

Further Information and Important Contacts

U.S. Links and Contacts

For more information on intercountry adoptions in general, as well as specific information for U.S. citizens seeking to adopt in El Salvador, please visit:

<http://adoption.state.gov>

You can find additional information regarding the immigration process for adopted children from the Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at:

<http://www.uscis.gov/adoption>

You can also contact the Immigrant Visa Unit at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador at: adoptsansal@state.gov

El Salvador Links and Contacts

You can find more information on the local Salvadoran adoption process through the Oficina Para Adopciones (OPA), the Salvadoran Central Authority for Adoptions, at:

<http://www.pgr.gob.sv/ado.html>

The OPA can also be reached via email at: adopcionespgr.gob@hotmail.com

U.S. Embassy San Salvador

Final Boulevard Santa Elena Sur
Urbanización Santa Elena
Antiguo Cuscatlan, La Libertad



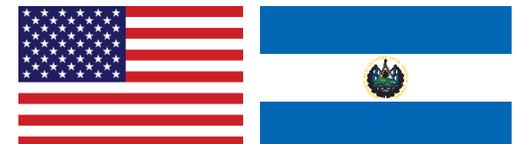
Phone: (503) 2501-2999
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E-mail: adoptsansal@state.gov



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
SAN SALVADOR • EL SALVADOR

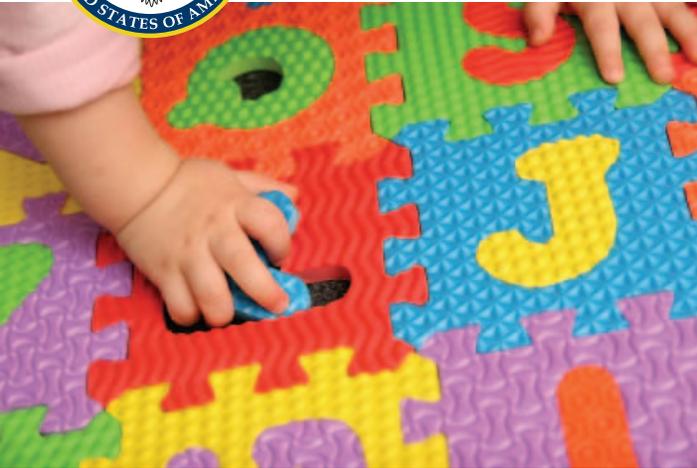
Immigrant Visa Unit

Intercountry Adoption Information for U.S. Citizens





Adoptions in El Salvador



The adoption process in El Salvador can be lengthy and complicated for prospective adoptive parents. This brochure provides only the most basic information about intercountry adoptions in El Salvador. **Please consult the U.S. Embassy prior to beginning the process.**

Adoption between the United States and El Salvador is governed by the [Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption](#) (Hague Adoption Convention), and therefore all adoptions must meet the requirements of the Convention as well as U.S. and Salvadoran law implementing the Convention.

Who Can Adopt?

According to Salvadoran law, prospective adoptive parents must be at least 25 years old and 15 years older than the child. Prospective adoptive parents must also demonstrate that they are financially, morally, mentally and physically able to provide for the adopted child.

Who Can Be Adopted?

To be eligible for adoption for the purpose of immigration to the United States, a child must meet the definition of a "Convention Adoptee". El Salvador must attempt to place a child in-country before determining a child's eligibility for intercountry adoption. Please note that foreign adoptions of children 16 years of age and older are not valid for U.S. immigration purposes.

How to Adopt

Selecting your adoption service provider

Adoption services must be provided by a Hague accredited or exempted entity, and from providers authorized by El Salvador's designated Central Authority for Adoptions, Oficina Para Adopciones (OPA).

Gaining approval to adopt

To be found eligible to adopt by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), you must submit application Form I-800A and the results of a home study establishing your ability to take care of a child. If you are deemed eligible under U.S. immigration law, your adoption service provider application will be delivered to OPA to determine your eligibility under Salvadoran law.

Being matched with a child

Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (ISNA), in consultation with OPA, matches a specific child with prospective adoptive parent(s).

Applying for immigration eligibility

If you accept the match, you must apply to USCIS for provisional approval to adopt on Form I-800. **If approved, the U.S. Embassy must certify that the adoption has met all the Hague Adoption Convention requirements prior to the adoption being finalized.**

Finalizing the adoption

Salvadoran adoption procedures can take 18-36 months to complete, not including any time for the U.S. Embassy to complete its own investigation. You must also pay all adoption fees and gather all required documentation (including translations). Please note that many adoptions in El Salvador have been significantly delayed and parents have often waited 5-7 years to finalize the adoption process.



Bringing your child home

You will need your child's new birth certificate (with your names), Salvadoran passport and U.S. immigrant visa in order to take your child home to the United States.