



1800 N Hermitage  
Chicago, IL 60622  
Phone: 312-655-7086  
Fax: 312-382-1612  
Email: [adoptions@catholiccharities.net](mailto:adoptions@catholiccharities.net)

Lake County Services  
Cardinal Bernadin Center  
671 S. Lewis Avenue  
Waukegan, IL 60085



# Adoption Program with Poland

In 1998, Catholic Charities began to investigate the possibility of serving as a child placing agency for Poland., and signed a formal agreement with Poland in January 1999. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is pleased to continue this collaboration to help find loving, permanent families for children qualified or identified for international placement. We have a staff person in Poland who serves as our liaison and works with the entities in Poland to secure child referrals for our families, as well as presenting required documentation, and working with the families once they travel and are in-country.

## WHO MAY ADOPT?

The following eligibility guidelines are specified by child placing authorities in Poland and Convention requirements:

- Prospective adoptive parents can be no more than 40 years older than the child they are adopting
- Married couples must be married at least 3 years (exceptions determined by Poland on a case by case basis)
- Single women may adopt
- Prospective adoptive parents must demonstrate the means to support the physical and educational needs of the child.

## REFERRAL AND TRAVEL

Once your dossier has been completed and you have been pre-approved, your documents are sent to Poland for certified translation. The average wait for referral is 9 to 14 months. When a possible match has been made, a referral packet will be forwarded for you to review. The referral will include information on the medical, developmental and social history of the child or children. Following your acceptance of the referral, you will file for provisional approval of the children's visas, and then will be granted approval from the Central Authority, before you make your first trip to Poland to meet the child or children, and begin the legal processing of your adoption. This trip requires a stay of five business days.

The second trip is on average six weeks to eight weeks in length and for this trip both parents are required to travel to Poland prior to, and remain for both assigned court dates. It is possible for one of the parents to return to the U.S. after the second court date if necessary. During this time, you will await the final adoption decree and amended birth certificate, obtain your child's Polish Passport and other required documents before having a Visa Interview Appointment at the U.S. Embassy, which issues visas for all adopted children. *(More specific information on Visa requirements will be provided to you during your adoptive home study and preparation process.)*

- At least one parent must be a U.S. citizen.
- Must be in good health
- Must have explored their medical situation regarding infertility, if applicable, and are not involved in infertility treatment.
- Must have a willingness to recognize and support the importance of a child's heritage and family of origin.
- Must be financially stable, with the ability to make two trips to Poland and stay for a period of up to 8 weeks during second trip.

## WHO ARE THE CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION?

In Poland, children become available for international adoption following the death of their parents, or extreme economic hardship or other crises that may cause parents to abandon their children or prevent them from properly caring for them. Their parental rights have been legally terminated, and the children are cared for in relatively small group homes, foster homes or orphanages. The children qualified for international adoption are typically:

1. Children between the ages of 6-15 years.
2. Children 5 years or younger with an identified medical condition.
3. Sibling groups, (may include a child under 6 years of age).

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: POLAND ADOPTION PROGRAM

Effective 07/01/2017

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 Supervision Administration Translation and other costs related to submitting required reports to foreign adoption authorities.	Due upon Issuance of Article 5, to pre-pay for Post Adoption Reports and Supervision.	\$300	\$300  <i>Pre-pay HS agency for reports thru year three or pay \$1000 deposit to CC refunded upon completion.</i>
Post Adoption Reports Prepayment of 12, 24 and 36 month visits and agency written reports.	*Note there will be an additional fee of \$400 for each additional visit and written report required beyond year three.	\$1,200*	
<b>Total Agency Fees including Home Study, Adoption Education and Post Adoption Support &amp; Reports</b>		<b>\$9,850 - \$10,600</b>	<b>\$</b>

Country Fees	Payment Schedule	Fee
Poland Program	\$2,000 Due with Dossier submission	\$9,000 ⇨
⇨ 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.	\$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.	
<b>Total Country Fees</b>	<i>(not including third party fees)</i>	<b>\$9,000 - \$13,500 ⇨</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	Interpreter if necessary or requested by Court	\$300-\$450
Biometrics	\$85 per adult	In Country translation of documents for visa interview	\$350 per child
ISP & FBI Clearances	\$56.25 per adult for IL families	New birth certificate and passport	\$150 / child
State Background Check	Varies by state	Embassy Medical/lab fees	\$150 / child
Authenticate dossier documents	\$32 - \$120 varies by state	Estimated Airfare per person per trip	\$850 - \$1,600
Physician Review of Referral	\$400 - \$800	Lodging and in-country transportation	\$4,000 - \$6,000
Child Visa – Form DS260	\$325 per child		

*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 Poland, 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.