

About Our Agency:

Children's House International is a non-profit adoption agency, licensed and in good standing since 1975. Our main office is in Washington State; however, we are also licensed in Utah, Idaho, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas.

We began our first adoption program in India and over the years have developed several programs across the world, placing thousands of orphaned children with their forever families. We provide international adoption placement services to all U.S. citizens, regardless of the State they reside.

HAGUE ACCREDITED



Many of our staff members are also international adoptive parents. Due to this, we at CHI are very passionate about the children and countries they represent and are extremely well versed in the emotional aspects that go along with an adoption journey.

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 equipped in providing Home Studies and Post Adoption and/or Post Placement Report services to families in our licensed states. Outside these states, we assist families as they secure the services of a licensed Hague Accredited home study agency in their area.

In each of the country sections on our website, 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.

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 website:

www.childrenshouseinternational.org.



Colombia 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 Program and their Central Authority. CHI has had a long history of working in Latin America (at *least* 25 years!). We are privileged and blessed to help Colombian Waiting Children find their forever homes.

Why Children's House International?

"There are a lot of great adoption agencies! What makes CHI different?"

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.

At CHI, we promise *attention to detail*. Our Colombia team spends countless hours behind the scenes ensuring your paperwork is in order, so your adoption process is as smoothly as possible.

We will be here to answer your questions with quick, to the point responses, pointing you in the direction of useful resources to assist in your planning. When it comes time to travel, we will arm you with all the information necessary in making your trip both successful and pleasurable. Our Team in Colombia will take great care of you and everything related to the process while you are there.

Our goal is to make your adoption experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible. Children's House International is proud of its reputation and work hard in maintaining it.

Parent Requirements:

Note: None of the children pictured are available for adoption.



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:

Age of the Child (special needs)	Sibling Groups (special needs)	Age of the applicants
0 to 5 years old (0 to 71 mo.)	The oldest sibling: 6 years & 11 mo.	25-55 years old
6 to 9 years (72 mo. to 9 years & 11 mo.)	The oldest sibling between 7 and 9 years & 11 mo.	56 - 59 years old

- 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 and detailed social information is provided.

- Single men and women and married couples may adopt.
- Single women may adopt boys or girls who are 8+ years-old *or* children under 8 who have a special medical/developmental needs
- Colombia does not discriminate based on sexual orientation.
- No more than 3 previous marriages per spouse
- Couples should be married at least 2 years
- Applicants should be **25 to 60** years of age.
- Psychological Evaluation required
- Families with health and mental issues will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Adoptive parents should 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.
- Colombian heritage families (at least one parent with Colombian ID card) qualify for younger children with minor or no special needs.



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 have maintained a strong reputation for child advocacy for waiting children.

Time Frame:

The entire process generally takes between **18 to 36** months. For those adopting older or waiting children, the time can be decreased. Families can expect to have their adoption completed within three to six months from referral acceptance.

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Home Study:

If you live in Washington, Utah, Idaho, 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 will be completed by an agency who is Hague accredited is required. Some states have more requirements than others. **Four (4) to six (6)** post adoption reports from your social worker are required after your adoption. Your child will come home on an IH3 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.

Family support:

The Colombian authorities place a high value on children in the family supporting the adoption of a child from Colombia.

Adoption Education and Required Educational Materials:

Children's House provides 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.

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 3-4 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 Team in Colombia are professional and well-versed in adoption procedure and will make sure that all necessary steps are completed smoothly. Our Team will assist you during your entire stay in Colombia.

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 eAdopt. These agreements may be reviewed at the CHI website.
3. Begin your Home Study; take Adoption Education Courses and read suggested educational materials.
4. File the I-800A with US Citizenship Immigration Services (USCIS) along with having your fingerprints taken and submitted. Obtain or renew your Passports.
5. Gather Dossier documents and forward Dossier to CHI



Your CHI 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.

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