



# Haiti

Program requirements are subject to change without prior notice

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Who can adopt?

- One of the adoptive applicants must be at least 30 years old and not over 50 years (before submitting dossier).
- A couple must be married for a minimum of 5 years or be a common-law couple and able to prove that they have been living together for the last 5 years. E.g. a bill that shows both names and an address.
- Single applicants must be over 35 years old and a not older than 50 years old (before submitting the file).
- Couples with a medical infertility diagnosis are given priority. Infertility conditions must be mentioned in the homestudy.
- Same sex couples are not accepted.
- Families with biological children are accepted but must prove sufficient financial resources; and the youngest biological child must be at least 18 months older than the proposed adopted child. This age difference varies based on province.
- Owning a house is not a requirement, but the homestudy should specify the habitable capacity of the household.

### Type of children generally proposed

- Boys and girls (more boys than girls available).
- Between 12 months to 12 years old at the time of proposal.
- Many healthy children between 6 and 12 years old.
- Many sibling groups are available. The family should be open to adopt children between the ages of 1 to 6 years old for a sibling group.
- Requests for special needs children receive priority for adoption (cleft palate, blindness, clubfoot, etc.).

## Waiting times

- From Ontario Ministry approval to dossier presentation in Haiti: 1-2 months if the adoptive applicant has submitted all required documents and if the translation is completed.
- From dossier presentation to proposal: 12 to 24 months, depending on child request.
- From proposal to first trip to Haiti: 1 month.
- From first trip to second trip for finalization: 6 to 12 months.

## Type of adoption

- The adoption pronounced in Haiti is plenary which terminates the relationship between birth parent and child. Thus, all rights and status which the child may have had from the birth family are revoked and replaced with the rights and status granted by the adoptive family.

## Cost of an adoption

- The total estimated cost of an adoption for a couple is between \$45,000 and \$47,000 CAD. For a single parent it is approximately \$2,000 less. The cost is effective by the U.S. exchange rate. There is an extra \$24,000 CAD added for each additional child from a sibling group.
- These fees include costs office administration in Canada and in Haiti, registration in Haiti, translation, child's medical fees, orphanage fees, legal fees, accompaniment fees, and delegation costs for Haitian authorities to come to Canada to review the agency's activity.
- Costs related to the homestudy, travel, accommodation and immigration are also included in this amount, but are paid directly to the service provider and not to TDHO.

## DOSSIER REQUIREMENTS

The following original documents are required for adoptive applicants and are only valid for a 6-month period from the issue date:

- Homestudy and Letter of Ontario Ministry Approval.
- A hand-written petition to adopt from the adoptive applicants.
- A birth certificate issued by the Provincial Registrar for each adoptive applicant.
- An original marriage certificate, issued by the Registrar of Civil Status, or a Divorce Certificate recently issued by the Registrar of Civil Status (if applicable).
- A Power of Attorney in the name of agency's representative in Haiti (This form will be provided by TDHO).

- An employment letter on the letterhead of the adoptive applicant's employer or a self-employed declaration form.
- Original Assessment from Revenue Canada for each applicant.
- A letter of solvability from the bank without mention of your account balance.
- Certificate of Property Ownership (if applicable).
- Psychological assessment for each applicant.
- Police clearance issued by the RCMP.
- Medical form provided by TDHO completed by your family doctor, including lab results for each applicant.
- Two letters of reference from community, governmental, or religious authorities.
- Eight recent color photographs.
- Photocopy of driver's license and medical card.
- Photocopy of the passport of each applicant.
- Certificate of infertility, if applicable.
- Eight (8) passport photographs of each spouse.
- Adoptive applicant registration form for the child's passport.

TDHO will notarize and authenticate each document of your dossier at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa. Your dossier will then be legalized and translated at the Haitian Embassy before forwarding it to Haiti.

**IMPORTANT:** All documents must preferably be filled out by computer (except as indicated) or in block letters in blue ink.

Documents must be less than 6 months old from the issue date at the time of legalization.

It is important that you provide us with original documents and not photocopies unless otherwise specified. The documents will be sent to Haiti and will not be returned.

The name that appears on all the documents of your dossier should be the same as shown on your passport.

## **CHILD PROPOSAL**

Once your dossier is deposited in Haiti, it must pass through first legalization in Haiti at Port au Prince (two-week process), and will then be deposited at the Institut du Bien Etre Social et de Recherches (IBESR) for review. IBESR reviews all adoptable children which conform to the homestudy recommendation and contacts TDHO to inform them of a potential match.

The child proposal contains the name and the birth date of the child and is accompanied by a medical report and Child Study that provides a social history of the child. You will have five days to respond to the initial proposal after receiving it from the Agency. Once you accept the proposal, you need to inform the agency of your preferred departure and return date for a two-week trip. The purpose of this trip is to create a bond with the child and to receive the approval of IBESR's social worker to pursue the adoption process. The visits with the child must take place in the orphanage. Some orphanages we work with offer, at a cost, the possibility of lodging and meals at the orphanage.

## **ADOPTION PROCESS**

After the first trip, IBESR's social worker will write a report attesting to the bonding process between the adoptive applicant(s) and the child.

Once the adoption decree is granted, the preparation of all the documents, including the child's passport, will be taken care of in order for the adoptive family to travel and take their child to Canada.

## **POST-ADOPTION REPORTING**

The applicant(s) will need to submit 9 progress reports to the agency. The first 3 reports need to be written by an approved adoption practitioner. TDHO will contact you by email as a reminder for you to process your reports. Payment for these reports will be collected in advance by the agency.