

## Colombia Adoption Program Eligibility

The following is an overview of written requirements for the Colombia Adoption Program based upon changes issued from the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) in August 2019. Because the vast majority of the children in their care are over the age of 7, the following eligibility requirements have been determined:

### **Couples are eligible to adopt:**

- single child age 7+ years with no known health conditions at time of placement
- two siblings (where the oldest child is age 7 years or older) with no known health conditions at time of placement
- children of any age with identified special needs

### **Singles are eligible to adopt:**

- single child age 10+ years with no known health conditions at time of placement
- child of any age with identified special needs
- single men will be matched with boys only

### **Colombian heritage applicants are eligible to adopt:**

- children of any age with no known health conditions at time of placement
- at least one parent must be able to provide a Colombian birth certificate, passport and ID card (*cedula*)

### **All families:**

Because finding families for the children currently in the Colombian protection system is Colombia's first priority, families

- must be open to a child of either gender
- may be matched with a child who falls outside the birth order of children currently in the home (birth order is not taken into consideration)\*

\* Families seeking to choose gender or maintain family birth order may wish to consider expanding their openness to needs and/or explore the many identified children currently waiting for families. [Meet Waiting Children](#).

Additional flexibility regarding adoptive parent age criteria may be available to families adopting a child age 10+ years or sibling groups of 3 or more. Please contact us to discuss your individual eligibility.

### **Additional Requirements:**

In addition to other eligibility criteria, Colombia also requires the following of all prospective adoptive families:



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**IN PERSON TRAINING:** Please be advised that Colombia's central adoption authority requires that at least 10 hours of your required training must be delivered face-to-face and must cover topics that are relevant to the age and medical and developmental conditions of the child(ren) to be adopted.

**SPANISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY:** Applicants seeking to adopt children of speaking age must demonstrate Spanish language proficiency or provide a plan to obtain Spanish language basics in order to communicate with the child(ren) regarding their basic needs once placed. Evidence of this proficiency or plan should be addressed in the home study. For example, a non-Spanish speaking family could provide proof of enrollment in a local conversational Spanish course at their local community college, which is noted in the home study.

If you are working with a home study agency other than Children's Home, please be sure they are aware of these requirements.

**For More Information:**

Contact an adoption information specialist: [welcome@chlss.org](mailto:welcome@chlss.org) or 800.952.9302