

A full-page background image of the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. The white marble mausoleum is reflected in the clear water of the reflecting pool. The sky is a clear, bright blue. A large blue triangle is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing the text.

# India Adoption Program

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Thank you for asking about Children's House International's India adoption program.

It is our goal to make sure that you are comfortable with your adoption journey. We will achieve this through direct and honest communication throughout your adoption process. You can expect a professional team that will never take you for granted. You and the orphaned children of India are the reason we are here. I would love to set up a video call so we can meet each other and I can answer all your questions. After you have read the information below, please email [lisa.a@chiadopt.org](mailto:lisa.a@chiadopt.org) to schedule a meeting with me.



**PLEASE NOTE:** US immigration law requires that at least one spouse is a US Citizen. If you are single, you must be a US Citizen. Permanent Residents and those on work visas do not qualify to adopt from a foreign country.

# Lisa Anderson



Through a combination of 50 years of experience, as well as personal adoptions and a love for India, you can expect a blend of expert knowledge, attention to detail, and a commitment to guide you each step of the way during, and support after, your adoption.

Children's House International began in India back in 1975 and Lisa, our India Specialist for 26 years, has two children adopted from India. We visit India frequently and have staff there to assist with your adoption process.

We are fully Hague Accredited and recognized as an official AFFA by CARA.

# Eligibility



- US immigration law requires that at least one spouse is a US Citizen. If you are single, you must be a US Citizen. Permanent Residents and those on work visas do not qualify to adopt from a foreign country.
- The prospective adoptive parents (PAPS) should be financially stable with the ability to comfortably support a child.
- Single women are eligible to adopt a child of any gender. Single men shall not be eligible to adopt a girl child.
- Couples must be married for a minimum of 2 years
- Couples with two or more children shall only be considered for special needs children. The minimum age difference between the child and either of the PAPS should not be less than twenty-five years.

# Eligibility Continued

- The age of prospective adoptive parents as on the date of complete registration shall be counted for deciding the age group of the child you apply for. India counts the years, months, and days to reach the combined age limits.
- In addition, if you have not accepted a referral and received NOC in three years, you must revalidate your file with CARA. If this happens, you will then be eligible for the age category at the time of revalidation.



# Age Restrictions

## Married Couples:

- The maximum combined age for children 0 - 2 is 85 years.
- The maximum combined age for children 2-4 is 90 years.
- The maximum combined age for children 4-8 is 100 years.
- The maximum combined age for children 8+ is 110 years.



# Age Restrictions

## Single women:

- The maximum age for children 0-2 is 40 years.
- The maximum age for children 2-4 is 45 years.
- The maximum age for children 4-8 is 50 years.
- The maximum age for children 8+ is 55 years.



# Children

- There are over 1,000 children on India's CARINGs site. Most with moderate to severe special needs. We sometimes see healthy older children or children listed with minor special needs.
- Waiting Children are between 6 months and 16 years of age. There are four categories: no known health issues, physically challenged, mentally challenged, and multiple disabilities. \*\* for a waiting child, the parents' heritage does not matter.



# India's Waiting Children

India does not allow us to show photos of current waiting children. This short video shows a few of our children's referral photos and photos after they came home.



# India Has Two Programs

## NRI/OCI Families

- ✓ Are you or your spouse a US Citizen?
- ✓ If you both are US Citizens, do one or both of you have OCI status?
- ✓ You do not already have 2 children already in your home.



## Non NRI/OCI

- ✓ Are you or your spouse a US Citizen?
- ✓ You do not have Indian heritage or if you do, you do not qualify for OCI status.

# NRI/OCI

## Non Resident Indian (NRI)

- One spouse is a citizen of India
- One spouse is a US citizen

## Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)

- Both spouses are US Citizens and have obtained OCI status

## Singles

- Singles must be US Citizens with OCI status



NRI/OCI families are eligible to adopt a child with no known health problems. NRI/OCI families are treated on par with resident Indians. The current wait time for a child with no known special needs is 4+ years. Most NRI/OCI families are open to a child with minor special needs.

**NOTE:** If you have more than two child already in your home, India will not allow you to adopt a healthy child. You must be open to some degree of special needs.

# Non NRI/OCI

Foreign – Families with no Indian heritage or Indian families that do not qualify as NRI or OCI. The reality of the program requires us to counsel foreign families to be open to considering a child with a minimum of moderate special needs, or a child over age 10. Applications from families hoping to adopt only healthy young children (unless they are NRI/OCI) will result in an indefinite wait for referral. The more open you are to both genders and more special needs, the faster a referral will happen.



# Travel and Time Frame

## Travel

- Adopting from India is a one-trip process lasting approximately 12 days. India has recently revised its adoption guidelines to where Magistrates will grant adoptions instead of District Courts. We feel that it will speed up your legalization process. However, some magistrates mandate that adoptive parents travel to appear in court.

## Time Frame

- NRI and OCI families are currently waiting approximately 48+ months for a referral of a healthy child from CARA. This wait begins after your home study and other documents are approved by India.
- Foreign families' wait times depend on the special needs and age of the child they are wishing to adopt.

## Gender

- Please consider asking for a child of either gender. If you are open to a little boy, your wait time could be shorter!

**NOTE:** Wait times are estimated and based on our current experience. All wait times are subject to change without notice.



# Your India Team



**Debbie S. Price**  
Executive Director



**Lisa Anderson**  
International Specialist



**Tanya Knapp**  
India Case Manager



**Laxmi Gupta**  
Asst. International Specialist



**Cindi Fuller, MSW**  
Social Services Supervisor



**Pam Weyh, LCSW**  
Social Services Supervisor



# Abbreviated India Process

Complete CHI DocuSign Application

Begin your Home Study

File I800a and Submit CARA

Documents

Receive US and India Approvals

Wait for a Referral

Accept Referral



Receive NOC and Petition is Filed

Adoption is granted

New Birth Certificate and Indian Passport are applied for

Schedule VISA Medical and Embassy Appointment

Travel to India

Embassy and Exit Permit Process

Travel Home



# Summary of Costs

1. Application Fee (\$800): Due with the application.

2. Fees Due:

- Agency Fee 1 (\$4,965): Due after the application is approved. (approximately 1 week)
- Agency Fee 2 (\$5,250): Due once the home study is ready for review. (approximately 4 months after application)
- Agency Fee 3 (\$3,500): Due at the time of dossier submission. (approximately 1-2 months after home study review)
- India Program Fee 1 (\$2,000): Due at dossier submission. (approximately 1-2 months after home study review)
- India Program Fee 2 (\$7,000): Due when you accept a child referral.

Total Cost for 1 Child: **\$26,015**

3. Additional Expenses Not Included Above (Estimated):

- Psychological Evaluation (per parent): \$350–\$1,500
- Home Study Services: \$2,000–\$5,000
- Post Adoption Reports - please pay to your home study agency at time of referral acceptance. Fees vary.
- Travel and Accommodation: \$7,600–\$9,500
- USCIS/NCB Fee I800A: \$920

Please refer to the complete financial agreement for a more complete explanation.



# Thank You

Your interest in our India adoption program means the world to us, and we're here to help every step of the way. Thank you for your commitment and your time.



## Contact us Today

Email: [lisa.a@chiadopt.org](mailto:lisa.a@chiadopt.org)

360-383-0623

[www.childrenshouseinternational.com](http://www.childrenshouseinternational.com)



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