About Our Agency:

Children's House International is a non-profit adoption agency, licensed and in good standing since 1975, our main office is located in Washington State, but we are also licensed in Utah, Florida, Louisiana and Texas. We began our first adoption program in India, and over the years have developed many programs throughout the world and have placed thousands of orphaned children in their forever families. We provide international adoption placement services to all U.S. citizens, regardless of the State they reside in.

Many of our staff members are also international adoptive parents. Because of this, they are well aware of the emotional feelings that go hand-in-hand with an adoption and are very passionate about the children and countries they represent.

Children's House International's licensed social workers and registered counselors are experienced in educating and guiding families through the international adoption process. They are able to provide Home Study and Post Adoption or Post Placement Report services to families living in Washington, Utah, Florida, Louisiana and Texas. In other states, we will assist families as they locate and secure the services of a licensed Hague Accredited home study agency in their area.

Colombia Adoption Program

Children's House International is accredited by the Colombian Central Authority as an adoption service provider. CHI works directly with ICBF (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar) who is Colombia's federal social services and also their Central Authority. We have a long history of working in Latin America and our International Specialist has 20 years of experience working there. We feel privileged to help many waiting Colombia children find their forever families.

Why Children’s House International?

There are a lot of good people working in adoption. What makes CHI different? We promise attention to detail – we’ll be spending the hours and hours on the telephone and computer with Colombia while you prepare your new child’s room. We’ll make sure your paperwork is in order so your approvals happen as smoothly as possible. We will be there to answer your questions and we will always try to get right back with you quickly. We will point you in the direction of useful resources to help in your planning – things like books and language resources, qualified specialists in International adoption to answer your medical and developmental questions, and more. And when it comes time to travel, we’ll arm you with all the information you need to make your trip both successful and pleasurable. Lastly, we won’t make you bring large sums of cash with you when you travel. All money for the adoption can be handled through CHI here in the US. Our goal is to make your adoption experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible. Children’s House International is proud of its reputation. We would be happy to answer all your questions.

Parent Requirements:

- Single men and women and married couples may adopt
- Colombia doesn’t discriminate based on sexual orientation
- Single men may adopt boys who are over 8 years of age
- Single women may adopt boys or girls who are over 8 years of age or children under 8 who have a special medical or
Choosing an adoption agency to work with is a very important decision in the adoption process. We encourage prospective adoptive parents to do their research and make an informed choice.

For more detailed information on all of our programs, please visit our website.

In each of the country sections you will find our Agency Application, Agency Retainer Agreement, and a written description of expected total fees detailed in our Financial Agreement and Disclosure. You will also find information on:

1. The number of adoption placements CHI does per year and the percentage of those placements that remain intact, are disrupted, or have been dissolved.
2. The number of parents who apply to adopt on a yearly basis, based on the data for the prior three calendar years.

CHILDRENSHOUESINTERNATIONAL.COM

Our mission at Children's House International is to provide children worldwide with permanent loving homes, and to provide families with the support they need to adopt and parent their children. We provide ethical adoption services.

To begin your adoption journey, please contact our staff at Children's House International at the numbers and email below. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like more detailed information regarding specific adoption programs. Additional information can be found on our web-site:

http://www.childrenshouseinternational.com

Thank you from all of us at Children's House International

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Developmental Need:

- No more than 3 previous marriages per spouse
- Couples should be married at least 2.5 years for first marriage and 3 years for a second marriage
- Applicants should be 25 to 54 years of age
- Psychological Evaluation required
- Families with health and mental issues will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Adoptive parents must have clean criminal history records to adopt from Colombia.
- Colombia may waive one of the above requirements for more information please speak with our Colombia case manager

**Children available for adoption:**

The children available for adoption in Colombia are 8 years of age and older, sibling groups, and children under 8 that have “special characteristics” (special needs) ranging from minor to severe. Children’s House International is approved to place children in the below circumstances:

- 3 or more siblings (ages vary)
- 2 siblings, 1 which is more than 8 years old
- a child older than 8 years without a special need
- any age child with a physical or mental special need, correctable or non-correctable.
- Many children have correctable special needs, such as cleft lip and palate, heart conditions, and clubbed hands or feet, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, and developmental delays.
- A number of these children already had their conditions surgically corrected, but because they had the condition previously, they are considered “special needs”.
- Due to a recent change in Colombian law, children are becoming legally adoptable much sooner than before. Many sibling groups, older and special needs children are currently waiting for adoptive families.
- Children have a full medical screening (that includes testing for Hepatitis B and HIV) and detailed social information is provided.

We pride ourselves on advocating for those children that seem to have the smallest of voices- but need us most. We take this responsibility very seriously, which is why we’ve maintained a strong reputation for child advocacy for waiting children.

**Time Frame:** The entire process generally takes between 12 to 24 months. For those adopting older or waiting children, the time can be greatly decreased. Families can expect to have their adoption completed within four to six months from referral acceptance.

**Travel:** The country requires that both parents travel to Colombia to bring their child home. Both parents begin the process and one may...
return home after 7 to 10 days. The length of stay to complete the entire process is now typically 3-5 weeks. Traveling and spending time with your new child in their birth country is truly a life changing experience and one you can never duplicate.

Our travel providers are professional and well-versed in adoption procedure and will make sure that all necessary steps are completed smoothly. Our representative will assist you during your entire stay in Colombia.

**Home Study:** If you live in Washington, Utah, Louisiana, Texas or Florida, a CHI social worker will complete your home study. If you live outside these states, we will help you find a local agency social worker to prepare your home study. Because Colombia is a member of The Hague Convention on International Adoptions, a home study completed by an agency who is Hague accredited is required. Some states have more requirements than others. Four post adoption reports from your social worker are required after your adoption. Your child will come home on an 1800 visa which means they will be a US citizen upon arrival in the US. We still suggest that families re-adopt the child in their own state.

**Adoption Education and Required Educational Materials:** Children’s House is dedicated to providing both information and support to our prospective parents.

This educational requirement of at least 10 hours is mandatory. Your case manager and home study provider will help you select the courses most appropriate to your adoption. Please print out the certificate of completion when you have finished and send it to Children’s House for your file. Completion of these courses must be documented in your home study.

**Steps to Begin an International Adoption:**

1. Intake call with a Case Manager and International Specialist. This is to answer any questions you might have before you begin the Application process.
2. Complete your CHI Application packet which is sent to you via DocuSign. These agreements may be reviewed at the CHI document site.
3. Start your Home Study; take Adoption Education Courses and read suggested educational materials.
4. File the I-800A with CIS along with having your fingerprints taken and submitted. Get your Passports and check to make sure your passports do not expire within 6 months of travel.
5. Gather Dossier documents and forward Dossier to CHI

Your Children’s House Team will be in constant contact with you during this entire process. We are here to help you and are looking forward to seeing your child in your arms. You will be sent comprehensive travel information and support from Children’s House while you are in Colombia. Please contact us if you are interested in our Colombia Adoption Program. We are sure you will have numerous questions and are looking forward to hearing from you.

**Children’s House International**

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