

FAQS- Colombia

1. How long has Lifeline been working in this country?
Since April 2012
2. How are you matched or referred to a child in this country?
A family can be matched directly by the central authority office (ICBF) or through the waiting children's files. This would only occur officially once a dossier was approved. Waiting children's process is most common form of matching.
3. My spouse and I have not yet been married the length of time for the marriage requirement. Can we go ahead and begin the home study?
This time is set forth by the central authority. Although Lifeline cannot waive any of the requirements. If you have been married close to the requirements, we would encourage you to start your home study process. Your dossier cannot be submitted until you have reached the minimum for length of time married.
4. What if I or my spouse has heritage from this country and/or is a dual citizen? Would we get any special exceptions in the adoption process?
Colombian-heritage families will receive special exceptions (for example: the adoptive children can be younger, with or without pre-identified medical needs). Someone with Colombian-heritage will have been born in Colombia or have one parent who was born in Colombia. You will need to show evidence of your Colombian passport and cedula.
5. Is this country Hague or Non Hague?
Hague
6. What is the ethnicity of the children?
The ethnicities of children vary significantly from Colombian, Indigenous, European-descent, Afro-Colombian, or biracial descent.
7. Do children reside in foster homes or orphanages?
Children reside in either foster homes, public-run orphanages, or privately-run orphanages (called IAPAS or Casa Privadas).
8. What are common medical needs we see children having in Colombia?
Many children may have medical needs varying from medically correctable, moderate, or severe. Some medical needs we have seen are: premature birth, psychomotor delays, hip dysplasia, gastro-intestinal needs, cognitive delays, hyperactivity, cranial malformations, cleft lip & palate, blindness, deafness or hearing loss, Down syndrome, Williams syndrome, learning delays, behavioral and/or emotional needs, abuse and/or sexual abuse history, treated congenital syphilis, kidney impairments, microcephaly, gluten or dairy intolerance, and more.
9. We would like to adopt a specific child (whether family member or someone we met once on a trip to the country). Is this possible?
Technically, this is not permitted unless a special exception is made by the central authority. Families in this situation will need to consult with Lifeline staff and understand that there will be inherent risks until the adoption is finalized in country. In addition, all children to be adopted internationally must first be declared abandoned in this country.
10. How do families afford the adoption process or take time away from work for so long to finalize in country?
Lifeline seeks to be a resource and support to each family throughout the process. If finances are a concern, please speak to one of our intake workers or program points. Lifeline would encourage families to apply for grants/ scholarships and will be here to assist in any way possible. For the time in country, many families use

vacation/sick time, FMLA leave, or work out an agreement with employers to work part time from “home” in the country.