

# China tells teacher to have abortion or lose job

A TEACHER in China has been ordered by officials to have an abortion despite receiving permission in her home town to have more than one child.

The case of the woman, who was working in a different province that had different rules, illustrates how unyielding China's birth limits continue to be in spite of a recent loosening in the one-child policy to allow more couples to have two children.

Qin Yi, who is five months pregnant,

has been told she must have an abortion by the end of the month otherwise she will be fired from her job.

Ms Qin and her husband Meng Shaoping had each had a daughter with their previous spouses, so the newly married couple were not allowed to have their own child under Guizhou province's regulations.

But the couple had previously received permission to have a child from the authorities in Huangshan city in

eastern Anhui province, where she is registered as a resident.

Anhui allows couples to have a child if they do not have more than two children from previous marriages, whereas Guizhou only lets a couple have a child if there is just one previous child.

China credits the unpopular one-child policy with preventing 400 million births, but many demographers argue the birth rate would have fallen anyway as the country's economy developed.

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