

Inter-country adoptions – India



Hague Adoption Convention Country? YES

Child Profile

- Healthy children and special needs children from a few months up to 16 years of age.
- Referral for a special needs young child with minor correctable issue is around 2 months
- Referral for a healthy young child is around 1 year and a half.

Prospective Adoptive Parent Profile

- Married heterosexual couples with at least 2 years of stable marriage whether already having children or childless
- Singles irrespective if they have already children.

Eligibility Criteria

- 2 years of stable relationship in case PAPs are married
- To adopt children in the age group of 0-3 years, the maximum composite age of the PAPs should be 90 years wherein the individual age of the PAPs should not be less than 25 years and more than 50 years.
- To adopt children above three years of age, the maximum composite age of PAPs should be 105 years whereas the individual age of the PAPs should not be less than 25 years and more than 55 years.
- A single PAP desiring to adopt should not be less than 30 and more than 50. The maximum age shall be 40 years to adopt children in the age 0-3 years and 50 years for adopting children above 3 years.
- PAPs should have adequate financial resources to provide a good upbringing to the child
- PAPs should have good health and should not be suffering from any contagious or terminal disease or such mental or physical condition which may prevent them from taking care of the child;
- A second adoption is permissible only when the legal adoption of the first child has been finalised
- Single male is not permitted to adopt a girl child.

Process

1. Attend an adoptions preparatory course
2. Compile the normal Home Study Report and the Home study Report based on the Indian format, together with the social worker of the Agency. Also attend a psychological assessment carried out by an authorised and competent Psychologist.
3. Apply with the Maltese Central Authority and Adoptions Board to be found eligible to adopt. The following **original** documentation shall be prepared and transmitted to the Adoptions Board:
 - Birth certificate of the wife
 - Birth certificate of the husband
 - Marriage certificate of the couple
 - Police detailed and basic certificate of the wife
 - Police detailed and basic certificate of the husband (and other relatives living with the family)
 - Medical certificates of the wife, husband and any relatives living in the household including tests for HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis
 - FS3 wife
 - FS3 husband
 - Photos/welcome book
 - Home study report (normal and Indian format)
 - Psychological reports

The PAPs shall also confirm with the Agency their intention to adopt from India, the number of siblings they would like to adopt and if they are considering adopting special needs children prior to the start of the Home study Report.

4. Once the couple is approved by the Adoptions Board the secretary will inform the Agency with the decision of the board. The Adoptions Board shall also prepare the necessary CA documents. The secretary will then contact the Agency to pick up the CA documents, the board's approval, Original signed Home study report and the Welcome book.
5. The agency shall coordinate with the prospective adoptive parents in order to register them with the Indian Central Authority CARA who in turn will validate their acceptance to adopt an Indian child.
6. When a referral is proposed to the prospective adoptive parents, the Medical Examination report, Child Study report, all medical tests of the child, blood tests including HIV I and II, Hep B and Hep C, videos and photos are given to the PAPs. The latter shall get the necessary medical feedback from their doctor to take an informative decision if to continue with the adoption of the referred child or not.
7. As soon as the PAPs agree to continue with the adoption of the matched child, the original and copies of the dossier shall be sent to the Indian SAA. The dossier shall consist of:
 - Declaration by Central Authority, Malta with the following declarations:
 - That the PAPs are eligible & suitable to adopt a child from India as per Maltese Law;
 - That the PAPs have been counselled as may be necessary;
 - That the child on adoption by the PAPs will be authorised to enter and reside permanently in that country.

- Home Study Report of the prospective adoptive parents prepared by a professional social worker and based on the Indian format requirement. (Dated not more than 2 years)
 - Copy of license of AFAA
 - Recent photographs of the PAP(s)
 - Marriage certificate/Divorce decree of the PAP(s)
 - Certificate of medical fitness of PAP (s) duly certified by a medical doctor. (Dated not more than 6 months)
 - Declaration regarding financial status of prospective adoptive parents along with supporting documents, employer's certificate or Income Tax Return Order and Bank references for the last 3 years.
 - Three reference letters from acquaintances or relatives regarding suitability of PAPs to adopt.
 - Adoption decree of previously adopted child or children, if any from India
 - Police conduct
 - Birth certificate or passport, proof of age, nationality and citizenship
 - Undertaking from a relative in case of a single parent.
 - Consent of the older child or children of the PAP(s).
 - Psychological report
 - Any other document as may be needed on a case by case basis.
8. The court process shall start and if the process is positively concluded, the court order shall be issued and the SAA will proceed in doing the passport for the child. Before issuing the court order, the judge may need to physically see the Prospective adoptive parents.
9. Parents will travel to India to pick up child. Parents will need to remain in India a minimum of 12 days to have the VISA of the child ready.
10. Once back in Malta the parents are responsible to start and finalise the Maltese citizenship of the child. They will also be legally responsible to make sure that all the post adoption reports as per court order are produced and sent to the relative authorities.