

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION INFO PACKET



2024

WELCOME

Hi There!

WELCOME TO BARKER ADOPTION FOUNDATION!

Here at Barker, we truly believe that every child deserves a safe and loving family. Founded in 1945, Barker is licensed in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. For 78 years Barker has had a reputation for ethical adoption services and increasingly, we are becoming nationally known as a model agency and the place to turn to learn about how best to serve the adoption community. Barker's commitment to lifelong services is what distinguishes us and is what many refer to as "the Barker difference."

To date, Barker has placed more than 8,000 children into the welcoming arms of adoptive parents and provided counseling and related support services to more than 30,000 women and their families who are considering placing a child for adoption. Barker welcomes adoption applications from couples and individuals of all ages, all religious and ethnic backgrounds, and all sexual orientations and gender expressions.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

We provide services and support for families looking to explore adoption from any country. This includes consultations, training, and home study services

HOME STUDY

We provide services and support for families looking to explore adoption from any country. This includes consultations, training, and home study services

POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

Our dedicated team of compassionate and highly skilled social workers offers home study and post-placement services. We cater to both families adopting through Barker's placement programs and those adopting through other agencies.

BARKER'S INDIA PROGRAM

INDIA TRADITIONAL (HERITAGE) PROGRAM- OPEN TO NON-RESIDENT INDIANS (NRI) OR OVERSEAS CITIZENS OF INDIA (OCI)

The Traditional Program is open to families that include one Indian passport holder (NRI) or one Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder. In this program, families are given priority in adopting children without identified specialized needs. OCI and NRI prospective families are eligible to adopt a young child considered overall healthy, though families should note that wait times tend to be longer in this program (3+ years for children under 4). NRI and OCI families may wait in the Traditional and Waiting Child program simultaneously.

INDIA WAITING CHILD PROGRAM (NO HERITAGE REQUIREMENT)

The India Waiting Child Program is open to families of most backgrounds who are open to "Waiting Children," or children in India with moderate to significant identified specialized needs. Children of all ages need families through this program, though especially children over the age of 8. Large sibling groups of 3+ children are also in need of families through this program. Wait times tend to be shorter in this program, averaging 6 months to 1.5 years.

[Click here to fill our India Waiting Child Pre-Screen form!](#)



INDIA CHILDREN IN NEED

AGE AT REFERRAL & PLACEMENT:

Children in need of families through this program range in age from 6 months to 17 years, including children with needs ranging from minor to significant and sibling groups.

CARE IN COUNTRY:

Children typically reside in orphanages, called Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAA).

BIRTH PARENTS:

Children typically come into care because they are lost or abandoned. In the unusual case that children are surrendered for adoption by their birth parents, there is still no background available on the birth parent. As a result, limited to no background information is available from the time before a child came into care.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Referrals presented include limited medical information (but allow families to ask for a doctor visit), relinquishment history, limited development information, and a photo of the child.

GENDER:

Families can request specific biological sex but need to be aware of delays when doing so.

COMMON NEEDS:

Traditional program: Mild developmental delays, malnutrition, minor/correctable issues, impacts of institutional care, potential abuse, and neglect history. Children matched through the traditional program are considered overall healthy with the potential for normal growth and development.

Waiting Child Program (No Heritage Requirement) :

Moderate to significant specialized needs, including all of the above listed. Common needs seen are HIV+, developmental delays, developmental disabilities, missing limbs, hearing/vision issues, and cerebral palsy.

[Click here to fill our India Waiting Child Pre-Screen form!](#)

INDIA ELIGIBILITY

CITIZENSHIP:

01 At least one parent must be a United States citizen.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

02 Domestic families in India and Indian Passport Holder (NRI) families are given priority. OCI cardholders are given the same priority as NRI families.

MARRIAGE:

03 Heterosexual married couples with 2 years of stable marriage. Single females may be eligible, and single males are allowed to adopt male children.

EXISTING CHILDREN:

04 Families cannot have more than 1 child already in the home. An exception allows families with 2 or more children to adopt a child with specialized needs.

HISTORY:

05 All adopting parents must show good moral character with no criminal history. All adopting parents are required to complete a psychological evaluation.

06 AGE

Parents must be at least 25 years old and there must be a 25 year age difference between the child and the youngest parent. When calculating eligibility for married couples, the years, months, and days of age must be added together in order to determine eligibility.

Age of the child	Maximum composite age of prospective adoptive families	Maximum age of single prospective adoptive family
Up to 2 years	85 years	40 years
Above 2 and up to 4 years	90 years	45 years
Above 4 and up to 8 years	100 years	50 years
Above 8 and up to 18 years	110 years	55 years

APPROXIMATE ADOPTION FEES

FULL SERVICE CLIENTS

Training
Home Study
Dossier & USCIS
Travel
Post Placement

\$13,200 +
International Fee:
\$12,000-13,000

*Barker provides all services
from home study through
match and placement.

PLACEMENT SERVICES ONLY CLIENTS:

Dossier assistance
Guidance through USCIS processes
Matching services
Travel support

\$8,600 +
International Fee:
\$12,000-13,000

TRAVEL FEES:

Airfare
Ground transportation
Hotel accommodations

Approximately
\$4,500 - \$7,000 per
person

US GOVERNMENT FEES

This covers: USCIS Immigration Fees
Accrediting Body Fees
Biometrics Fees

\$1,800-\$2,200

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD OUR
INDIA FULL SERVICE FEE AGREEMENT](#)

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD OUR
INDIA NETWORK FEE AGREEMENT](#)



THE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROCESS

1

Attend any free, online Information Meeting to help you pick a program that fits your family and answer your questions.

2

If your family is open to adopting a child from India with mild to significant specialized needs, take our free training and fill out our Pre-Screen form.

3

Apply to your program of choice. This can happen after or in tandem with #4.

4

Attend all sessions of required Pre-Adoption training(NTDC); register here. This can happen in before or in tandem with #3.

5

Work through all components of the Home Study, with your case worker guiding you. This process includes one or more visits from your case worker.

6

Submit paperwork to country of choice (dossier), after which your waiting and matching period begins.

7

Once you have accepted a match and completed all acceptance paperwork/processes, you will travel to meet your child!

8

Finalization and post-placement steps: the child is a permanent member of your family! Post-placement includes 3+ visits from a social worker.



GLOBAL ADOPTION PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL HOME STUDY SERVICES

Barker can provide Hague-compliant home studies for families in Maryland, DC and Virginia.

We help families explore adoption from
ANY country!

Barker has supported DC, Maryland, and Virginia families in adopting from over 25 different countries over the years!

Including: Bulgaria, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Granada, Ghana, Haiti, Iran, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, South Africa and many more!

An adoption home study is one of the first and most important steps a family takes in the adoption process. Barker is licensed to provide home studies to families who reside in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Barker prides itself on providing ethical and professional home study services to all families.

NOT SURE OF WHICH COUNTRY PROGRAM YOU'D LIKE TO PURSUE?

Barker can help!

- Schedule a complimentary meeting
- Schedule a Pre-Adoption Consultation
- Give us a call: 301-664-9664
- Email us at anytime: tlusane@barkerfoundation.org
- Every **March and September** we have international information meetings including 8+ different country programs. Learn more and register here.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN A HOME STUDY?

- Family background and references
- Education and employment
- Relationships and social life, including strength of marriage, if applicable
- Finances, including net worth and discretionary income
- Results of criminal and child-protection clearances
- Assessment of physical and mental health, as determined by your physician
- Interviews with your adult children, if applicable
- Interviews with any household member
- Parenting experiences
- Details about your home and neighborhood
- Readiness for adopting and your reasons for wanting to adopt
- Approval and recommendation of children whom your family can best parent



HOME STUDY PROCESS

1

Identify a Hague-Accredited Agency that has a direct program in the chosen country. Barker's expert staff can help assist you!

2

Connect with an international Barker team staff member to discuss the local services that Barker provides

3

Review Barker's fee agreements for local services and sample contracts

4

Submit an application. Afterwards, an application interview is scheduled with Barker clinical staff.

5

Provide Barker with the contact information for the adoption agency you have chosen as your child-placing agency.

6

Complete the home study paperwork and pre-adoption training requirements.

7

Complete home study interviews and assessment with an experienced Barker Home Study Social Worker.

8

Barker completes home study updates as needed during the waiting period based on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), country, and state requirements.

9

Once your child is home, we complete the required post-placement / post-adoption supervisory visits.



CONNECT WITH US

Contact us:

Tenisha Lusane
tlusane@barkerfoundation.org

301-664-9664

Office location:

7979 Old Georgetown Road, FL 1
Bethesda, MD 20814

Follow us:



[@barkeradoptions](#)



[@barkeradoptions](#)



[@thebarkeradoptionfoundation](#)



[@barkeradoptions](#)

Quick Links

[Register for an information session](#)

[Schedule a complimentary meeting](#)

[Learn more about our International program](#)

[Fill out our India Waiting Child Pre-Screen Form](#)

[Register for a 1:1 pre-adoption consultation](#)

[Complete an adoption application](#)



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE (96.39(B))

- Time frames are based on our current experience and feedback in each country at the time this info pack was created (2024). Please understand that for any country, time frames can fluctuate (increase and decrease) over time. Therefore, the time frames for your adoption may not exactly match the current time frame estimates above. Once you begin the adoption process through a particular country, Barker will keep you advised if time frames change for your country of adoption.
- For full-service clients, the Barker Fee includes in-person training, home study, dossier guidance, and post placement reports in addition to standard program services. The International Fee includes fees paid to the foreign country but does not include travel expenses. The US Government Fees include USCIS filing fee for I-600/I-800 and Hague Monitoring & Oversight Fees. In addition to what is listed above, there are additional miscellaneous expenses involved in the paperwork collection process. Fees are subject to change and may vary based on the jurisdictional home of the applicants.
- Detailed Country Fee Schedules are available on Barker's web site and are linked above.
- The following additional information is available upon request:
 - 1) the number of Barker placements that occurred and remained stable within recent years (this information is also included in Barker's Annual Reports, which are available on the Agency's website);
 - 2) the number of parents who apply on an annual basis; and
 - 3) the number of children eligible and awaiting an adoptive placement referral.