

Colombia Adoption Requirements

PROGRAM INFORMATION	DETAILS	NOTES
ADOPTIVE FAMILY		
Parent's Ages	25+ years old (both)	Applicants 45+ yo may be requested to adopt older children or children with medical needs by ICBF
Marriage Length	Minimum of 2 years married	Single parents may adopt
Divorce History	Permitted; No more than 3 divorces	Current marriage must show stability
Age Difference between Parents and Children	Must be a 15 year difference between the youngest parent and oldest child.	No more than 45+ years age maximum difference.
Number of children already in the home	No limit but must be able to show ability to care for additional children	
Financial State	Families must show they can adequately provide for children	Employment letters and meeting USCIS financial standards required
Criminal History	Criminal History will be reviewed on a case by case basis	*Criminal History Clearances needed *No indicated past child abuse & neglect registries or sexual assaults will be considered
Medical and Psychological Health	Applicants must show they are physically and mentally fit to parent; cancer history must be at least 5 years in remission; mild anxiety & depression diagnoses can be considered for evaluation	Lab work, medical, and psychological reports required. May need counselor's letter of recommendation if treated in the past or currently for emotional or psychological needs
PROCESS		
Number of Trips to Colombia	1 trip: 3-5 weeks	One parent may leave after the bonding process if approved (typically week 1-2). Length of time depends on region and orphanage.
Post Adoption Reports	At 6, 12, 18 and 24 months	From date of adoption decree
Average Time of Completion	1-2 years estimated	
Approximate Cost	\$42,000 approximately <i>*This not only includes agency fees but also includes estimates on out of pocket costs, including travel expenses</i>	
CHILDREN		
Youngest age of children eligible to be adopted	For Colombian Heritage Families: - 6 months and older (<i>there is a set scale based on the ages of parents and ages of the child set by ICBF</i>) For International Families: - 12-24 months old	For Colombian Heritage Families: - Child may not have medical need For International Families: - Child will have a medical need or belong to a sibling group
Sibling groups able to be adopted	Yes, with and without pre-identified medical special needs ("MSN")	2+ siblings: - One child will likely be over 9+ yo if neither have a special need - One child will likely have a special need if both are under 9 yo 3+ siblings: all ages, with or without medical special needs.
Children with and without medical special needs	Yes, one child between 0 – 8 years 11 months will have a special need if being adopted by international family	*Child 9+ may not have a special need *Exceptions will be made by ICBF for Colombian-heritage families

