



Honduras

Program requirements are subject to change without prior notice

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who can adopt?

- The adoptive applicant(s) must be between 25 and 50 years old at the time of adoption.
- The age difference between the adoptive applicant(s) and the child must be between 15 and 45 years.
- A couple must be married, with or without children, for at least 3 years.
- Single women may adopt although married couples have priority.

Type of children generally proposed

- Boys and girls older than 5 years. It is rare to have a proposal for a child younger than 5 years old at this moment, except for special needs children.
- If the adoptive applicant is older than 40 years, the child proposed will be 4 years and older.
- Adoption of siblings, as well as children with special needs and older children is possible.

Type of adoption

- Form of the Decision

The decision pronounced by the local authorities is a judicial decision (court judgment).

- Effect of the Decision

It is a plenary adoption which means the legal bonds of filiation between the child and his birth family are completely dissolved. A new legal bond of filiation is created between the child and his adoptive parents.

Cost of an adoption

- The total cost of an adoption for a couple is about \$35,000 - \$40,000 CAD.
- These fees include costs incurred in Canada and in Honduras, namely the opening of the file, registration and translation fees, medical reports and legal fees, consular fees, salaries and overhead in Canada and in Honduras. Costs related to the homestudy, travel, accommodation, interpretation and immigration are also included in this amount, but are paid directly to the service provider and not to TDHO, and depend on the preferences of adoptive parents.

DOSSIER REQUIREMENTS

Adoptive applicants prepare their dossier with the help of TDHO, obtaining all the documents required by the foreign authorities responsible for the adoption. Following this, the program coordinator will proceed with a verification of the documents constituting the dossier and TDHO will be responsible for their notarization, and see to their translation. After obtaining the notarization, the dossier is sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa and then the Honduran Consulate for authentication. Following this, it can be sent to our legal representative in Honduras, who will register the dossier at the Department of Adoption (IHNFA) after legalizing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tegucigalpa.

The following documents constitute the dossier:

- The original of the homestudy with the Letter of Approval from the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services.
- License of the approved adoption practitioner.
- The original of a psychological evaluation (including personality test and MMPI test results).
- Copy of the birth certificate of each member of the couple, and their children if applicable.
- Copy of the marriage certificate.
- Original of the medical certificate (this form will be provided by TDHO).
- Original of the police clearance.
- Original certificate of property.
- Three letters of reference from community, governmental, or religious authorities.
- Two recent color photographs of the adoptive parents, as well as of the rest of the family and of the house, both interior and exterior (2 sets of pictures).
- A photocopy of the passport of the parents.
- Adoption application (this form will be provided by TDHO) completed in Spanish and signed.

- An employer's letter.
- A letter from the bank.
- A power of attorney in the name of the agency's legal representative in Honduras (this form will be provided by TDHO).

CHILD PROPOSAL

Child proposals are made by the Assignments Committee, which consists of: the President of the Supreme Court of Justice or his representative, the President of the College of Attorneys of Honduras, the President of the College of Social Workers of Honduras (which alternates every six months with the President of the College of Psychologists of Honduras), the Executive Director of IHNFA, the Secretary General of IHNFA, and technical support persons if necessary. The Committee does not have regular dates for its meetings.

The legal representative of the family is notified of the assignment of a child by a certification, accompanied by a copy of the child dossier, which includes: a photo of the child, a social study, psychological (depending on the child's age) and medical evaluations, as well as the birth certificate of the child. We receive the proposal documents in Spanish and send them for translation. Please be advised that sometimes the translation takes more than 10 days.

Once notified of a child, the family will have ten days to accept or refuse the child.

ADOPTION PROCESS

Two trips are required to complete an adoption in Honduras. The first trip takes one week and the second trip usually takes 6-7 weeks. Both adoptive applicants have to be present for each trip.

Once the proposal is accepted, TDHO will provide the prospective adoptive family with a letter of acceptance to be deposited at the Department of Adoptions in Honduras. Two to three weeks later, the prospective adoptive family will be expected to travel to Honduras for a one-week period.

During the first trip to Honduras, the Department of Adoptions will schedule the following for the adoptive applicant(s):

- Interviews with a psychologist and a social worker.
- A meeting with the child. The parents will have the option to:
 - a) stay in the country with a temporary permit to take charge of the child until the process of adoption is finished, or
 - b) return to Canada without the child to wait for the second trip during which time the adoption will be finalized and they may return with their child.

Usually it takes about 4 months for the Court papers to be ready. Once this happens, the director of the adoption department schedules a meeting to sign the Court papers.

Adoptive parents can request a new birth certificate and then the Honduran passport after the following documents have already been completed:

- Confidential report of the recommendation by DINAF.
- Publication notice of the adoption.
- Attestation of the official giving of the child for adoption.
- Registration of the adoption in the public registry.

The Canadian facilitation allowing the child to return to Canada will be done in Mexico.

In order to come back to Canada, you must take a direct flight from either Guatemala, Mexico or Costa Rica without stopping in the U.S. The child travelling with a Honduran passport is not permitted to travel to the United States even though on transit because Honduran citizens require a visa to enter the U.S.

POST-ADOPTION REPORTING

Progress reports are an essential step in the adoption process that provides the foreign authorities with the assurance of the child's positive integration into his/her new family. Honduras requires progress reports four times during the first year following the adoption, two times during the second year, and then once a year until the child reaches the age of 18. The reports are prepared by the parents, and must include a minimum of four photos with each report. The forms and the guidelines for completing the progress report are provided to the adoptive parents by the agency after they return to Canada with their child.