



How to Adopt a Child from Colombia



In Colombia, there are mainly two types of adoption, a child of a single parent or an orphan. Before adopting a child in Colombia, the adopting parents must qualify based on the criteria below.

What is the **Criteria of Adopting** Parents in Colombia?

Age of Parents:

Parents must be at least 25 years old. Additionally, the oldest parent must be between 15 and 45 years older than the youngest child being adopted. An age difference of 50 years between parent and child and parents older than 55 years old can be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Length of Marriage:

Parents must be married for at least 3 years. Cohabitation or civil union can also be considered on case by case basis.

Proof of Financial Resources

Parents are required to provide proof of sufficient resources to support another child.

Medical Restrictions:

Parents must be in good physical and mental health before adopting a Colombian child. A psychological study of the adopting parents prepared by a psychologist or a psychiatrist must be submitted along with other required documents.

Single Parent Applicant:

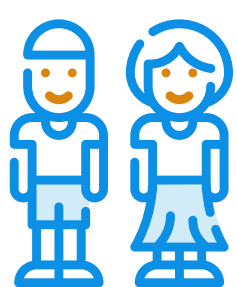
Single parent can adopt but it is difficult to do so. Single women are allowed to adopt boys and girls with any special needs, groups of siblings and other healthy children older than 10 years old. Single men are allowed to adopt boys 10 years of age or older.

Sexual Orientation:

Colombia allows same-sex couples to adopt children in Colombia as of November 2015. The Colombian Constitutional Court instructed adoption agencies not to discriminate against same sex couples.

What is the **Criteria** of Children Being Adopted in Colombia?

1



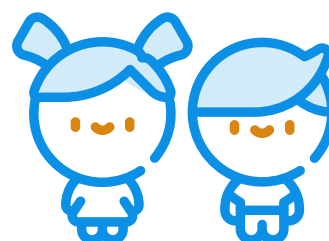
Age: Children between the ages 9 to 15 years, children with special needs of all ages, larger sibling groups of more than 3 children and older siblings groups with more than 2 children with 1 child older than 9 years old.

2



Race: Children of all races and ethnicities including Hispanic, Native/Indigenous, Afro Colombian, or mixed ethnicities

3



Gender: All boys and girls with the option of parents requesting a gender.

How Adopting Children from Colombia Works?

The adopting parents schedule an initial consultation with one of the **adoption agencies**. Their criminal history, complete biography, employment records, proof of marriage, age, mental and physical health is reviewed. The required documents are organized and then presented to Colombia's central authority, Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) to facilitate adoptions. Finally, the adopting parents wait for final decision by a judge.

How Adopting Children from Colombia Works?

The Colombian Central Authority, **BIENESTAR FAMILIAR** (ICBF) manages all the adoptions. Here are the steps that you have to follow.

1. Choose an Accredited Adoption Service Provider
2. Apply to be Found Eligible to Adopt
3. Be Matched with a Child
4. Apply for the Child to be Found Eligible for Adoption
5. Adopt the Child in Colombia
6. Bring Your Child Home.

Does Child Adoption Make You Eligible for Colombian Citizenship?

The Colombian Child Citizenship Act allows adopting parents to apply for Colombian citizenship. For more information regarding Colombian citizenship, please check Colombian citizenship laws.

What Is the Best Adopting Agency in Colombia?

Christian Adoption Agency, All God's Children International is one of the best and well known adoption agency in Colombia. Another good adoption agency is Holt International Adopting Agency.

These agencies work with Colombia's central authority, **Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF)** to facilitate adoptions. The ICBF is the entity that processes all international adoptions in Colombia and is located in the capital of Bogota.

Most children available for adoption are newborns and up to 15 years of age. Children with medical conditions and sibling groups are also eligible for adoption. There are currently 11,000 orphans waiting to be adopted in Colombia.

About 20% of families are united with their children within 6 months!

The timeframe for adoption is between 6 to 18 months. The timeframe starts from registered dossier to completion. Timeframes are highly dependent on family's openness to medical conditions, gender, and age of child.