

# Colombia: Children Eligible for Adoption

Process:	Answer:	Notes:
Characteristics of Children Eligible for Adoption:	<p>Individual Children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children 9+ years old can have a pre-identified medical need but not a requirement for adoption</li> <li>Younger children (0-9 years old) must have a medical special need</li> </ul> <p>Siblings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sibling groups of two or more are in need to stay together with forever families</li> </ul> <p>Children of All Ages with Medical Needs</p>	<p>All children must be legally declared abandoned by the Central Authority before being matched with an adoptive family.</p> <p>Siblings Explanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sibling Groups of 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically, at least one child will be 10+ (if not open to medical needs)</li> <li>A sibling group of 2 of any age can be adopted if one or both have a medical needs</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sibling Groups of 3+: children can vary in all ages and medical needs (can have a pre-identified medical need but not a requirement for adoption)</li> </ul>
What are common medical needs seen in this country?	<p>This can truly vary. We typically see children with medically correctable, moderate, or significant medical needs.</p> <p>Thus far, we have seen children with medical needs such as medical needs requiring surgery, deafness or hearing loss, global developmental delays, cognitive delays, lung development issues, Downs Syndrome, dwarfism, malnutrition, and more.</p>	<p>All children in international adoption will generally have developmental delay and potential malnutrition.</p> <p>There is always risk of incorrect diagnoses and/ or medical special needs developing later in the child's life.</p>
How are families matched with child/ children?	<p>Family will be matched by central authority once dossier approved.</p> <p>A family can be matched directly by the central authority or may petition to be matched by the central authority and/or private orphanage.</p>	<p>A family will always be dossier approved by the central authority first. In the dossier, your home study will set the perimeters on the ages, needs, and number of children that you can be matched with.</p> <p>A family can petition for a potential waiting child at any point during their process; however, the match will only be officially considered after the family's dossier has been approved.</p>
Does this country have a waiting children's program?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Note: the current waiting children are those currently in need of families. This can be a good indicator of the types of needs you will most commonly see.</p>	<p>Waiting Children are listed on Lifeline's Website</p>
Greatest Needs of Country (most common factors of children eligible for adoption)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual children over the age of 9 years old.</li> <li>Children with medical needs.</li> <li>Children in larger and/or older sibling groups</li> </ul>	<p>Many waiting children need forever families. We see many large sibling groups, older sibling groups, and individual children over the age of 12 years old. We also see children more significant medical needs most frequently.</p>
What happens after we are matched with our child?	<p>Family accepts match, applies for USCIS 800 approval, and plans for travel. This takes about 2-3 months to travel.</p>	<p>With 800 approval &amp; Article 5 approval, the family can travel to country to begin the adoption process.</p>