

# INFORMATION PACKAGE



## THE CHILDREN'S BRIDGE

TEL: (613) 226-2112  
INFO@CHILDRENSBRIDGE.COM  
WWW.CHILDRENSBRIDGE.COM

**MARCH 2021**

# THE CHILDREN'S BRIDGE ORGANIZATION

The Children's Bridge is a non-profit international adoption agency that was federally incorporated in 1994. To date the organization has assisted over 4,500 families to successfully adopt children internationally.

The Children's Bridge takes its ethical practice very seriously. Our organizational goal is to provide adoption services with a mission to work in the best interest of the children we serve, by creating a sustainable and ethical adoption practice.

The Children's Bridge organization has widespread knowledge of provincial legislation and adoption procedures. As well, the agency has facilitated adoptions for families in all provinces across Canada, except for Quebec. It has the expertise to help Canadian families, in and outside of Canada, to adopt internationally.

In considering the addition of a child to a family through adoption, several decisions must be made. The first, and most obvious, is if adoption is right for your family. Discussion with other adoptive families, professionals and adoption agencies as well as personal research should help in this task.

Once a family has made the crucial decision to adopt, the next steps are: completing the intake process with the Program Manager, arranging for the completion of a home study and completion of an adoption file in province and of an adoption dossier to be sent overseas.

This detailed information package is designed to help families determine the best options for them.

## The Children's Bridge Team

Our team include adoptive parents, adoptees and parents. For a complete listing of staff including Program Managers, please visit our website at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com).

The Children's Bridge receives its legal counsel from CCY Family Law in Ottawa.

## Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteer parents who have adopted children through The Children's Bridge or adoptees. The Board of Directors provides The Children's Bridge with a solid business framework as well as managerial expertise that ensures the highest standard of adoption programs.

## SELECTION OF AN ADOPTION AGENCY

With few exceptions, Canadian families who undertake an adoption from another country must work through an adoption organization/agency. The Children's Bridge is committed to providing our families with quality service focusing upon meeting their needs at every stage of the process.

Given the very nature of international adoption, it is absolutely essential that you receive a high level of support and quality service from the agency that you choose. Adoption agencies vary greatly in the number, availability and quality of pre and post adoption services that are offered. Each family has its own individual needs and it is important that the agency you choose meets these needs during the adoption process and throughout your child's life.

The agency assists you with paperwork, travel arrangements and, more importantly, pre and post adoption support services. There are significant differences in the process and facilitation of international adoptions that have an impact on how smoothly and efficiently your adoption proceeds. We encourage families to explore each adoption agency carefully.

## Experience, Credentials and Support Services

We recommend that you explore the levels of staffing in the agency, availability of help and support before, during and after your adoption, the experience of the agency in terms of number of adoptions completed and the potential for interaction with other families past and present.

## Adoption Logistics

It is important that you are clear on anticipated costs as well as how the agency manages its resources. Check timelines for your chosen program and keep in mind that timelines do not vary by agency, but by program. It is also wise to check on the agency's legal, cultural and support services.

## Travel

The arrangements made for you to receive your child are crucial. Please investigate all aspects of this part of the process including information you receive on the child, preparation for the trip, accommodation, costs and in-country support services. For most of our programs, The Children's Bridge chooses to use the expertise of skilled adoption travel guides and in-country professionals.

## **PRE AND POST ADOPTION SERVICES**

The Children's Bridge is committed to providing quality pre and post adoption services that are focused on assisting families throughout the entire adoption process. These services range from helping you choose a program to providing post-adoption services for your family after the adoption is completed. The following are some of the support services currently offered at various locations throughout Canada:

*Information Sessions* – designed to address specific questions or concerns regarding the adoption process. These detailed sessions are organized in a presentation format with a question period and are intended to help you assess the agency's services and decide on the most appropriate program for you. We also offer country specific sessions.

*Family Gatherings, Playgroups, Kids and Teens Clubs* – offered to provide an opportunity for children to get together in a child friendly environment and interact with other children whose families are similar to their own. They also allow adoptive parents to network with other families and share information and stories. For prospective adoptive parents, these events are a great chance to meet and learn from the experiences of other families who have adopted using The Children's Bridge.

*Guest Speakers and Special Events* – The Children's Bridge endeavours to hold several special events each year at various locations. These events include:

### Networking, Picnics and Special Events:

What Your Family and Friends Need to Know about Adoption

Playgroups

### Educational Seminars/Conferences:

Social Justice and Allyship

Circle of Security Parenting

Adoption/Adoptee Panel

Keynote Speakers

Homeland Visits

Kids Like Me Workshop (children aged 6 – 12)

*On-line Services* - The Children's Bridge has an excellent website ([www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com)) that contains detailed information on programs as well as dates and information on upcoming events and information sessions.

*After Hours Consultation Service* - If a family requests an in-take outside of the Program Manager's posted working hours, an after-hours fee of \$75.00/hour will be charged. A minimum appointment time of one hour applies and will be accrued for every 30 minutes after the first hour. This fee is to be paid by cheque and mailed to The Children's Bridge office. Contact your Program Manager to book an appointment.

*Information Services* - The Children's Bridge is pleased to provide our clients with comprehensive information kits and workshops to help guide you through the adoption process. Some of the information we provide includes:

- **Adoption Package** - Upon completion of the in-take process and acceptance into a program, along with the Retainer agreement, we will send you a detailed package about the country that you have chosen. This package includes all of the documentation necessary to compile your adoption dossier, a cost breakdown as well as references to resource materials.
- **AdopTALK – An Adoption Parenting Workshop** – This is a mandatory workshop that all first-time applicants **MUST** attend, in person (if applicable) or via Zoom, in either Toronto, Ontario or Ottawa, Ontario. Designed to prepare adoptive parents to manage the challenges of becoming first time adoptive parents and to increase their ability to parent proactively and positively, this workshop will include the following components: The First Year – Putting the Pieces Together, Health Matters, Early Trauma and Neuro-development, Transracial and Transcultural Issues in Adoptive Families, Talking to Your Child about Adoption and Trip Preparation.
- **Immigration Information** – Once your adoption dossier has been completed and submitted to your country of choice, you will receive instructions on how to complete the immigration portion of the adoption.
- **Travel Guide** – This is a detailed guide outlining the travel portion of the adoption process. Information ranging from costs, accommodations and detailed itineraries to restaurant and shopping recommendations are contained in this package.

## THE HOME STUDY

No matter where a family lives in Canada, or from where they adopt, locally or internationally, a home study is required. The home study will follow the S.A.F.E. (Structured Analysis Family Evaluation) format.

A home study consists of a series of interviews (4-5 sessions), a written report by an Adoption Practitioner (social worker) and supporting documentation such as references, police checks and medical reports. Your Practitioner will advise you of all required paperwork, usually at your first meeting. He/she will meet with you a minimum of four times with at least one visit taking place in your home (in most provinces). While it may feel a bit intrusive, the home study is not a process to fear. The Practitioner's primary role is to inform and educate you about adoption.

In Ontario (and some other provinces) families must also complete PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information Development and Education) training as part of the home study. Some provinces also have other adoption training requirements. Please check with your provincial authority for their particular requirements.

Visit <http://www.adoptontario.ca/home> for a complete listing of upcoming PRIDE workshops in Ontario or contact your local provincial government for a schedule. As well, PRIDE is now offered on-line through OACAS.

Arranging a home study varies from one province to another. In Ontario you can begin with the agency or with an approved Adoption Practitioner (there is a link on our website of approved Practitioners). In most other provinces begin by contacting your provincial adoption authority listed below.

Upon completion of the home study, the Practitioner will forward the report (in Ontario, the completed report is forwarded to the agency for review and then on to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for their approval. This approval process takes anywhere from a week in some provinces to 16 weeks in others (this timeline

is an approximation only).

There is a fee charged for the home study. Clarify costs and to whom monies are owed at the outset of the home study. This too varies from one jurisdiction to another.

## PROVINCIAL CONTACTS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

**Alberta** Community and Social Services

<https://www.alberta.ca/ministry-childrens-services.aspx>

**N.W.T.** Adoption Coordinator

<https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/adoption>

**British Columbia**, Ministry of Children & Family Development

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events>

**Ontario** Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services

<https://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/>

**Nova Scotia**, Department of Community Services

<https://novascotia.ca/coms/families/index.html>

**Manitoba** Child and Family Services

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/adoption.html>

**Newfoundland/Labrador** Department of Child, Youth and Family Services

<https://www.cssd.gov.nl.ca/adoption/index.html>

**Prince Edward Island**, Department of Community and Social Services

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/adoption>

Government of **New Brunswick**

[https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social\\_development/adoption.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social_development/adoption.html)

Government of **Saskatchewan**, Adoption Services

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/directory?ou=9febab46-a7c0-48a6-8623-8d3ec9b19a4d>

## INTAKE

**Before** being accepted into a program, prospective adoptive applicants are first required to complete the intake process with the relevant Program Manager.

To begin the intake process:

- Ensure you meet the requirements of the country you are planning to adopt from. All requirements are listed in this package.
- Complete the Intake Application (including Consent to Exchange document) and Membership (provided to you by the Program Manager) and pay the relevant fees.
- Contact the Program Manager to schedule your intake appointment.

The intake meeting will touch on motivation to adopt, applicant's skills and education, race and culture, potential health issues and attachment and trauma. This is also an opportunity for applicants to ask their questions about the agency, process or program.

If applying to adopt as a couple, **BOTH** applicants must take part in the entire intake appointment that will take approximately 60- 90 minutes. It is preferable to meet in person but if that is not possible, Skype, Zoom or connecting via telephone are other options.

## IMPORTANT ITEMS TO CONSIDER

1. How similar is your family's race and culture to the child you hope to adopt?
2. Does the city or town you live in have a sizable population of families from the country your child will be adopted from? If not, do you have a plan for connecting your adopted child in authentic ways to their birth culture?
3. Do you currently live in a racially diverse area or neighbourhood, or live within driving distance of a more racially diverse area?
4. Does the country you are considering have a strong religious faith (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, etc.) and will you continue this faith with your child?
5. Will you be happy to travel back to your child's country of birth as he or she grows up?
6. What cultural mirroring do you have in your family and/or community?
7. Do you have family/friend connections to your child's birth culture?
8. Does your family speak your child's language?

# PROGRAMS

The Children's Bridge is pleased to offer you information on the programs that we are currently licensed to facilitate adoptions from.

Please review the outline of each of the programs on the following pages to determine the country that best suits your situation and family. You may want to refer to the chart "Countries at a Glance" (in this package) for further consideration.

As well, we suggest you check out our website, [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com) regularly for updates on existing programs and information on exciting new programs.

## NEW COUNTRY LICENSE APPLICATIONS

The Children's Bridge researches new possible international adoption programs and once a license is completed, new programs will be announced on our web site.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Health issues** must be researched as the health of the children cannot be guaranteed in any of our adoption programs. All of our families are required to attend our AdopTALK parenting series that includes a workshop on health issues. Potential health issues that are covered and that you should also research include: malnourishment, effects of institutionalization, Hepatitis, HIV, developmental delays, learning disabilities, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, physical and sexual abuse and sleep and emotional issues. Health information provided in a proposal is a snapshot of the child's health at that time and can change. Based on the age of a child, some health issues cannot yet be determined.

**Timelines** – Every program has a different timeline – be prepared for a minimum of 2 years. Timelines can change at any time and those in this package are estimates only.

**Callback Lists** – Some countries only allow us to submit a specific number of files each year. If this number has been met, the Program Manager may choose to keep a callback list.

To maintain a position on a list you need to:

- Contact Program Manager to obtain a position on a list
- Have an active CB membership
- Pay an annual fee of \$100 plus tax for each list you are on

**Concurrent adoptions.** Few provinces will allow two international adoptions to be completed simultaneously. Check with your provincial ministry for further information.

**Placement of Children** – Every provincial ministry has a guideline on the ages and placement of children (i.e., your birth child is 12 months old and you are expecting a referral). Please check with your ministry prior to proceeding with an adoption if you are unsure of these guidelines. The Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services require that there be **18 months** difference in the ages **AND** placement of children in the home.

**Fostering while in the process** to adopt is generally acceptable by most provincial ministries and some countries. Families should speak with their provincial coordinator **and** their Program Manager **BEFORE** proceeding with the foster care program.

**Second Adoptions:** If you are adopting for a second time, you must ensure that the placement guidelines are followed and the new child to be adopted does not disrupt birth order. In Ontario, you can apply 9 months after coming home with your first child.

**Requirements** listed for each country are established by the individual countries and are not those of provincial Ministries or The Children's Bridge. All requirements must be met or a file cannot be submitted. Please contact the Program Manager of the program you are interested in **prior to proceeding** with any program to schedule your intake meeting, obtain updated information, costs and a current timeline.

**Hold Policy:** After consultation with The Children's Bridge and providing written notice, a family may choose to place their adoption file on hold with The Children's Bridge. The maximum amount of time a file can be placed on hold is 12 months (situation dependent and upon consultation with and approval from the Program Manager). A family may wish to put their file on hold for many reasons (i.e., pregnancy, change in family circumstance, financial, etc.).

If a file is already in country, it is likely that the file will have to be withdrawn and applicants re-apply if they choose.

The administration fee will apply when a file is on hold.



# U.S.A. ADOPTION PROGRAM

## HEARTSENT ADOPTIONS, INC. (HAI)

*Program Manager:* Darlene Catton, 905-836-6776  
E-mail: [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)

### General Information:

- The Children's Bridge is working in partnership with Heartsent Adoptions, Inc. (HAI) that is based in Orinda, California. HAI works with other local agencies in other states and applicant(s) will have an opportunity to choose one of the supervised agencies in other states.
- Adoptive family is chosen by an expectant mother/father who wishes to make an adoption plan for their child.
- The child's ethnic background is varied depending on which local agency/state your profile will be presented.
- Families **must** be open to accepting a child of any racial background.
- Infants are placed with adoptive family approximately 10 – 14 days following the birth. If the expectant mother wishes, you may travel to the state before the labour at your own risk.
- Adoption is finalized in the local state approximately 6 months after placement. In most cases, family does not need to travel to the state for finalization but must be present for the hearing by phone.
- Children will maintain dual citizenship and annual tax returns must be filed annually by the family on behalf of the child.
- Applicants will complete a comprehensive checklist outlining various situations they are open to (i.e. some in-utero exposure to drugs/alcohol, familial history of mental illness, unknow birth father, etc.).
  - In many situations, the adoptive family will have the opportunity to meet the birth mother/father during their trip to the local state.
- 3 post-placement reports completed by an Adoption Practitioner are required during the first 90 days home in order to finalize the adoption.
- Children will reside in an interim foster home until placement occurs with the adoptive family unless placed with the adoptive family at birth.

### Requirements:

- This program is not open to **residents of BC, Alberta or Quebec**.
- This program is open to same-sex and heterosexual married and common-law couples, as well as single applicants.
- Applicants must be open to a child of any race and/or ethnicity.
- At least one applicant **MUST** be a Canadian citizen.
- Family must possess a stable financial portfolio. Please note that the total cost for most adoptions from the USA will be from \$110,000CAD and up.
- Applicants must live in an area where they can provide racial mirrors for their child and have access to cultural and racial diversity in their everyday life and communities.
- Applicants must be in sound physical and emotional health. Adoptive applicants must be free of major mental illness such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Applicants must be open, at a minimum, to a semi-open adoption. A semi-open adoption refers to an adoption in which letters and pictures will be exchanged (through the agency) and available to birth family until the child has reached the age of 18.
- Prospective applicants must be free from criminal record. You will NOT be eligible if you have a history of arrest by a law enforcement or charged with a criminal offence. This includes a child welfare record check (i.e. Children's Aid Society).

## Process:

- Complete an intake interview with Program Manager.
- Submit retainer agreement and HAI's application form.
- Completion of home study, PRIDE training and approval in province.
- Compile dossier and family profile booklets.
- Once home study approval is received and dossier has been compiled, documents will be submitted to HAI.
- Match received and reviewed.
- Baby is born and referral documents received.
- Family travels to the local state.

## Timelines:

- Completion of home study (average time 3 – 6 months).
- Approval in province varies from 4 – 16 weeks.
- Processing of adoption dossier (Canada and USA) averages 4 – 6 weeks.
- Wait for proposal approximately 9 – 18 months.
- Travel to local state approximately 10 – 14 days after birth (unless prior agreement has been reached).
- One trip of 7 – 14 days is required.

# ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS – USA - HEARTSENT

1. Retainer Fee \$5,085.00CAD (tax included)
2. Adoption Facilitation Fee \$15,836.90CAD (tax included)
3. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,600CAD plus tax will be invoiced.)

\*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

## HEARTSENT FEES/3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES (USD) (MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDER FEES WHICH VARY)

Adoption Application/Dossier Review	\$ 500.00USD
Program Fee	10,500.00USD
Administration Fee	500.00USD
Monitoring & Oversight Fee (IAAME)	500.00USD
Match/Birth Parent Coordination Supervision	5,000.00USD
Post Placement Services	1,800.00USD
Third Party Fees	27,500.00USD
Birth Mother Living Expenses	5,000.00 - \$10,000.00USD
Court/Finalization Fees	6,000.00USD
Consent/Relinquishment	3,000.00 - \$5,000.00USD

## 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker – Home Study (fees fluctuate)	\$3,000.00CAD
Adoption Practitioner Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate)	1,500.00CAD
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00CAD
Police Clearances (Interpol, local)	150.00CAD
Airfare return (Approx. cost for 2 adults and 1 child)	2,500.00CAD
In-country travel and misc. fees	3,000.00CAD

**Please note:** There may be other costs that will vary. All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the current rate at the time they are due.

# FEE SCHEDULE – USA - HEARTSENT

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES)

To pay some fees securely, on-line with your VISA, MasterCard or via e-transfer, proceed to the member's section of the website at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com). Please note an additional credit card fee (Moneris) will be added to your total at time of check-out if paying by credit card.

	Fee	Due Date	Payment Method
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
HAI Application Fee	\$500USD	Submitted with application.	VISA, MasterCard, US Bank Draft, wire or money order payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
*Administration Fee, Program and Monitoring & Oversight (IAAME) Fee	\$11,500USD	Sent with completed country dossier.	VISA, MasterCard, US Bank Draft, Wire or money order payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
*3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Service Provider (estimated fee)	\$16,700USD	As above.	As above.
*Match/Birth Coordination Supervision and Post Placement Services	\$6,800USD	Payable upon acceptance of proposed match.	As above.
*3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Case Management Services (estimate)	\$10,750.00USD	Payable upon acceptance of proposed match.	As above.
*Birth Mother Expenses (estimate)	\$5,000 - \$10,000USD	Payable upon acceptance of proposed match.	As above.
*Misc. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Fees	\$3,000 - \$5,000USD	Due upon acceptance of proposed match.	As above.
*Court/Finalization Fees	\$6,000USD	Due at placement	As above.
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,600CAD plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until completion of adoption process. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to " <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> ".

\*Fees related to Heartsent.

**Please Note:** As fees charged by third-party supervised providers will vary according to provider, state and the individual match, these fees may not all be included in this retainer agreement, but will be provided to your family once a provider has been selected at time of initial consultation with Heartsent. All fees will be paid to *The Children's Bridge in Trust* for third-party Supervised Providers.

# HIV + KIDS ADOPTION PROGRAM

*Program Manager:* Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, 613-226-2814  
E-mail: [karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

## General Information:

- The HIV+ Kids Adoption Program is run in conjunction with many of the adoption programs The Children's Bridge facilitates adoptions from. Some of these programs include (but are not limited to): India, Florida and Zambia.
- Families in process to adopt an HIV+ child from other Canadian adoption agencies can also access the supports and resources the HIV+ Kids Program offers for a small one-time fee.

## Considerations:

- Some countries have less stringent requirements if the adoptive families are open to special needs – check with the Adoption Program Manager of the country you hope to adopt from to see if this applies to your situation.
- Families must live within driving distance, or be willing to make frequent trips to a major centre that offers specialized pediatric HIV/AIDS care and support
- Many private drug benefit companies cover ARV's and other necessary care. Other resources on provincial drug benefit programs can be found at: [http://www.drugcoverage.ca/p\\_benefit\\_on.asp#1](http://www.drugcoverage.ca/p_benefit_on.asp#1)

## Programs:

- **India** – all ages of children living with HIV are waiting for families - some program requirements may be waived. Please contact Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar for more information.

## Supports:

- Lending Library – Members have access to resources stocked in The Children's Bridge Lending Library such as books and articles on issues such as: Pediatric HIV treatment and care, Disclosure and Confidentiality, Childcare and HIV, etc. For a complete list of resources on HIV please email Karyn.
- Mentoring Program – This mentoring program is currently under development but aims to link families who are already parenting children living with HIV with those who are in the process.
- Access to educational courses and online support forums

## Process:

- Attend a Children's Bridge Information Session (<http://www.childrensbridge.com>)
- Become a Member of The Children's Bridge;
- Request a copy of the HIV+ Kids Adoption program Booklet
- Choose a country program that you would like to adopt from and that you meet all of the requirements for.
- Read, research and make connections! If you would like more information or additional resources regarding adopting a child who is living with HIV, please contact the HIV Program Manager.
- Set up a time for your intake. All families considering adopting a child with special needs must first set-up a screening appointment with the HIV Adoption Program Manager as well as the Program Manager from the country from which they wish to adopt. The purpose of this phone call is to:

- To discuss the implications of adopting a child with special needs;
- To ensure adoption, and more specifically special needs adoption, will be a good fit for your family;

- 🔗 To provide you with additional resources and information you may require before choosing to proceed;
- 🔗 To begin the screening process, you must hold a current Children’s Bridge membership;
- 🔗 Ensure you meet the requirements for the country from which you hope to adopt, Canadian citizenship and immigration, as well as requirements your province of residence has for prospective adoptive parents;
- 🔗 Receive and read the required reading and make an appointment for your screening appointment/conference call;

If you are adopting as a couple, **BOTH** members of the couple must take part in the entire screening process. The phone call will take approximately 20-30 minutes. If you are in the Ottawa area, and in person appointment is highly recommended.

Please note: This appointment is for a **screening appointment only**. We will not be able to provide retainers, nor guarantee you a spot in the adoption program of your choice at the time of your call or visit.

### Basic Information about HIV and adoption

- 📌 “HIV” stands for “Human Immunodeficiency Virus”. HIV is a virus that attacks healthy immune system cells, because it needs cells of a living (human) organism to reproduce.
- 📌 HIV is **not** transmitted through sweat, tears, nasal mucous, saliva, feces, urine, shaking hands, kissing, insect bites, sharing cups, utensils, plates or food.
- 📌 HIV **is** transmitted through sexual fluids, blood and breast milk.
- 📌 The common cold virus can survive outside the body for **up to 72 hours**. The HIV virus can survive outside the body **for minutes**, or at the very most in a controlled laboratory setting, for up to two hours.
- 📌 From clinical experience up until this point, the average lifespan of a North American child who is HIV+ and is on antiretroviral medication (ARV’s) is roughly the same as an uninfected child/adult in North America.
- 📌 Children living with HIV can be adopted through many of our adoption programs.
- 📌 Most of the adoption process does not change, although your home study will need to specify your openness to HIV.
- 📌 Adoptive families who are considering adopting a child living with HIV should research the following issues:
  - Disclosure
  - Anti-retrovirals (ARV’s) and pediatric HIV care
  - Health care and drug coverage
  - Stigma and discrimination

If you would like more information or additional resources regarding adopting a child who is living with HIV, please contact the HIV Program Manager, Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, at

[karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) .

# INDIA

*Adoption Program Manager:* Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, 613-226-2814  
Email: [Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

*Adoption Program Assistant:* Lenore Cork-Lemay, 613-226-2112  
Email: [Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com)

## General Information:

- Program opened in 2005.
- Open to residents in all provinces except Quebec.
- Open to those of Indian descent, overseas citizens of India and also non-Indians.

## Considerations:

- Both parents are required to complete one trip of approximately 2 weeks. Some provinces require two trips (e.g. Hyderabad).
- Children in need of families due to poverty and single parenthood.
- Majority of the children reside in orphanages with voluntary and professional staff.
- Both boys and girls are waiting for families
- Children range in age from 18 months (and up) at time of referral.
- Older children are also waiting for families.
- Sibling groups are available for adoption and applicants must be open to children up to age 8 (minimum).
- Family cannot specify sex unless in exceptional circumstances. Please consult with Program Manager.
- Brief child study and medical report are provided.

## Requirements:

- Single men or women are eligible to adopt and must be over 30 and under 45 to adopt a child under 4 years of age. If under age 50, applicant can adopt a child 4 – 8 years of age, an applicant under age 55 can adopt a child over 8 years of age.
- A single, unmarried male can only adopt a male child.
- The minimum age difference between the child and either of the prospective adoptive parents should not be less than 25 years.
- Adoptive parent's composite age should be less than 90 years to adopt a child under 4 years of age, less than 100 years to adopt a child 4 - 8 years of age and less than 110 to adopt a child over 8 years of age.
- Married couples must have a minimum two years stable marital relationship (no common-law).
- Families must maintain an adequate financial portfolio to provide a good upbringing for the child.
- Applicants should be physically, mentally and emotionally stable; financially capable; motivated to adopt a child; and should not have any life-threatening medical condition.
- Both applicants must be free from criminal record.
- Couples with three or more children in the home already are only eligible to adopt a child with special needs.

## Process:

- All prospective adoptive families must first complete an intake appointment (in-person or via telephone) with the India Program Manager before undertaking an adoption from India.
- Completion of a home study and approval in province.
- Complete dossier, including India specific home study.



# INDIA CONTINUED

- File notarized by The Children's Bridge then sent to Canadian Foreign Affairs and the India High Commission for authentication and legalization.
- Completed dossier is sent to the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) in Delhi who review and approve it.
- Following approval, CARA will assign the family's dossier to a specific orphanage. Families and The Children's Bridge have no influence on which province or orphanage a dossier is sent to by CARA
- Child's referral comes to The Children's Bridge who will contact the family.
- Family consults with Adoption Practitioner and physician and is requested to accept the proposed referral within 4 days.
- Court hearings usually take place 4 to 6 months after acceptance documents are sent back to India.
- Both parents are required to travel to India following the court process (after the issuance of all travel documents and IRCC approval) which is approximately 6 – 10 months following the receipt of a child proposal.
- Post placement reports are required for 2 years after the adoption is complete (at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months) with Adoption Practitioner.

## Timelines:

- Home study completion varies (average time 3 – 6 months).
- Approval in province takes between 4 and 16 weeks.
- Timelines for in-country process are inconsistent.
  - Most families will be matched within 12 – 24 months following CARA approval.
  - Timeline varies depending on openness to age range, sex, etc.
- After accepting a proposal, court finalization takes place within approximately 4 – 6 months
- Family travels to India approximately 2 – 4 months after the final court hearing.
- Stay in India is approximately 2 weeks.

The above timelines are an estimate only and many factors will impact this timeline. Every family's timeline will be unique.

# ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS - INDIA

1. Retainer Fee	\$5,085.00CAD (tax included)
2. Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD (tax included)
3. Dossier Processing Fee	\$565.00CAD (tax included)
4. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,600CAD plus tax will be invoiced.)	

\*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

## INDIA FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY - USD)

Coordinators Disbursements	\$2,000.00
In-country adoption fees	5,000.00
In-country travel and accommodation	1,600.00

For conversion to Canadian dollars go to [www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi](http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi)

## 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker – Home Study (fees fluctuate across Canada)	\$3,000.00
Adoption Practitioner Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate)	1,700.00
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00
Police Clearances (Interpol, local)	150.00
Travel Visas (for 2 adults)	200.00
Airfare return (Approx. cost based on 2 adults and 1 child)	4,000.00

**Please note:** There may be other costs that will vary. All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the current rate at the time they are due.

## FEE SCHEDULE – INDIA

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL INDIA OR ALL 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES)

To pay some fees securely, on-line with your VISA, MasterCard or via e-transfer, proceed to the member's section of the website at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com). An additional credit card fee (Moneris) will be added to your total at time of check-out if paying via credit card.

	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Payment Method</b>
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Dossier Processing Fee	\$565.00CAD tax included	As above.	As above.
Coordinators Disbursements	\$2,000USD	As above.	Certified cheque or money order in USD payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
In-country adoption fees	\$5,000USD	Submitted with accepted child proposal.	Certified cheque or money order in USD payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,600CAD plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until completion of adoption process. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .

# INDIA WAITING CHILDREN PROGRAM

*Adoption Program Manager:* Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, 613-226-2814

Email: [Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

*Adoption Program Assistant:* Lenore Cork-Lemay, 613-226-2112

Email: [Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com)

## General Information:

- Program opened in 2005.
- Open to all provinces except Quebec.
- Open to those of Indian descent, overseas citizens of India and also non-Indians.
- Applicants should be open to a child of either sex and also a child 18 months and up at time of referral.
- As well as special medical needs, families who are open to healthy, older children (7+ years) and/or a sibling group will be processed through the Waiting Children program.
- Applicants who want to adopt siblings must be open to children up to age 8 (minimum).
- Common special needs include (but are not limited to):
  - HIV, Hepatitis B or C, hearing impairment, visual impairment, missing limbs, ambiguous genitalia, development delays, achondroplasia (Dwarfism), facial and/or limb deformities.

## Considerations:

- Both parents are required to complete either one trip of approximately 2 weeks. Some provinces require two trips (e.g. Hyderabad).
- Children in need of families due to poverty and single parenthood.
- Majority of the children reside in orphanages with voluntary and professional staff.
- Both boys and girls are waiting for families
- Children range in age from 18 months (and up) at time of referral.
- Older children are also waiting for families.
- Applicants who want to adopt siblings must be open to children up to age 8 (minimum).
- Brief child study and medical report are provided.

## Requirements:

- Single men or women are eligible to adopt and must be over 30 and under 45 to adopt a child under 4 years of age. If under age 50, applicant can adopt a child 4 – 8 years of age, an applicant under age 55, can adopt a child over 8 years of age.
- A single, unmarried male can only adopt a male child.
- The minimum age difference between the child and either of the prospective adoptive parents should not be less than 25 years.
- Adoptive parent's composite age should be less than 90 years to adopt a child under 4 years of age, less than 100 years to adopt a child 4 - 8 years of age and less than 110 to adopt a child over 8 years of age.
- Married couples must have a minimum two years stable marital relationship (no common-law).
- Families must maintain an adequate financial portfolio to provide a good upbringing for the child.
- Applicants should be physically, mentally and emotionally stable; financially capable; motivated to adopt a child; and should not have any life-threatening medical condition.
- Both applicants must be free from criminal record.
- Couples with three or more children in the home already are only eligible to adopt a child with special needs.

# INDIA WAITING CHILDREN PROGRAM CONTINUED

## Process:

- All prospective adoptive families must first complete an in-take *Appointment* (in-person or via telephone) with the India Program Manager before undertaking an adoption from India.
- Completion of a home study and approval in province.
- Complete a Special Needs Checklist.
- Complete dossier, including India specific home study.
- File notarized by The Children's Bridge then sent to Canadian Foreign Affairs and the India High Commission for authentication and legalization.
- Dossier is uploaded by The Children's Bridge to the Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) which is the online system of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).
- Dossier is registered and approved by CARA (4 – 12 weeks).
- Matching is completed by the India Program Manager through the CARINGS online system.
- The India Program Manager will consult with the family who then consult with their Adoption Practitioner and physician.
- The family is requested to accept the proposed referral within 4 days.
- Court hearings usually take place 4 to 6 months after acceptance documents are sent back to India.
- Both parents are required to travel to India following the court process (after the issuance of all travel documents and IRCC approval) which is approximately 6 – 10 months following the receipt of a child proposal.
- Each adoption is processed slightly differently according to the court and province the adoption is finalized in.
- Post placement reports are required for 2 years after the adoption is complete (at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months) with Adoption Practitioner.

## Timelines:

- Home study completion varies (average time 3 – 6 months).
- Approval in province takes between 4 and 16 weeks.
- A family is matched with a child within 4 – 18 months after being registered with the online system CARINGS. This timeline varies greatly depending on the age range and special needs.
- After accepting a proposal, court finalization takes place within approximately 4 – 6 months
- Family travels to India approximately 2 – 4 months after the final court hearing.
- Stay in India is approximately 2 weeks.

The above timelines are an estimate only and many factors will impact this timeline. Every family's timeline will be unique.

# ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS - INDIA

## WAITING CHILDREN PROGRAM

1. Retainer Fee	\$5,085.00CAD (tax included)
2. Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD (tax included)
3. Dossier Processing Fee	\$565.00CAD (tax included)
4. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,600CAD plus tax will be invoiced.)	

\*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

### INDIA FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY - USD)

Coordinators Disbursements	\$2,000.00
In-country adoption fees	5,000.00
In-country travel and accommodation	1,600.00

For conversion to Canadian dollars go to [www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi](http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi)

### 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker – Home Study (fees fluctuate across Canada)	\$3,000.00
Adoption Practitioner Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate)	1,700.00
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00
Police Clearances (Interpol, local)	150.00
Travel Visas (for 2 adults)	200.00
Airfare return (Approx. cost based on 2 adults and 1 child)	4,000.00

**Please note:** There may be other costs that will vary. All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the current rate at the time they are due.

# FEE SCHEDULE – INDIA WAITING CHILDREN PROGRAM

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL INDIA OR ALL 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES)

To pay some fees securely, on-line with your VISA, MasterCard or via e-transfer, proceed to the member's section of the website at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com). An additional credit card fee (Moneris) will be added to your total at time of check-out if paying via credit card.

	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Payment Method</b>
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Dossier Processing Fee	\$565.00CAD tax included	As above.	As above.
Coordinators Disbursements	\$2,000USD	As above.	Certified cheque or money order in USD payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
In-country adoption fees	\$5,000USD	Submitted with accepted child proposal.	As above.
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,600CAD plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until completion of adoption process. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .

# SOUTH KOREA

*Adoption Program Manager:* Lenore Cork-Lemay, 613-226-2112  
Email: [Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com)

## General Information:

- Korea has been involved in international adoption since the 1950's.
- This program is open to ONTARIO residents only.
- Korea Welfare Services (KWS) will place a limited number of children with our agency. This quota can change each year.
- Korea will place children of mixed ethnicity, if available; however, this must be indicated in the home study and Letter of Application.

## Considerations:

- Single parenthood is a common reason that there are children waiting for families in Korea.
- The majority of the children will be up to 18 months of age at referral and up to 24 months at placement.
- After birth, children are cared for by their birthmother in hospital for one week. Children are then placed in one of the KWS Baby Reception Homes until a professional foster home is found for the child, typically at 4 to 8 months of age.
- Both boys and girls (mostly boys) are waiting for families but a family cannot specify sex.
- Comprehensive health information is provided with referral along with a history of the child and some familial information as well.
- Adoption is finalized in Korea.
- Neither Korea nor the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services will permit placement of a baby if the couple is pregnant or has a baby less than 18 months of age.
- Adoptive applicants must be willing to adopt a child with some minor and correctable medical health issues. Applicants must complete a detailed Child Medical Conditions Checklist.
- The applicants must be open to accepting some recreational alcohol or cigarette smoking in the social and medical histories understanding that we only know what the birth mother chooses to disclose.
- The applicants are aware that the child may be placed with them from foster care in Korea.
- The applicants are aware that a child presented to them in an international adoption will have a limited medical and social history and are aware of the risks inherent in this.

## Requirements:

- Adoptive applicants must be over 25 and under 45 years of age at time of child placement (please consult with Program Manager prior to proceeding if either applicant is in the 41 – 42 age range). We cannot accept applications if the applicants are 43+ years of age.
- If both applicants are of Korean background, one is a Korean adoptee OR they have already completed an adoption from Korea, they can be under 50 years of age at time of child placement. We cannot accept applications if the applicants are 48+ years of age. Consult Program Manager if either applicant is 48+ years of age.
- Must be married for a minimum of 3 years. NO single applicants or same sex couples accepted.
- Must have a minimum of high school education and no more than 4 children in the home.
- ONE divorce permitted for each applicant.
- At least one of a couple MUST be a Canadian citizen.
- Must have completed psychological testing before home study is complete as your Adoption Practitioner will require the results to finish his/her report.
- Second time adopters (from Korea) are required to complete psychological testing if it wasn't done for their first adoption.
- Cannot be notably overweight (Body Mass Index (BMI) cannot exceed 30. Go to [www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi](http://www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi) to calculate your BMI.).



# SOUTH KOREA CONTINUED

## Requirements:

- Cannot have more than one child from a country other than South Korea. Children in the home should be physically and emotionally healthy.
- Cannot have history of serious medical condition, chronic illnesses, infectious or degenerative diseases, seizure disorder or severe physical disabilities or deformities. No history of mental health diagnosis or treatment with or without psychotropic medications, or history of counselling at any time.
- Chronic treatable medical issues may be considered on an individual basis. Stable and mild conditions, such as: migraines, allergies, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, asthma, and benign heart conditions where no treatment is recommended may be allowed (please contact Program Manager if clarification is required).
- No arrest history.
- Applicants' combined family income must be over \$50,000 gross annually. This may be reviewed by KWS if there are currently children in the home and the gross income is close to \$50,000 annually.
- South Korea is conservative in terms of racial and religious diversity. If your family has a diverse composition, please contact us to determine if the Korea program will be an option for your family.

## Process:

- Complete an intake interview with the Program Manager.
- Completion of a home study (including PRIDE) and approval in Ontario.
- File sent to Korea and proposal received by The Children's Bridge.
- Paperwork can be no more than 6 months old from the date on the paperwork when sent to Korea.
- Two trips required. First trip for court appearance and **both adoptive parents must attend**.
- Child's travel visa will be issued once the adoption is finalized and confirmed (approx. 6 – 8 weeks after court appearance).
- Second trip after visa/ready to travel is issued and only one parent must travel.
- Family must apply for child's Canadian citizenship as soon as they arrive back in Canada with their child's Adoption Order. Family will send The Children's Bridge a copy of the Canadian citizenship certificate so that the adoption file can be closed in Korea.
- Four post placement reports required (over 12 months) including 3 home visits with the Adoption Practitioner.

## Timelines:

- Home study completion varies (average time 3 – 4 months).
- Approval in Ontario takes between 4 and 16 weeks.
- Receipt of referral takes anywhere from 3 - 10 months.
- Emigration Permission and adoption finalization in Korea can take up to 6 months after referral is accepted.
- First trip to Korea for court appearance 6 – 8 months after referral acceptance sent to Korea. Court will approve the adoption about 5 business days (estimated) after court hearing. Following this, the 2-week revocation period begins.
- Adoption finalized/Adoption Order confirmed approximately 2 weeks after revocation period is over.
- Issuance of travel notice takes 6 – 8 weeks after revocation period and the Adoption Order have been issued (providing we are within quota for the year). One parent minimum must then travel to receive their child.
- Apply for Canadian Citizenship IMMEDIATELY once you arrive in Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) can take anywhere from 6 to 24 months to process this application.

**All timelines listed above are estimates only and cannot be guaranteed.**

# ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS - SOUTH KOREA

1. Retainer Fee \$ 5,085.00CAD (tax included)
2. Adoption Facilitation Fee \$15,836.90CAD (tax included)
3. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,600CAD plus tax will be invoiced.)

\*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

**Please note:** In order to maintain a position on our callback list you must have an active Children's Bridge membership. In addition, an annual fee of \$100 plus tax will be applied.

## KOREA FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Korea Welfare Services (KWS) ( <i>payable in CAD by money order or certified cheque to The Children's Bridge who will then wire the payment to KWS</i> )	\$22,300.00CAD
Accommodation Costs (if staying at Guest House) ( <i>payable in US cash to the KWS</i> )	\$560.00USD
South Korean Family Court (fee to be set by South Korean authorities)	TBD
Central Korean Adoption Authority (fee to be set by South Korean authorities)	TBD

## 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker - Home Study (estimate only)	3,000.00
Adoption Practitioner - Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate only)	1,200.00
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00
Psychological Testing (estimate only for 2 people – insurance may cover some fees)	1,500 – 3,000
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00
Police Clearances for 2 (Interpol, R.C.M.P., local)	150.00
Airfare return – 1 <sup>st</sup> Trip (Approx. – both parents must travel)	4,000.00
Airfare return – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Trip (Approx. – 1 – 2 adults and child)	6,000.00
Hotel in Seoul (if not staying at Guest House)	\$150 - \$200/USD/night

**Please note:** There may be other costs that will vary. All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the time they are due.

# FEE SCHEDULE SOUTH KOREA

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL KOREA OR ALL 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES)

To pay some fees securely, on-line with your VISA, MasterCard or via e-transfer, proceed to the member's section of the website at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com). Please note an additional credit card fee (Moneris) will be added to your total at time of purchase if paying by credit card.

	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Payment Method</b>
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
KWS Fee	\$22,300CAD	As above.	Payable to <i>The Children's Bridge In Trust</i> by certified cheque or money order.
Korean Family Court	TBD	TBD	TBD
Central Korean Auth.	TBD	TBD	TBD
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,600 plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until completion of adoption process. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	VISA, MasterCard or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .

# THAILAND

Adoption Program Manager: Darlene Catton, 905-836-6776, Email: [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)

## General Information:

- Adoption is finalized in Thailand in conjunction with the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Vancouver.
- The Children's Bridge (Ontario families or provincial authority for other provinces) retains supervision of the child until the adoption is finalized.
- Preference is given to families with fertility issues or those with only one child.
- Both parents **must** travel to Ottawa or Toronto to complete the mandatory AdoptTALK training (or take via Zoom).
- Both parents along with their child **must travel to the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Vancouver** to complete the process.
- We work with the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the Thai Red Cross Children's Home (TRCCH) - the Program Manager will determine the particular agency a file will be sent to based on the requirements of the agency, applicant's qualifications and openings available.
- The Children's Bridge receives a quota each year from the DCY and TRCCH indicating the number of files that can be sent in a given year. Confirm quota with the Program Manager before proceeding.
- We can accept one application from a single applicant each year. Confirm with Program Manager.
- Open to all provinces except Quebec.

## Considerations:

- Trip is approximately 3 weeks in length.
- Children waiting for families due to socio-economic conditions and reside in children's homes.
- Both boys and girls are in need of families (mostly boys). Families may request sex but must be prepared for a longer wait for a girl. May request twins or siblings but this is rare.
- Older children and children with special medical needs are also waiting for families.
- Children will be approximately 16 months and up at proposal.

## Requirements:

- Minimum age 25 years and up to a maximum age of 40 (male applicant can be up to 45).
- **Couples over 40 but under 48 who are open to children over the age of 4 or with special needs may be considered for this program.**
- Couples with more than a 10-year age gap may not be eligible. Consult Program Manager.
- Families who have fertility issues should provide proof of same with a letter from their doctor.
- If adopting from the Thai Red Cross, can have no more than one child in the family already.
- No same sex or common law couples eligible.
- Must be married for a minimum of 2 years and have no more than 2 previous marriages (some exceptions).
- Families with 3 or more children in the home will **not** be considered for this program.
- Must have a minimum of high school education.
- Must be in excellent physical and emotional health – no exceptions.
- Must not be taking any prescribed medication for anxiety or depression.
- Must be 5 years cancer free.
- Cannot be notably overweight (no more than 30% of Body Mass Index (BMI)). Go to [www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi](http://www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi) to calculate your BMI.
- Sound financial position.
- One of a couple must be a Canadian citizen and have no criminal record.
- No morticians may apply.

## Process:

- Families complete the intake process by completing the forms and scheduling a time (in-person or via Zoom) with the Program Manager.

- Completion of a home study and approval in province.
- Families must compile the Thailand dossier that includes a medical and psychological assessment.
- File sent for notarization, legalization at Foreign Affairs and authentication at the Royal Thai Embassy.
- Families receive their referral approximately 2 ½ - 3 years after their file is logged in at the DCY or TRCCH – this is an estimate only – proposals can come at any time and out of order and families must be prepared.
- Both parents must travel to Thailand to complete the adoption process (including an official interview).
- Stay in Thailand is approximately 3 weeks in duration.
- Three post placement reports must be completed and sent to Thailand.
- Once all post placement reports have been received, Thailand informs family that they can attend the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Vancouver to finalize the adoption (approximately 1 year after arrival home).

#### Timelines:

- Completion of home study (average time 3 – 6 months).
- Approval in province varies from 4 – 16 weeks.
- Family submits their Thailand dossier to the Program Manager at The Children’s Bridge for processing (notarization, authentication and legalization) that takes up to 4 weeks.
- The family’s adoption dossier is then sent to the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) or the Thai Red Cross Children’s Home in Thailand (determined by the Program Manager).
- Families should begin their immigration paperwork approximately 1 ½ years after their dossier has been received in Thailand.
- Wait for referral is approximately 2 ½ - 3 years (once file is received in Thailand).
- A copy of the referral along with acceptance documents is sent to the provincial ministry who issue the appropriate documents which are then sent to Thailand.
- Families must prepare a letter of acceptance, accepting the child offered (sample letter will be supplied) which is sent to Thailand with the care package.
- Travel to Thailand occurs approximately 10 weeks (DCY) or 6 months (TRCCH) after referral acceptance.
- Timelines do fluctuate. These are estimates only.

# ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS - THAILAND

1. Retainer Fee	\$5,085.00CAD (tax included)
2. Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD (tax included)
3. In-country Services, Translations (proposal, birth certificate, house registration) and Coordinator's Disbursements	\$5,220.00CAD
4. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,600CAD plus tax will be invoiced.)	

\*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

## THAILAND FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

In-country travel and misc. fees	\$5,500.00
Child's Embassy medical, photographs, registration, etc.	250.00

## 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker – Home Study (fees fluctuate across Canada)	3,000.00
Adoption Practitioner Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate)	1,500.00
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00
Psychological Assessment (estimate)	800.00
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00
Police Clearances (Interpol, local)	150.00
Airfare return (Approx. cost for 2 adults and 1 child)	5,000.00
Royal Thai Embassy	120.00

**Please note:** There may be other costs that will vary including the cost for both parents and their child to travel to the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa for a mandatory meeting to finalize the adoption. All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the current rate at the time they are due.

# FEE SCHEDULE – THAILAND

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL OF THE THAILAND OR 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FEES)

To pay some fees securely, on-line with your VISA, MasterCard or via e-transfer, proceed to the member's section of the website at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com). Please note an additional credit card fee (Moneris) will be added to your total at time of check-out if paying by credit card.

	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Payment Method</b>
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	VISA, MasterCard, e-transfer or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
In Country Fees, Translation, Coordinators Disbursements	\$5,220.00CAD	As above.	As above.
Embassy of Thailand	\$120CAD	As above.	Money order payable to " <i>Royal Thai Embassy, Ottawa</i> ".
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,600CAD plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until completion of adoption process. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	As above.

# COUNTRIES AT A GLANCE

## FACTS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR ADOPTION PROGRAM

	<b>South Korea</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>USA - Heartsent</b>
<b>Age of Child</b>	18 – 24 months at placement	16 months and up at placement	18 months & up	0 – 14 days at time of placement
<b>Sex</b>	Mostly male (cannot specify sex)	Both boys and girls	Both boys and girls but mostly girls	Male and Female
<b>Time to Referral (approx.)</b>	3 - 10 months from time file is received in Korea.	2 ½ - 3 years	Inconsistent (within 2 years)	9 – 18 months
<b>Health Info Received with Referral</b>	Comprehensive	Limited medical	Limited	Comprehensive (child and familial)
<b>Familial History</b>	Some birth & familial history included in referral package	Some history may be included	Some history may be provided	Birth family history will be provided.
<b>Marital Status</b>	No singles – married min. 3 years.	Married min. 2 years.	Single men and women and married couples (2 years).	Single, same sex, heterosexual married and common-law couples.
<b>Trip</b>	Two trips	1 trip, approx. 3 weeks.	1 trip, 2 – 3 weeks (unless adopting from Hyderabad then 2 trips)	1 trip of 7 – 14 days
<b>*Estimated Cost</b>	\$53,000 - \$55,000CAD	\$42,000 - \$44,000CAD	\$43,000 - \$45,000CAD	\$110,000CAD and up

**\*Please note:** Estimated costs may not include some flights, meals, incidentals, etc. Please confirm all costs with Program Manager prior to submission of fees.



# NEXT STEPS

## **Review**

- ❖ Review the information provided to ensure you meet all requirements of the country you wish to adopt from.

## **Research**

- ❖ It is very important that you research possible health (physical AND emotional) conditions of adopted children, specifically from the country you are interested in. In the Member's section of our website you'll find an entire section devoted to health issues.

## **Schedule an Intake**

- ❖ The purpose of the intake is to ensure applicants meet all program requirements and assess the applicant's openness to learning and understanding adoption and to raising a child of a different race (if applicable). The intake will take approximately 1 hour and both applicants must participate. Contact the Program Manager of the program you wish to adopt from to obtain an intake application. Once submitted and reviewed, the Program Manager will contact you to schedule your intake meeting.

## **Begin Your Home Study & PRIDE Training (if applicable)**

- ❖ The first step with any adoption is to begin the home study process. A link to a complete list of approved Adoption Practitioners can be found on our website. Now is the time to enquire about PRIDE Training dates.

## **Retain the Services of an Agency**

- ❖ Prior to the completion of your home study you will need to retain the services of a licensed adoption agency. This process requires filling out the Retainer Agreement (included in the detailed adoption package) and sending it, along with the appropriate fees to The Children's Bridge.



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Tel: (613) 226-2112  
 Email: info@childrensbridge.com  
 www.childrensbridge.com

To ensure that The Children's Bridge provides you with optimal service and information, please complete this membership form in its entirety. Once you have completed this form, return it with your cheque, cash payment, or credit card information to The Children's Bridge office at the address above. If you are missing some information (i.e. Adoption Practitioner), you can still submit this form to become a member and forward us missing information when available.

Please be advised that any and all information provided in this application shall be for the exclusive and confidential use of The Children's Bridge. No information provided herein shall be released, transmitted or transferred in any way to any third party without the member's express written consent.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBER INFORMATION:

Marital Status: Married  How long? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single

	APPLICANT 1 INFORMATION	APPLICANT 2 INFORMATION
First Name:		
Last Name:		
Date of Birth:		
Address: (Courier address if P.O. Box)		
Phone # (Home):		
Phone # (Business):		
Cell Phone #:		
Email Address:		
Adoption Practitioner: (include address, phone # and e-mail address)		

## YOUR CHILDREN:

Details *(Please include all children in your family.):*

First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth

## STATUS

Please select one of the following options:

- Membership for services only or renewing member.
- Have not yet chosen our country; please contact us to discuss options.
- Have chosen country and require a detailed package for (select **one** only):
  - HIV
  - South Korea
  - India
  - India Waiting Children
  - Thailand
  - USA, Heartsent

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Subscription:  1-year membership @ \$50.00 plus tax (\$56.50)  
 3-year membership @ \$130.00 plus tax (\$146.90)

Payment Method:

E-transfer     Cash     Cheque     VISA #: \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_