

**The following outline breaks down the adoption process into stages, each with a general *approximate* time frame to give you an idea of how long the various steps take. These are our best estimates based on what we have observed across various states in India.**

<b>Step in the process</b>	<b>Approximate time frame</b>
Receive instructions to complete CARA Registration Dossier. Submit I-800A and supporting documents to USCIS for approval.	2-3 weeks
Children's Home submits CARA Registration Dossier to register your family with CARA. Receive CARA Approval.	12-20 weeks after submission of the CARA Registration Dossier. <i>This reflects a change in 2019 where this process began taking longer.</i>
Receive I-800A USCIS approval and send copy to Children's Home	60-90 days from application
Wait for referral	6-15 months, depending on openness
Review referral; make decision to accept referral (If you decline referral, you must wait again for an additional referral.)	1-4 weeks During this time, prospective adoptive parents are allowed to visit the child—it is not required. If the family does not travel, they can arrange a medical doctor to see the child—this must be arranged via Children's Home with the orphanage.
Complete Referral Acceptance documents for Children's Home	
Apply for I-800 to USCIS	
Complete Acceptance Dossier for India	1-2 weeks
Receive the I-800 "Provisional Approval" from USCIS	30-60 days
Apply for DS-260	
Children's Home submits DS-260 confirmation receipt to U.S. Embassy for Article 5; receive Article 5	2-4 weeks
CARA reviews your case for the NOC (No Objection Certificate= approval of the adoption by CARA) using your uploaded dossier documents + Article 5.	1-2 months
Orphanage files case in Court and then receives Verbal Approval	2-5 months
After Verbal Approval, Written Approval is received	2-4 weeks
CARA receives Written Court Order and issues Article 23, which is also called the Conformity Certificate (CC)	2-5 business days
SAA (orphanage) obtains child's birth certificate and applies for passport using Article 23 (or CC); receives passport	2-4 weeks
Children's Home coordinates travel dates with family and family departs for India	1-3 weeks
Family travels to India* to receive child <i>*Most adoptions don't require PAPs to be present in court, but for those cases, an extended stay or two trips may be required.</i>	Approx. 2 weeks in India