



1272 Gaylord St
Denver, CO 80206
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ADOPTING FROM INDIA

22 CFR 96.39(a)(1)

MYP is an Accredited Service Provider (ASP) and an Accredited Foreign Adoption Agency (AFAA) in India.

India is a party to the Hague Convention. Their government is highly involved in the adoption process. An entity called CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority) works closely with local Indian state governments. The state governments regulate and monitor the orphanages approved for international adoption and adoption service providers licensed in their region.

Adoptive Parent Requirements

- Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAP) must be at least 25 years older than the child they are adopting (general age is between 25 -55 years old)
- MYP only works with PAP residing in the United States.
- For married PAP, only one parent must be a U.S. citizen and married a minimum of two years.
- Single adoptive parents must be U.S. citizens.
- Good health and should not be suffering from any mental or physical condition which may prevent them from taking care of the child or any condition that may not allow for a normal life expectancy.
- PAP cannot have been convicted of any criminal act including child abuse
- NRI/OCI families with up to 1 child in the home are allowed to adopt a “healthy” child.
- Families with 2 or more children, and families who are not of Indian descent, will be required to adopt from the special needs category.

Adoptive Parent Age Requirements

The composite age of the PAP is determined on the date of registration with CARA. The minimum age difference between the child and either of the prospective adoptive parents should not be less than 25 years.

- Age of child up to 2 years,
 - maximum composite age of married PAPs – 85 years
 - Maximum age of Single PAP – 40 Years
- Age of child above 2 and up to 4 years:
 - maximum composite age of married PAPs – 90 years
 - Maximum age of Single PAP – 45 Years
- Age of child above 4 and up to 8 years:
 - maximum composite age of married PAPs – 100 years
 - Maximum age of Single PAP – 50 Years
- Age of child above 8 and up to 18 years:
 - maximum composite age of married PAPs – 110 years
 - Maximum age of Single PAP – 55 Years
- Unmarried or single males may not adopt a female

Children

The children in India receive relatively good care. They have access to doctors, therapies, and medicine, as needed. If the child has a special need, they are usually already receiving treatment before they are ready for adoption. All children available for adoption are legally free for adoption. Either their biological

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family has already relinquished their parental rights or police searches have determined they were abandoned. There are many waiting children in India with special needs that range from minor to more significant, and it's up to each family to decide what type of needs they are comfortable with. Special needs range from very minor to severe. Examples: thyroid condition, lowered hearing in one ear, Hepatitis B, one leg shorter than the other, cleft lip and palate, heart condition, respiratory distress, and vision impairments. PAP are provided with all available medical and developmental information and have the option of passing on any referral.

Matching and Special Needs

India has a long history of international adoption working with prospective adoptive families of India-heritage, first, then foreign prospective adoptive families.

- Currently, India ONLY allows Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAP) of Indian Heritage (OCI – Overseas Citizens of India / NRI – Non-Resident India) to adopt a “healthy” child. PAP will be added to the wait list, which is monitored by CARA. When the PAP receives an “healthy” child referral, they have 96 hours to accept. If PAP (OCI/NRI) passes on a “healthy” referral match from CARA, after 3 “healthy” referrals, the PAP is debarred for a period of 1 year, after PAP would need to re-register with CARA.
 - Adoptive parents of Indian heritage (OCI/NRI) have the option of being registered and placed on the waiting list for a “healthy” child referral and being registered and matched with an available waiting child who has special needs. A “healthy” child referral could have a minor special needs not listed* due to their time in the orphanage. The waiting time for children considered healthy is usually longer.
- PAP who does not meet Indian Heritage criteria are considered “Foreigners” and are ONLY eligible to adopt a “special needs” child. If PAP (foreigner) passes on a special needs’ referral match from CARA, after 2 referrals, the PAP is debarred for a period of 1 year, after PAP would need to re-register with CARA. There are many waiting children in India with special needs that range from minor to severe. Matching to a child in this program is done through MYP.
 - Foreign families and families with two (2) or more children are required to adopt a child with special needs.
- If, after officially accepting a child's referral, the PAPs choose not to move forward with the child's adoption for any reason, CARA may bar the PAPs from adopting again

*Regardless of the incredible efforts of the orphanages and caregivers, the children who are available for adoption cannot receive the type of one-on-one care that is vital to their growth and development, which can result in mild special needs. Children who are considered healthy may still have minor needs, such as low birth weight, malnourishment, developmental delays, anemia, past medical issues, etc. Many of these issues can be resolved after the child is home, with proper nutrition, medical care, and dedicated attention by loving parents, but they are considered "special needs" in the world of adoption.

Variable Timelines - The time frame for each step varies from case to case and cannot be estimated with any certainty.

- Home study: 3 - 4 months
- Special Needs Child Referral: 6 months – 1 ½ years
- Healthy Child Referral (Only OCI/NRI): 2 - 3 years
- Referral to home: 6 - 12 months

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Travel

Prospective adoptive parents are required to travel to India to take custody of the adopted child. At least one trip of around two (2) weeks is required. This will be for the Embassy appointment and medical appointments to bring the child home. The family will travel to the orphanage to meet the child and then fly with them back to New Delhi to complete the child's medical and Embassy process. Some regions will require two trips: one for court (about 1 week) & one for Embassy (about 1 ½ weeks).

Cost Estimates

It can vary from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Not all the costs will necessarily apply, and all fees can change at any time.

Basic Steps of the India Adoption Process

Please keep in mind, there are many more steps involved than what is listed below. MYP will provide detailed information and instructions and will be here to guide you through the process.

1. Complete an approved home study completed by MYP or if out of Colorado completed by a home study agency in the state the PAP resides in.
2. PAP works on CARA registration documents during the home study process.
3. Home Study approved.
4. I-800A is filed with the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) to adopt a child.
5. MYP registers the PAP's case on CARINGS (Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System).
7. Once I-800A and CARA are approved, PAP is eligible to receive and review child referrals (Note Matching and Special Needs section).
8. PAP chooses a child to be matched (Special Needs – 30 days, Healthy - 72 hours).
9. Child Specific Training is required.
10. PAP is Officially matched with child.
11. PAP completes child referral acceptance documents.
12. I800 is filed with the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) for the specific child.
13. Child's orphanage starts adoption process.
14. PAP completes Dossier documents and mails to MYP.
15. DS-260 filed with the US Embassy.
16. US Embassy approves by sending Article 5.
17. PAP completed Dossier is mailed to India and uploaded to CARA.
18. CARA approves adoption of child by the family, issuing NOC (No Objection Certificate).
19. Adoption case is filed with the District Magistrate (DM) in India and proceeds through
20. the adoption process.
21. DM passes case and issues a written adoption order.
22. Child's orphanage will apply for and obtain the child's birth certificate and passport.
23. CARA issues a conformity certificate (Article 23 letter)
24. Child's Orphanage get child's India Birth Certificate and Passport.
25. MYP will work with PAP regarding possible travel dates.
26. PAP travels to India (one trip of 10-14 days is required, although some regions in India may require 2 trips).
27. Post Adoption home visits are required for two years.
28. PAP will Re-validate their child's foreign adoption with local courts.

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FAQs about Adopting From India

1. Can PAP adopt more than 1 child?

Yes, if there are siblings. One child may be older than the referred child.

2. What languages do the children speak?

While India recognizes 22 official languages, common languages include: Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

3. Does CARA give Indian citizens priority?

Yes, CARA gives priority to adoptive parents who have NRI (non-resident Indian) or OCI (overseas citizen of India) status. In order to qualify as NRI an adoptive parent must be an Indian citizen with a current Indian passport. In order to qualify as OCI an adoptive parent must hold an OCI card.

4. What is the current wait for a “healthy” referral from India?

Currently, NRI/OCI PAPs who are requesting a “healthy” child 0-6 years old should expect a referral wait time of 3.5 to 4+ years from the time of registration with CARA. PAP who are registered for an older child may have a shorter wait. PAP who does not have NRI (non-resident Indian) or OCI (overseas citizen of India) status are considered “foreign” and are not eligible to receive a “healthy” referral.

5. What is the waiting time for being matched with a child with special needs?

There is no minimum time for being matched with an available waiting child with special needs, but it is subject to the children who are currently available, which can change daily. PAP can potentially be matched with a child from the waiting list as soon as CARA approves their registration. The PAP is matched with a child per the approved parameters on their home study.

6. What information is received on a child?

PAP will receive a Child Study Report (CSR) and Medical Examination Report (MER) and photo(s). These reports will include the child’s name, date of birth, location, medical, social, and developmental information. If the PAP is interested in learning more about the child, MYP may be able to obtain additional information which may include test reports, videos and additional photos.

7. Is there a “penalty” for passing on a child’s referral?

- PAP is not penalized for passing on a child’s referral but should not expect to receive another referral immediately after passing.
- If PAP (OCI/NRI) passes on a “healthy” referral match from CARA, after 3 “healthy” referrals, the PAP is debarred for a period of 1 year, after PAP would need to re-register with CARA.
- If PAP (foreigner) passes on a special needs’ referral match from CARA, after 2 referrals, the PAP is debarred for a period of 1 year, after PAP would need to re-register with CARA.
- If, after officially accepting a child's referral, the PAPs choose not to move forward with the child's adoption for any reason, CARA may bar the PAPs from adopting again
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8. Can PAPs who are not of Indian heritage adopt from India?

Yes, India allows “foreign” PAP to adopt, however, their wait for referral will be longer.



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9. Can I adopt more than one child from India?

India allows the adoption of one child at a time, unless the children are siblings. Sibling groups are available for adoption from India, though at least one child may be older.

10. Is there any way to “expedite” the adoption process?

All adoptions from India must be completed according to the required steps, and most of these steps cannot be expedited. However, PAP can lengthen or shorten a few steps of the adoption process, based on how quickly they complete the necessary paperwork which can affect the overall timing of the adoption.

11. Will MYP assist with the home study and dossier documents?

Yes, your MYP Adoption Coach will be there to help guide you through the whole adoption process, from the time you begin your adoption until your child is home (and after).

12. Do I have to travel to India?

Yes, India does require the PAP to travel to India to pick up their child. This trip is usually about 2 weeks, and MYP has in-country staff available to assist you while you are in India.

13. Can PAP view information on available waiting children with special needs?

Yes, PAP may be able to log into CARINGS (CARA’s site) once registration is approved. CARA can change this option at any time.

14. What are the total fees for an India adoption with MYP?

Please see MYP’s India Fee Schedule for an outline of the costs involved.

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