

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROCESS - INDIA

Please Note: Adoptions from India are completed according to the requirements of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption, and are finalized in Alberta. Relative adoptions are difficult to process in India. Requirements may not be exactly as stated.

1. **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

Marital Status/Age Requirements:

- East Indian Families or one marital partner who is East Indian.
- Couples must be married for at least three years.
- Single persons are considered.
- Applicants up to the age of 45 are considered for placement of an infant.

2. **AVAILABLE CHILDREN:**

- Children under three years of age.
- Children with special needs.

3. **DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:**

All documents must be submitted in English. The documents must be notarized by a Notary Public and authenticated by the High Commission of India in Canada (Vancouver is the closest consulate.) One set of the authenticated package as well as four sets of certified true copies should be supplied to Adoption and Permanency Services. Applicants should hold one set on their own file.

- Home Assessment Report completed by a licensed adoption agency. The Home Assessment Report is not valid unless accompanied by the letter of Provincial approval.
- Provincial Letter of Recommendation/Approval to adopt from India issued by Adoption and Permanency Services.
- Birth Certificates for both applicants.
- Marriage Certificate.
- Recent Medical Report for each applicant and all other adult members of the household, outlining physical and mental health.
- Financial Statement, copies of current Income Tax T-4 slips, Letter from Bank showing assets.
- Letters from employers indicating salary, length of service, type of work, etc.
- Two Letters of Recommendation from references.
- Criminal Record Check for both applicants.
- Interpol Criminal Record checks for both applicants.
- Recent photographs of the family; notarized but not authenticated.
- Power of Attorney authorizing the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) to process the adoption request on behalf of the applicants. CARA is the Child Welfare Authority in India responsible for managing the international adoption program.
- Declaration of Intent signed by the applicants indicating willingness to be appointed guardians of the child.

4. **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- Applicants register for a Hague/Ward International Adoption from India by completing the form (CS 2777) available at private licensed adoption agencies or on the Adoption Web Site at www.adoption.gov.ab.ca. The form is forwarded to:

- Adoption Services, Alberta Children's Services
- 11th Floor, Sterling Place
- 9940 - 106 Street
- Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2N2
- Telephone: (780) 422-0178

- Fax: (780) 427-2048

- Adoption Services provides authorization to the applicants to obtain the Home Assessment Report from a licensed adoption agency. The International Adoption Parent Preparation Course is part of the assessment process. The Home Assessment is valid for one year. Updates are required on an annual basis or when significant changes occur.
- The applicants submit the Home Assessment Report and all supporting documents to Adoption and Permanency Services. Adoption and Permanency Services forwards the adoption package to CARA.

5. CANADA IMMIGRATION:

The adoptive parents should contact their local Immigration Centre to complete a sponsorship application and initiate the immigration process **as soon as they have submitted their complete adoption dossier.**

6. WAITING PERIOD FOR CHILD PROPOSAL:

The waiting period varies, but can take three to four years from the time the application has been accepted by CARA.

7. CHILD PROPOSAL/ACCEPTANCE:

The child is proposed by CARA and the child's medical/social background and photographs are forwarded to Adoption and Permanency Services. Adoption and Permanency Services deals with any issues, and presents the child-matching proposal to the adoptive parents.

The applicants, in consultation with their doctor, consider the proposal and confirm in writing their acceptance or decline of the proposed match. If accepting of the match, the applicants complete and return to Adoption Services a Letter of Acceptance, which Adoption and Permanency Services forwards to CARA. The applicants contact their adoption co-ordinator or agent to arrange for travel to India.

8. LETTER OF NO OBJECTION:

Adoption and Permanency Services provides a Notification of Agreement and the Delegated Central Authority letter for immigration purposes after approving the match and receiving the acceptance letter from the adoptive applicants.

9. ADOPTION FINALIZATION:

**** ADOPTIONS FROM INDIA ARE FINALIZED IN ALBERTA **.**

(Please Note: there have been some difficulties finalizing adoptions of children from India due to lack of documentation from India. Adoptive parents may encounter delays.)

- When the Court in India accepts an adoption application, an Order is issued appointing the adoptive parents as guardians and permitting the child to leave India.
- CARA arranges through the Department of Immigration in India for a passport in the child's name and obtains a Canadian Visa for the child through the Canadian Embassy in India.
 - For parents who choose not to travel to India, a representative of CARA escorts the child to Montreal or Toronto. CARA advises the adoptive parents of the destination and costs.
 - Adoptive parents must inform Adoption and Permanency Services [Telephone: (780) 422-0178 Fax: (780) 427-2048] of the child's arrival in Alberta.
 - Adoptive parents provide Adoption and Permanency Services with the following

documents after the child enters Canada:

- Notarized copy of the child's Passport.
- Notarized/certified copy of the Record of Landing (form IMM 1000 (CDN) 3-92 B).
 - Notarized/certified copy of the Consent of the Guardian to the child's adoption.
 - Any other documentation supplied to the family by the Indian authorities.

9. POST PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS:

A private adoption agency in Alberta completes Post Placement Reports until the adoption is finalized. Reports and photographs must be sent four times per year for the first two years and twice per year for the next three years. The reports are completed at the applicant's expense.

FINALIZATION PROCESS IN ALBERTA:

Adoption and Permanency Services will forward the consent, the notarized copy of the child's passport and the notarized copy of form IMM 1000 to the applicant's private licensed adoption agency. The agency will prepare, sign and file the adoption petition in court for finalization. As indicated above, there may be delays in finalizing the order in Alberta.

The granted Adoption Order must be sent to CARA, the Court that granted the Guardianship, and the Indian agency concerned.

11. ESTIMATED COSTS:

All costs are **approximate** and are the responsibility of the adoptive parents. The costs include the following:

• Home Assessment Report and International Adoption Parent Course	\$1,700.00
• Authentication of all documents by the High Commission of India in Canada.	
• (The cost for authentication is \$15.00 per document).	\$ 300.00
• Documents such as Birth Certificates, Marriage Certificate, Criminal Record Checks, Medicals	\$ 100.00
• Notarization of Documents	\$ 300.00
• Courier costs	\$ 300.00
• Airfare, travel and living expenses while in India	\$6,000.00
• Canada Immigration Fee	\$ 100.00
• Child's International Birth Certificate, Passport, Visa, Medical Examination	\$ 500.00
• Post Placements Reports/Finalization	\$1,200.00
Total Approximate Cost =	\$11,000.00