



International Child Foundation

Hague Accredited, Licensed, Non-Profit Adoption Agency & Humanitarian Organization
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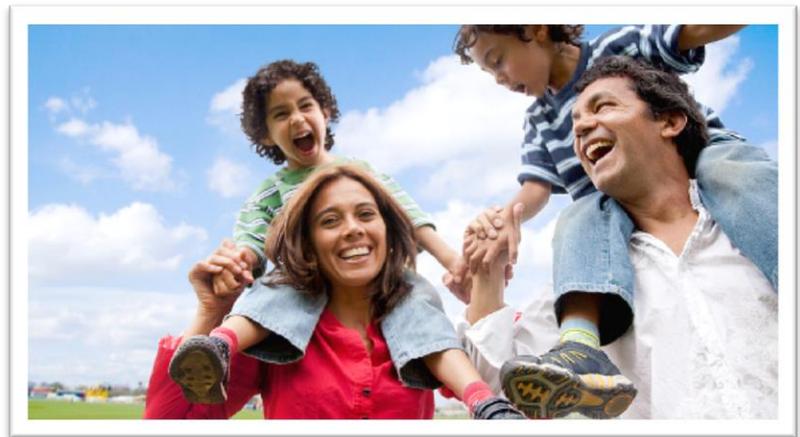
MEXICO ADOPTION

MEXICO ADOPTION Overview

International Child Foundation (ICF) began the Mexico adoption program with Lic. Ricardo Gallego, and was the second US adoption agency authorized by Mexico to provide adoption services. In Mexico, adoption is processed through the SRE (Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores) and the National DIF, in conjunction with state DIF offices. Lic. Gallego is an expert Mexican adoption attorney and, in addition to assisting our families, he trains US and Mexico adoption service providers in Hague Convention adoption procedures. He has presented for many organizations, including the National Council for Adoption.

Children Referred for Adoption

Children age five and older are in the greatest need of adoptive families and Mexico has made their placement a priority. Older adoptable children are often part of a sibling group that need to be adopted together. Families adopting from Mexico need to factor this into their expectations and preparation. Mexico also needs families for special needs children of all ages.



US families may request children age 5 and older, sibling groups or children with special needs. Sibling groups may include children younger and older than age 5; however, most are over age 5. Children with special needs may be of any age.

All referrals of children to adoptive families are made through the DIF. Families adopting related children (nieces, nephews, siblings) are obliged to follow the same procedures as those adopting unrelated children.

Family Eligibility to Adopt

Families entering into a Mexico adoption must have an approved home study and approval from USCIS to adopt from Mexico. Married couples or single women may adopt. Parents must be at least 25 year old and at least 17 years older than the child. If married, both spouses must express their desire to adopt from Mexico in the home study.

Adoptive families must complete at least ten hours of pre-adoption education in accordance with the Hague Convention on Intercountry adoption. Most families use on-line adoption education courses. This is typically completed while the home study is in progress. Families should continue to read books on adoptive parenting throughout the process. There are several books and resources recommended on the ICF website... www.childfound.org

Timeframe and Steps in the Process

Adopting from Mexico will generally take a minimum of one year. The first steps are engaging the agency, providing a home study, applying to USCIS and the preparation of the dossier documents for Mexico. The dossier includes the home study and USCIS I-800A approval.

The dossier travels first to Mexico City, to the SRE and the National DIF, and then is sent on to the state DIF. After the state DIF reviews the family's dossier, children available for adoption are considered by the DIF for matching. The time the DIF takes to offer a referral varies, depending upon the request of the adoptive family and whether children that suit the request are legally free for adoption. After the family receives a referral and they travel to Mexico to spend time with the child. The time requirement varies with the age of the child. Generally families will need to plan on 3+ weeks of visitations. At the conclusion of the visit or visits, the orphanage director, family (and child, if age appropriate) agree to move forward with the placement.



After the family is in agreement about accepting a referral, the DIF issues the formal referral, the “**Article 16**” and “**Article 17**” reports, with the child's legal, social and medical history. The referral documents are translated and submitted to USCIS with the family's I-800 form and other required documents. USCIS replies within two weeks.

After the I-800 is provisionally approved by USCIS, the file is transferred to the US Embassy in Mexico City. The US Embassy initiates the visa application process with a Consular Officer, which requires additional documents from the family, including the DS 260. If the Consular Officer determines the child appears eligible to immigrate to the US, the SRE/National DIF will be notified, and this notification is called the “**Article 5**” letter. Prospective adoptive parents CANNOT move forward in the adoption process until the Article 5 letter is issued.

At this juncture the judicial process begins. This may take one to six months. As the Central Authority, the DIF is responsible for initiating this step in the process. The Court issues the adoption decree, which provides for the child to receive a new birth certificate, which allows the child to apply for a passport.

The final steps include... court documents and approval from the state DIF are sent with the new birth certificate and other documents as may be requested to the US Embassy and the SRE in Mexico City. The US Consular Officer reviews and sends documents to the SRE which in turn reviews them and, when approved, the SRE issues the “**Article 23**” certificate of Hague adoption. The family and child are then eligible to travel to Mexico City to meet with the US Embassy and, pending a medical exam and lab reports for the child, will be issued a visa for the child to enter the US. This will require at least one week in Mexico City. When the child's visa is issued the case is completed. The family may return to the US with their child.

Note: 1) Documents in English for presentation in Mexico must be translated to Spanish and all documents in Spanish re the child and adoption must be translated to English. This adds expense and time to the adoption process. 2) Families are obligated to provide post adoption reports per the requirements of the DIF and/or their state or agency. A minimum of three reports is required. These are legal obligations and a compliance deposit is required.

Special Note

All ICF adoption services in Mexico are provided under the direction of Lic. Ricardo Gallego. ICF does not work with other attorneys unless they meet the standards set by Lic. Gallego, which include appropriate credentials and training in Hague Convention procedures and working under his supervision. Families who may have entered into adoptions with other attorneys are required to work with Lic. Gallego. If you believe the attorney you have worked with is expert in Hague Convention adoption you may consult with Lic. Gallego about this and there will be a consultation fee for his time. Generally we have discovered that many adoption attorneys are unfamiliar with the requirements and regulations of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption.



We wish to draw the attention of families seeking to adopt relatives from Mexico to the message from the US Department of State, as the adoption process has changed since the Convention went into force:

The Mexican Central Authority is comprised of two entities: the Secretary of Exterior Relations, or Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE), which issues key Hague Adoption Convention documentation including ... the Article 23 Certificate, and the National System for the Full Development of the Family, or Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF), which implements national policy for child and family welfare, including processing of domestic and intercountry adoption cases. Both of these entities are federal and are based in Mexico City.

In addition to federal authorities, Mexico adoptions also involve regional authorities and law. The civil code in each state may vary, so prospective adoptive parents need to be aware of and abide by the applicable laws of the state from which they plan to adopt. Adoptions may also involve one of the 31 state DIF offices, one in each Mexican state, and a regional DIF office. Though state and regional DIF offices play an important role in intercountry adoption cases, all processing of intercountry adoptions must be done in coordination with the federal DIF office and the SRE, which are the entities with the authority to certify Hague Convention compliance for intercountry adoptions.

Prospective adoptive parents who are dual Mexican and U.S. nationals are cautioned that only plenary or plena adoptions are considered valid for intercountry adoption. The Mexican legal framework provides for two adoption processes: simple (simple) adoption and plenary (plena) adoption. Under Mexican law, Mexican nationals and permanent residents of Mexico may complete a simple adoption, which involves a faster and simpler legal process than the longer and sometimes more difficult plena process. However, simple adoptions do not meet the requirements of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. It is only possible to issue a U.S. Hague adoption visa to children adopted via a plena adoption.

NOTE: Special transition provisions apply to adoptions initiated before April 1, 2008. For more information, visit http://adoption.state.gov/country_information/country_specific_info.php?country-select=mexico

International Child Foundation, Inc.

MEXICO ADOPTION FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Please review, sign and attach to the Adoption Services Agreement

Please note: Fees are not refundable except as may be noted in the adoption services agreement or fee schedule. Fees are not waived or reduced except for relative adoption. Neither agency nor foreign fees increase if clients are adopting siblings. Families adopting relatives receive a \$1500 reduction in the Agency Case Management fee. Fees are generally not subject to change except in the event of extra non-customary work.

Clients will be informed in advance of additional fees or costs, such as for extra translation or changes in other fee schedules outside the control of the agency, or if the representative or attorney is required to travel to represent your case more often than anticipated. Any additional fees or costs in excess of \$1000 require specific consent by the adoptive parents. Fees are due and payable as noted.

Fee or Expense Estimate	Purpose; please note all fees are non-refundable except as noted	Amount	Phase Subtotal	Due when:
Phase I	Application Phase			
Application	Information; preliminary review; file set up	\$300		Application
Home Study	\$1550 if provided by ICF; \$350 review fee if provided by other agency	\$1550 or \$350		Due with HS Agreement
Agency Administration Fee	Includes agency administration, operations, communications, marketing, general program development and oversight, US licensing and accreditation, data collection	\$3500		With International Adoption Agreement
Foreign Fee I	Includes in-country program administration, maintenance of in-country program; agency and personnel credentials and approval	\$1500		Due with Adoption Agreement
SUBTOTAL	Excluding Application & Home Study fee		\$5000	
Phase II	Home Study Phase			
Agency Case Management Fee	Includes case and file management, database technology, case communication, staff training and professional education	\$3000 or \$1500 if relative		Due with Home Study
Hum. Aid & Development	General support for social welfare programs, clinics, shelters, schools or orphan ministry (waived if adopting related children)	\$500 or waived if relative		Due with Home Study
SUBTOTAL	For relative adoptions: \$1500		\$3500	
Phase III	Dossier Phase			
Foreign Fee II	Includes dossier review and coordination, communication with Central Authority NDIF	\$3500		Due with dossier
Post Placement Compliance Deposit	<u>Refundable</u> after ICF receipt of all post placement reports, final adoption decree and Article 23 certificate	\$1000		Due with dossier
Post Placement Administration	Covers translations and other costs associated with post-placement processing	\$500		Due with dossier
SUBTOTAL	Note: \$1000 refundable as noted		\$5000	

Phase IV	Referral Phase			
Foreign Fee III	Includes communication with state DIF for Article 16 and 17 referral documents, submission of I-800 to USCIS, tracking Article 5 letter, submission of court documents, witness supervision, obtaining adoption decree, assistance with application for Mexico visa (\$230 <u>paid separately</u> to Mexican Consulate), new birth certificate and passport for child or children (approx. \$150); in-country assistance to navigate Mexico City appointments (\$350 included in fee)	\$3850		Due upon agency receipt of Article 16 & 17 reports from DIF
SUBTOTAL	Excluding Mexico visa and medical costs		\$3850	
TOTAL	Agency & Foreign Fees & Humanitarian Aid		\$17,350	
After Refund	Minus refund of \$1000 compliance deposit		\$16,350	
If Related Child	\$1500 Case fee discount + \$500 Aid waiver		\$14,350	

Note: All Fees are paid to ICF. Agency fees are \$7500 (\$1500 less if adopting related children) including post placement administration and aid; the latter may be tax deductible as ICF is a 501c3. The refundable post placement deposit is not included in this total. Fees for foreign services total \$8850.

Third Party Expenses	Fees and Expenses paid to third parties or for separate services		Subtotal	Due as follow
Home Study	ICF International home study fee is \$1550; varies with other providers.	\$1550		Due upon service
USCIS I-800A & Biometrics	Paid to US Dept of Homeland Security; application \$720 & Biometrics \$85 per adult	\$890		With Application
Psych Eval.	Psychological evaluation by Psychologist	\$500		Upon service
Documents	Apostilles and document certifications (AZ)	\$65		
Translations	Dossier	\$1150		With dossier
Translations	Referral and court/government documents	\$450		With referral
Adoption Education	Online vendor or other meeting Hague requirements	\$135		During home study
Representative travel costs for case advocacy	Travel costs for representative for Mexico state trips to advocate for case including airfare, gas, lodging, meals; typically shared with other families and needed at least once	\$325		At time of travel to ICF (this is a reimbursement)
Mexico visa	Required by Mexico for adoption	\$230		After referral
Child Docs	New birth certificate and passport for child	\$150		After referral
Medicals/lab	For child by US Embassy approved doctor	\$150		In-country
Child visa	Obtained at US Embassy in Mexico City	\$230		In-country
ESTIMATE			\$5825	

TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES without Travel, excluding refundable deposit: \$22,175

Travel			Subtotal	
Travel to meet child & DIF	Travel to State to visit with child for 5-7 days (two adults, airfare, lodging, meals, misc.); may make trip more than once to visit child	\$2400		
Travel to bring child home	Travel to Mexico City for one trip for 10+/- days (two adults airfare, child airfare, lodging, food, miscellaneous expense)	\$5800		
ESTMATE			\$8200	

TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES WITH TRAVEL ESTIMATE: \$30,375

Post Placement Expenses

Mexico requires adoptive families to provide a minimum of five post adoption reports over three years, at six month intervals. In addition, families are required to provide annual reports until their child is age 16. Typically your home study provider will also prepare the post adoption reports. ICF post adoption reports are \$350 for one child or \$400 for two children.

Adoptions take many months. Fees and costs are subject to change during the course of an adoption. Ask your tax preparer about the adoption tax credit; in 2012 it exceeded \$13,000.

CHECKS OVER \$5,000 PREFERRED AS CASHIER OR CERTIFIED CHECKS or Bank Wires. Parent agrees to make payments as outlined above. Parent understands that cost for travel estimates are separate from agency fees, and airfare and lodging costs vary. Fees paid to US CIS and out-of-state home study providers are also separate. Post adoption reports are required and family agrees to provide reports in compliance with the agency and laws of the state and foreign country. Fees are subject to change.

International Child Foundation is a non-sectarian adoption agency, and welcomes families of every faith as prospective adoptive parents. In the event that a foreign government imposes specific requirements of families, or restrictions governing eligibility to adopt, International Child Foundation will to the best of its ability inform prospective parents as to the expectations of the foreign country.

Families understand that all parties are acting in good faith toward a successful adoption but that the outcome of the adoption process cannot be guaranteed, and that fees are paid for services rendered and for the maintenance of adoption programs, whether or not a child is placed with the adoptive family.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Parent	Date	Parent	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
ICF Representative		Date	

We invite you to contribute to the International Child Foundation mission to support shelters and clinics caring for children and orphans.



All referrals of children for adoption are made through the Mexico Central Authority/DIF. Donations have no effect on an adoption process or referrals. Donations are for the humanitarian aid fund and cannot be directed toward a particular person or entity.