

FAQS- Costa Rica

1. How long has Lifeline been working in this country?
Since 2011
2. How are you matched or referred to a child in this country?
A family can be matched directly by the central authority office (PANI) after dossier approval or through the waiting children's files issued by PANI. This matching would still only occur officially once a dossier was approved. We see families matched frequently in both manners.
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?
Costa Rican-descent will not receive special exceptions (for example: the adoptive children's ages/ needs or timelines of dossier review/ approval by central authority). This is due to the fact that your family does not reside in Costa Rica; therefore, PANI will process your family as an international family.
5. Is this country Hague or Non Hague?
Hague
6. What is the ethnicity of the children?
The ethnicities of children vary significantly from Costa Rican, Native American, European, Afro-Costa Rican, or biracial descent.
7. Do children reside in foster homes or orphanages?
Children reside in either public-run orphanages or privately-run orphanages.
8. What are common medical needs younger children from Costa Rica may have?
We have seen children with down syndrome, kidney impairments & failure, microcephaly, deafness, cognitive delays, 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.