You should have them ready and submit them when you apply. We can make a decision using the information you provide when you lodge your application. It is in your interest to provide as much information as possible with your application.

This application document checklist details the information and supporting documents (personal, health and character) required to assist with the lodgement of a complete application.

You may also need to provide additional information if the Department requests it. We will advise you how you can submit additional documents at the time it is requested.

Checklist

- Form 47CH – completed in English and signed by the applicant or parent, relative or guardian if the applicant is under 16 years of age
- Form 40CH – completed in English and signed by the sponsor
- Form 918 (for Dependent Child – subclass 445) completed in English and signed by the applicant or parent, relative or guardian if the applicant is under 16 years of age
- Visa Application Charge
- Two (2) passport photographs of each person included in the application
- Certified copy of the birth certificate of the applicant and national identity card (for children aged 7 years and older)
- Certified copy of the household registration, family book or similar for the applicant (and each person included in the household where the child is registered)
- Certified copies of all pages of the passports (if available). Please ensure the passport details are correct. The names must be correctly spelled and all other details must match your other documentation.
- Certified copy of any official name/surname change certificates for all name changes for the application
- Certified copy of death certificates of any deceased parent if applicable

Child and Dependent Child visa

- Certified copy of the visa or Australian Citizenship Certificate of the applicant's Australian resident parent
- If the applicant is over 18 years of age at the time of application lodgement, evidence of:
 - dependency on the Australian parent;
 - previous and current study status (Note: for Child Subclass 101 visas, 18 year old applicants must be studying full-time in a post-secondary course of study leading to a professional, trade or vocational qualification unless disabled); and
 - applicant's current employment status.
- If the applicant is under 18 years of age at the time of application lodgement consent of both responsible parents is required. This can be provided with the following documentation:
 - The Form 1229 should be completed by the non-migrating parent or;
 - Evidence that the migrating parent has sole custody e.g. divorce certificate with memorandum, PorKor 14, death certificate.

Adoption visa

- Evidence from the Child Adoption Centre in Bangkok or Laos that the child was free for adoption at the time the applicant was adopted through the inter-country adoption procedure. The Agreement

should state full parental rights are given to the adoptive parents at the time of adoption. Please note that Thai or Laos national sponsors must already be an Australian citizen at the time of adoption and must pursue inter-country adoption through the Child Adoption Centre in Bangkok or Laos only. The Australian Embassy Bangkok cannot take part in any adoption process.

- ❑ Evidence of the adoptive parents being 'resident' outside Australia for at least 12 months at the time of the adoption.

Orphan Relative visa

- ❑ Evidence of the applicant's parents' death (death certificates) or permanent incapacity (court orders, medical reports) or whereabouts unknown (court orders, police records etc.)
- ❑ Certified copy of the visa or Australian Citizenship Certificate of the applicant's Australian sponsor.
- ❑ A sponsor must also:
 - be the child's brother or sister, grandparent, aunt or uncle, or niece or nephew, (or step equivalents);
 - have been lawfully resident in Australia for a reasonable period (usually two years); and
 - have turned 18 years of age.
- ❑ Sponsors must satisfy one of the following custody requirements when applying to sponsor children under 18 years of age:
 - They must have the sole legal right to determine where the child shall live, or to remove the child from their home country.
 - If another person can legally determine where the child can live, the sponsor must obtain a statutory declaration from this person or people, granting permission for the child to migrate.
 - They must possess a valid court order allowing them to permanently remove the child from the child's home country.
 - They must have a court order issued by the Family Court of Australia, and the grant of the visa must be consistent with that order.

Sponsor - Information and documents required

- ❑ A certified copy of the bio-data page of the sponsor's passport
- ❑ Evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent resident status or of being an Eligible New Zealand Citizen. An Eligible New Zealand Citizen is described on form 40CH and in booklet 2 "Child Migration" which is available on the Department's website www.homeaffairs.gov.au. An Eligible New Zealand Citizen is also required to complete health and character checking
- ❑ Evidence that may establish the sponsor's financial ability to provide settlement support to the applicant(s) (eg. Evidence of employment, Tax assessment notices, business documents if self-employed, superannuation documents if self-funded retiree). If insufficient evidence is provided an Assurance of Support may be requested.
- ❑ When the applicant is under 18 years of age, the sponsor (and sponsor's partner in Child visa applications) is required to provide:
 - A 'complete disclosure' Australian National Police Certificate (NPC) if the person has spent a total of 12 months or more in Australia since turning 16 years of age; and;
 - Police checks from each country other than Australia in which the person has spent a total of 12 months or more in the last 10 years since turning 16 years of age.

An NPC must be obtained from the Australian Federal Police (AFP). Proof of a Working With Children Check or providing a police clearance from an Australian State or Territory is **not sufficient** for our purposes.

Information on obtaining the check is available from the AFP.

Please visit the website at: <http://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/police-checks.aspx> Telephone number: (+662) 6202 3333.

When completing the NPC application form please use Code 33 at Section 8: Purpose of Check on the form and include details of any, and all, names the sponsor has been known by. If you are completing an online application, in Section 3.3 of the form please choose 'Commonwealth Purpose/Employment' on type of check and 'Immigration/Citizenship' on purpose of check.

Please note fingerprints are not required for the NPC.

Department of Home Affairs
Australian Embassy, Bangkok
www.thailand.embassy.gov.au