

Illien Adoptions International, Inc.

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INDIA PROGRAM 2009

Illien Adoptions International, Inc. is recognized by CARA, the Central Adoption Resource Agency under the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India, to assist families adopting children from India. Our certificate number is 16/2005.

The CARA Guidelines are published on their website: www.cara.nic.in. You will find below an explanation of how the adoption process works under these Guidelines.

Qualifications to Adopt from India:

- Married couple with 5 years of a stable relationship.
- Prospective adoptive parents having composite age of 90 years or less can adopt infants and young children. These provisions may be suitably relaxed in exceptional cases, such as older children and children with special needs, for reasons clearly stated in the Home Study Report. However, in no case should the age of any one of the prospective adoptive parents exceed 55 years.
- Single persons (never married, widowed, divorced) up to 45 years can also adopt.
- Age difference of the single adoptive parent and child should be 21 years or more.
- Parent(s) in no case should be less than 30 years or more than 55 years.
- A second adoption from India will be considered only when the legal adoption of the first child is completed.
- Exceptions may be made.

Families of Indian origin will be given first preference for abandoned and orphaned babies whereas other families will be considered for older children and children with varying degrees of physical disability or other special needs. In many instances the qualifications of the prospective adoptive parents are more flexible depending upon the special needs of the child.

If you are interested in adopting a child from India, we prefer to do a preliminary review of your profile and give you our advice based on our experience and observation in India. Illien primarily assists families of Indian origin to adopt. Illien does not have an exclusive relationship with any one organization in India but prefers to work all over India with the Indian child welfare organizations recognized by CARA.

Illien can assist you to locate a child or Illien can work with parent-initiated adoptions where you have an agency in India with whom you prefer to work. Although you may be qualified to adopt according to the CARA guidelines, your dossier must be accepted by a Recognized Indian Placement Agency (RIPA) and each agency may accept or reject an applicant family based on agency restrictions or preferences. Local judges have the authority to approve or reject a family based on their own perception of your situation. There is never a guarantee of outcome on any adoption case.

Adoptive Father

Date

Adoptive Mother

Date

It is important to remember that the Government of India prioritizes that an abandoned child should be placed with an Indian family in India. If you are a person or couple of Indian origin and/or born in India but are now a citizen of another country, for the purpose of adoption, you are considered a foreigner in India. The exception to that rule is if one prospective adoptive parent of the couple holds an Indian passport. In this scenario, the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) are given a higher consideration by the RIPA than if both prospective adoptive parents are considered to be foreigners.

Please note that the Indian Government offers a special status, called OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) to families of Indian origin holding foreign citizenship. It is *not* dual citizenship and does *not* result in your getting an Indian passport, but it gives you *some degree* of preferred status in the adoption process in India. OCI status means primarily that you do not need a visa to travel to India. If you are adopting from India and you are eligible for this status, it is very important that you apply to your Indian Consulate for this status right away.

Health Issues in India:

The orphanages in India which are permitted to do intercountry adoption are licensed and approved by CARA. The standards of care for the children are typically very good. Many orphanages have a good child to caregiver ratio.

Children may be small for their age, primarily due to diet and nutrition. They have been found to be less developmentally delayed than children residing in orphanages in many other countries. In general, the caretakers are very hands-on with the children, so the children are used to interaction and stimulation. All children are screened for communicable diseases and given standard immunizations. The Indian medical reports are minimal but generally reliable. Many orphanages will allow children to go for independent examinations upon request.

Babies abandoned at birth come right into orphanage care unless hospitalization is needed. However, abandoned toddlers and older children have oftentimes suffered from malnutrition and/or maltreatment which might affect their future development.

Indian children have become orphaned or are abandoned for a number of reasons stemming from social reasons.

Indian Adoption Program Fee:

The Agency's total adoption service fees for the India program are \$13,500. This fee includes the Adoption Service fees for the Agency, the fees for the Indian child welfare organization, and fees for humanitarian aid. See the India Program Fee Disclosure & Worksheet for the breakdown of these fees and for a breakdown of typical third party expenses. Families are required to travel to India to escort the child home at their own expense. Some exceptions are made by special permission from CARA.

The Government of India requires four post-placement/post-adoption reports. The local courts frequently require additional reporting. The future success of the adoption program in India for everyone depends upon 100% compliance on the part of each family. If you apply to Illien's India Program, you will be required to sign a contract committing to comply with India's post-placement reporting schedule.

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Date

Procedures:

Once you have researched various Adoption Services Providers, reviewed the documents you will be signing, and have understood the requirements of the country program, you may begin the process by submitting an Adoption Application and the associated \$500 fee to Illien Adoptions International, Inc.

We will review your application to ensure that you meet the basic requirements such as age criminal, medical, and emotional history. Upon approval of your application, we will send you by e-mail the Adoption Services Contract package to complete, have notarized, and return to Illien with the associated fee of \$1,500. To move to the next step, you will send \$3,500 for the Dossier Preparation Guidelines.

The Illien staff will assist you in the preparation of your dossier documents. This can be done at the same time you are preparing your home study documents since many of the documents are the same. The Illien staff will also assist you in the preparation of the I-800A application and will file the I-800A with CIS on your behalf.

All documents in the dossier must be apostilled. If you live in Georgia, the Agency will do this for you. If you live in another state, you will be responsible for having all of your documents apostilled in your state. You will be instructed to send all apostilled dossier documentation to the Agency.

When your dossier is completed and ready to be sent to Indian organizations, the \$2,500 fee associated with this adoption service is due to be paid to the Agency before we can release any photocopies of the dossier. It is the Agency's policy that original documents comprising the dossier will not be released to the applicant family but only to a Recognized Indian Placement Agency in India at the time of the family's acceptance of a particular child in India.

Also due with the dossier registration fee is the Country Program Coordination fee of \$2,000. The purpose of this fee is to cover the Agency's services for coordination and tracking of your case throughout the adoption process in India, and, after the child comes home, it covers our services until the post-adoption services are completed. It does not, however, cover the cost of the post-placement reports which will be completed by the Agency who issued your home study.

Illien will work together with you to select one or more Recognized Indian Placement Agencies which is compatible with your preferences. There are no guarantees as to which RIPA will accept to work with you. Note that there is no way to know how long it will take to get a referral once you are registered with a RIPA in India. There are many Indian families in India and many foreign families waiting; there are few children available for intercountry adoption.

Please note that CARA is developing a new set of guidelines that will affect the adoption procedure. It is not yet clear how these guidelines will affect current adoption procedures.

If you are a family of Indian origin and plan to travel to India, please understand that *no Indian child welfare organization has eligible babies waiting for international adoption.* You may visit the RIPAs of your choice and ask them if they would be willing to work with you under the sponsorship of Illien Adoptions International, Inc., however, you must be prepared to wait until a child becomes available.

Adoptive Father

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Adoptive Mother

Date

Illien Adoptions International, Inc. must send an official letter of request for registration to the RIPA as they cannot work with parents directly, only agency to agency.

When the RIPA identifies a child who they feel is suitable for you, they will send the official Child Profile Report to Illien Adoptions International, Inc. Your signature on this document is your official acceptance of the referral.

The information of the child referred to you by the Indian recognized organization must come directly to Illien Adoptions International, Inc. and the Agency will send the written information concerning the child to the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s). Once the Child Profile Report has been signed by the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s), it is returned to the Agency with the Country Program fee of \$3,500. The Agency prepares additional acceptance documents to send to the RIPA along with the original dossier documents, the Child Profile Report, and the Country Program fee of \$3,500. Note again that Illien will only release your original dossier documents directly to the Indian organization.

Once a referred child has been accepted by the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s), Illien must then notify, in writing, any and all other Indian organizations where the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) are enrolled to withdraw the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)' name from their enrollment and request that the Indian organization return to the Agency the copy set of the dossier.

After the adoption process has been completed in India, Illien Adoptions International, Inc. encourages all adoptive parents to consider providing ongoing support to their child's orphanage in order to assist and support the children left behind who may not be eligible for adoption. Many adoptive parents collect donations annually for this purpose from their family, friends, and community to send a donation at the time of their child's birthday or at Christmas or on other occasions.

As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) licensed child placing agency, donations made to Illien Adoptions International, Inc., for specific projects, to specific countries, or as non-restricted funds, are tax deductible to the donor in the United States. For more information on donations, please contact the Agency.

Time Frames:

In their Guidelines, CARA has created time frames for everything to happen and CARA has tried to speed up the processing times. This information is posted on the CARA website: www.cara.nic.in. But on the local level in India, the time frames do not always happen according to the Guidelines. For example, no one can make the court follow the Guidelines. So although we can track your case and always know what stage it is in, we cannot make it happen faster than it is going to happen.

From the time you accept a child and send your official acceptance to India, it might take several months to complete your case in the Indian court. No matter what the Guidelines say, keep an open mind. If your case is finished and the court order is issued within six months of your date of acceptance, you have been very blessed. ***There is absolutely no way to know how long any step in the adoption is actually going to take. If you travel to India to escort your child home within twelve months from the time your home study is issued or your application to adopt is approved by Illien Adoptions International, Inc., which ever is completed second, we have obtained our mutual goal. It might take less or more time. Every case is different.*** There are no guarantees of time and no guarantee in advance of the outcome. You have to be aware of these risks and accept them.

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Fee Disclosure & Worksheet for India Program

** Agency Adoption Service Fees will be valid for a period of 12 months from our receipt of your completed Three- Part Adoption Services Contract. Country Fees are never to be considered stable or set fees as they are not determined nor in the control of Illien Adoptions International, Inc. The Agency makes every effort to control fees and costs but third party and country fees may change without notice.*

Adoption and Adoption Related Services	Set Fees	Estimated Fees	Worksheet
Adoption Service Fees			
Adoption Application	\$500		
Adoption Services Contract	\$1,500		
Dossier Preparation	\$3,500		
Dossier Submission	\$2,500		
Country Coordination – due w/ Dossier Submission Fee	\$2,000		
Total Agency Fees	\$10,000		
Current Country Fees*			
Country Program	\$3,500		
Total Agency & Country Program Fees*	\$13,500		
Set Third Party Fees			
I-800A application (does not include updates)	\$670		
FBI fingerprinting (per individual)	\$80		
US Visa for child (per child)	\$420		
US-CIS Certificate of Citizenship (per child)	\$420		
US Passport (per individual)	\$100		
Expedited SVS for US Passport (per individual)	\$80		
Visas for India (one entry – 15 days) (per individual)	\$30		
Subtotal	\$1,742		
Third Party Services (Varies by Provider)			
Home Study Report (does not include updates)		\$1,500-\$2,500	
Number of Post Placement Reports Required		4	
Post Placement Reports - approx \$300 per report		\$1,200	
Authentication, Postage, Courier fee range		\$350-\$550	
Subtotal			
Travel			
Airfare (per adult)		\$1,000-\$1,500	
Airfare for child (per child)		\$800-\$1,200	
Lodging, Food, Transportation (# of days/\$ per day)		7 day/\$100-\$200	
Medical Exam for child's Visa (per child)		\$100	
Subtotal			
Legal Procedures & Documentation in US			
Finalization of the Adoption		\$1,500-\$2,500	
Misc. costs and fees (i.e. US birth certificate)		\$200-\$1,000	
Subtotal			
Total of all Sections			

Adoptive Father _____

Date _____

Adoptive Mother _____

Date _____