Legal permanency adoption

Adopting a child who lives in another country.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has the sole authority for admitting a child to Canada. Visit the <u>Government of Canada</u> website to obtain information on immigration/citizenship application processing times. The three types of international adoption are Hague Convention, government and private international adoption. International adoption is complex, and programs change as the requirements of the countries of origin change. Most international adoptions take an average of three to four years to be completed and cost between \$15,000 and \$40,000. Process and costs vary by country and/or type of adoption. Review the International Adoption Guidebook for additional information.

To adopt a child, you must be an Alberta resident; be at least 18 years old; demonstrate financial and domestic stability; be physically and mentally capable of parenting an adopted child; and meet country specific eligibility requirements.



Contact

- Alberta (AB) Adoption Services
- licensed adoption agency
- Children's Services (CS) office

Decision

Attend an information session or visit your local CS office to learn about the adoption process, the criteria to apply and the steps to becoming approved.





Apply

Complete and submit the International Adoption Application to AB Adoption Services for authorization to proceed with an international adoption and to have a home study report completed.



Agency application & training

Complete training required as part of your approval for adoption. Complete agency application, including Criminal Record Checks, Intervention Record Checks, and medical exams, and provide financial information and references.



Home study Report

A home study writer is assigned to complete your home study report and provide a recommendation to AB Adoption Services to approve or not approve you for adoption.





Dossier*

Once approved for adoption: compile adoption dossier* and/send to AB Adoption Services; apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to initiate part one of the immigration/citizenship process.

*(Does not apply to private international adoption)



Wait for Match

Once approved by the child's country, wait for country to match you with a child. For Hague Convention and government adoptions, AB Adoption Services will review and, if appropriate, accept the match before sending it to your licensed agency to be presented to you.

Note: Matching is based on a child's needs and your capacity to parent such a child. The wait time cannot be predicted, and there is no guarantee that you'll be matched with a child.





Accept match and finalize adoption

For Hague Convention and government adoptions, advise AB Adoption Services as soon as you have made an informed decision to proceed with the adoption after consulting with medical and adoption professionals. The child's adoption authority arranges for placement of the child and court finalization of the adoption in the child's country. For private international adoptions, you are responsible for court finalization.

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Immigration

Once the adoption procedures are finalized, submit required documents to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to complete your application for sponsorship or Canadian citizenship.

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Travel for placement

After ensuring travel documents such as passports and immigration approvals are in place, make travel arrangements to bring the child to Alberta. When the child is in your home, support will be provided upon request by your licensed adoption agency for the period of time necessary to ensure a positive transition and adjustment.

Post-adoption service

Fulfill country specific requirements for post adoption reports prepared by a licensed adoption agency as determined by the child's country.

Legend

Process with predictable timelines.



Process with unpredictable timelines.

