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# Adoption Program with Mexico

In 1997, Catholic Charities began functioning as a child placing agency for families across the United States interested in adopting from Mexico. We are pleased to resume working with Mexico, where we had many years of adoption experience prior to the implementation of the Hague Convention and the most recently implemented centralized approval and adoption processing guidelines established by adoption authorities in Mexico. Mexico is a Hague Convention country, and adoptions must meet Convention requirements. The following is an overview of our Mexico Program:

- At least one parent must be a U.S. citizen.
- Must be in good health (no degenerative or infectious diseases).
- Must have a willingness to recognize and support the importance of a child's heritage and family of origin.
- Families outside of the Chicago Metropolitan area will complete their home study with a local accredited agency.

## WHO MAY ADOPT?

The following eligibility guidelines are specified by Mexican authorities and Convention requirements:

- Prospective adoptive parents must be over 25 years of age and at least 17 years older than the child. If married, only one parent needs to meet this requirement. No greater than a 40 year age difference between the prospective parents and the youngest child, preferred.
- Prospective adoptive parents may be married or single.
- Prospective adoptive parents must demonstrate the means to support the physical and educational needs of the child.

## WHO ARE THE CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION?

The Mexican Central Authority has clarified that Mexican children who meet any of the following conditions are eligible for placement through The Hague Convention Intercountry Adoption Process:

1. Children five years and older
2. Children with a physical or mental disability
3. Children who suffer from a disease that is costly to treat
4. Sibling groups (Children under 5 years of age may be adopted if siblings older than five are also being adopted.)

## Referral and Travel

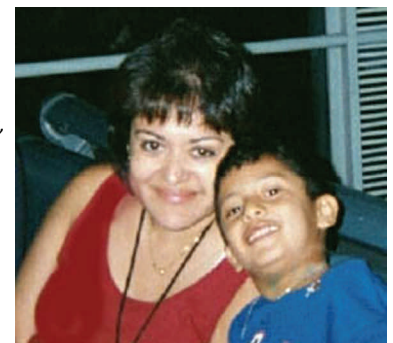
Once the dossier is complete, it will be submitted to SRE, and will be forwarded and logged by DIF Nacional, before being sent to the specific state that will be making the child referral. Once approved, the family will be added to a waiting list maintained by DIF, who then matches eligible prospective adoptive parents with children who are on its list of children legally available for adoption. When you receive a referral from DIF, they will contact Catholic Charities' legal representative in Mexico, who will receive, translate and forward the social and medical background information on the child for review. Prospective adoptive parents are able to decide whether or not they will be able to meet the needs of the child referred to them by the DIF, and whether they will provide a permanent family placement for the referred child. Most families will make a first trip, during which they meet with DIF representatives, who will coordinate a meeting to introduce the child to the prospective adoptive parent(s), prior to initiating the legal adoption process in Mexico. The second trip will be longer. During this time the child is placed with and resides with the family, while the legal process takes place. The family will await the final adoption decree and obtain the child's amended birth certificate and Mexican Passport before having a Visa Interview Appointment at the U.S. Consulate in Mexico, which issues visas for all adopted children.

Hague Accredited



*Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is recognized as a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Agency, is fully accredited and is Licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services—License #003971.*

*Catholic Charities is recognized by the Department of State, and accredited by the Council on Accreditation, to provide adoption services for Hague Adoption cases.*



# Fee Schedule: MEXICO ADOPTION PROGRAM

Effective 7/1/2017

Agency Fees	Payment Schedule	Direct Service Families	Families working with another HS Agency
Application	Submission of Application	\$350	\$350
Home Study	\$2000 Due with Adoption Services Agreement \$1,000 Balance Due upon Scheduling Home Visit	\$3,000	<i>Fees vary determined by Home Study Agency</i>
Pre-Adoption Education	Included in HS fee if completed by CC		
Home Study Update if required for extension or any revisions (new address, employment, change in child approval, etcetera)	Due prior to submission to USCIS	\$750	
Service Coordination Program development and support; operational costs and coordination of services provided in the U.S.	Due Upon Approval of Home Study	\$5,000	\$5,000
Post Adoption Services Mexico requires the agency to complete and submit written reports every six months the first 3 years and then annually until the child turns 16 years of age.	Due upon Issuance of Article 5, to pre-pay for Post Adoption Reports and Supervision.  *Note there will be an additional fee of \$400 for each additional visit and written report required beyond year three.	\$1,750*	<i>Pre-pay HS agency for reports thru year three or pay \$1,500 deposit to CC refunded upon submission of 3 year report.</i>
<b>Total Agency Fees including Home Study, Adoption Education and Post Adoption Support &amp; Reports</b>		<b>\$10,100 - \$13,650</b>	<b>\$</b>

Country Fees	Payment Schedule	Fee
<b>Mexico Program</b> ⚡Note: There will be an additional foreign fee increment of \$1,500 per additional sibling for families adopting sibling groups, which will be included in balance due for second payment.	<i>\$2,000 Due with Dossier submission \$7,000 Balance Due upon acceptance of child referral. Client understands that the foreign program fee may be increased, but not once a child referral has been accepted.</i>	\$9,000⚡
<b>Orphan Care and Humanitarian Aid</b> - This fee, <b>when applicable</b> , is determined based on the amount of time the child has spent in substitute care, whether they are coming from a private or public orphanage or adoption center, and any specialized medical care they may have received.	<i>The amount in each adoption will be established prior to the formal acceptance of a child referral and is due in full once a child referral is accepted.</i>	\$1,000 – \$3,100
<b>Total Country Fees</b>	<i>(not including third party fees listed below)</i>	<b>\$9,000 - \$16,500⚡</b>

Estimated Third Party Fees and other anticipated expenses paid directly to third party providers			
Fee or Estimated expense		Fee or Estimated expense	
USCIS I-800A	\$775	Physician Review of Referral	\$400-\$800
Biometrics	\$85 per adult	Interpreter if necessary or requested by Court	\$300-\$450
ISP & FBI Clearances	\$56.25 per adult for IL families	Mexico visa	\$230 / person
Psychological Evaluation	\$600 - \$900	In Country translation of documents	\$150 /child
Authenticate dossier documents	\$32 - \$120	Child Visa – Form DS260	\$325 / child
State Background Check	Varies by state	New birth certificate and passport	\$150 / child
Estimated Airfare per person per trip	\$750 - \$1800	Embassy Medical/lab fees	\$100 / child
Lodging and In-country transportation	\$2,600 - \$5,800		

*Airfare, and accommodations vary considerably with travel season, number of required trips, orphanage location, family size, lodging preferences and length of stay. More detailed information will be available closer to time of travel. Adoption fees and third party expenses are subject to change.*

Any unforeseen additional fees or expenses in excess of \$1,000, incurred in Mexico, for which the agency will hold the prospective adoptive parents responsible, will be disclosed to the adoptive parents, in writing, and their consent will be obtained, before the fees or expenses are incurred. The prospective adoptive parents have the option to waive the notice or consent requirement in advance.

Refund Policy - All fees are to be paid at predetermined intervals. Fees are non-refundable once the service has been provided. The Post Adoption Services Fee will be refunded in full, within 60 days, if the client does not complete an adoption. Catholic Charities reserves the right to terminate the adoption process of clients who fail to disclose information fully or properly or in any way place the agency at risk.