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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 City, 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.

