

## PROFILE OF CHILD FROM VIETNAM

The Vietnam Department of Adoption (DOA) has defined the following conditions as “special needs”. These are also child profiles that DOA has placed with adoptive families. Other conditions not listed may also be defined as special needs with certification from doctors and approval by DOA. Adoptive families open to multiple special needs may be matched faster.

**Why Children Come Into Care:** Children become available for adoption in Vietnam for a variety of reasons - stigma against single parenthood, serious poverty, and family illness or other family crisis. Children are either relinquished by their birth mothers or abandoned at child caring facilities or other public places.

**Type of Care:** Children are cared for in government-run child caring centers. The child caring centers may range from 20 to 150 children occupancy. Child caregiver ratio varies from orphanages. Children normally receive immunizations and have access to health care.

### **Special Needs:**

**Age:** Children older than 5, either healthy or with special needs

**Siblings:** Sibling groups of 2 or more children, with at least 1 of the children being age 5+, either healthy or with special needs

**Limb Difference:** Club foot/hand, missing fingers/arms/toes/legs, extra/webbed fingers/toes

**Hearing Impairment:** Missing/deformed ear, moderate-major hearing loss, deaf

**Vision Impairment:** Moderate-major vision loss, blind in one or both eyes

**Infectious Diseases:** HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, tuberculosis, syphilis

**Circulatory System:** Congenital heart conditions, thalassemia, other blood disorders

**Other Physical Conditions:** Cleft lip and palate, genital malformation, undescended testicles, anal atresia, hernia, omphalocele, skin conditions

**Central Nervous System:** Autism, epilepsy, hydrocephaly, macrocephaly

**Genetic Disorder:** Down syndrome, myotonic muscular dystrophy

**Delay/Retardation:** Mental and/or physical development delay/retardation

**Birth Parent History:** Birth parent mental illness or mental retardation

**Other:** Decreased thyroid function, asthma, other conditions requiring lifelong management