

A D P T

Why Adopt from Nicaragua?



Nicaragua is a beautiful country that has captured the hearts of missionaries and tourists alike. More and more, Americans are spending vacations and buying property in Nicaragua. Despite the country's obvious natural beauty, a number of its inhabitants experience extreme poverty.

Many Nicaraguan families cannot afford to feed and clothe their children, trusting that an orphanage can provide a better life for them. As

such, the number of abandoned children has reached an all-time high. Additionally, as a predominately Catholic country, the lack of acceptance towards unwed mothers is a contributing factor as to why children in Nicaragua may be in need of families.

Relaxed Atmosphere and Increased Opportunity for Bonding.

Families that have chosen to adopt from Nicaragua enjoy the laidback process, which is reflective of the relaxed atmosphere in Nicaragua. Another benefit to the Nicaraguan adoption process is the extended in country adaptation period; once families have received their prospective match and travel to Nicaragua, the child is placed immediately into the family's care for the duration of adaptation period. As parents become the child's caregivers straightaway, there is no extended separation period and the child will not age in the care of someone else.

The quick placement after prospective match also means that the child may be younger as compared to other country programs where parents must wait for the adoption to be complete prior to placement.

Families also see the stay in country as an opportune time to bond with their child and

experience their child's country and culture. The atmosphere in Nicaragua is one of a vacation-like setting and many choose to spend their time there taking advantage of all that Nicaragua has to offer. Families in this program also appreciate the relatively close geographical proximity of Nicaragua, which increases the ability of adoptive families to maintain a connection with their child's country and culture.

Who Are the Children In Need of Families?

- Children range in ages from infancy to pre-teens
- Both boys and girls are in need of families; gender preferences may be specified
- Children are of Hispanic descent
- Sibling groups may be in need of families, though the wait for young sibling groups could be considerable
- Children are generally healthy and most receive proper nutrition and medical care while in the foster care or orphanage system
- Children from Nicaragua may need to be placed in families through international adoption due to extreme poverty and lack of acceptance



Who Can Adopt From Nicaragua?

- Married couples where both spouses are under 55 years old at the time of dossier submission
- Additional stipulations to apply for an orphan visa may be determined by a family's government if the family lives outside of the United States

How Long Does It Take to Complete the Adoption Process?

The adoption process in Nicaragua does not officially start until the family's dossier arrives in Nicaragua. After submission of the dossier, the time frame to receive a prospective match is approximately 18-36 months, depending upon the age and gender of the child the family has indicated. Prospective matches are made based on the date of dossier submission and balanced by several variables; characteristics of child the family has indicated (age, gender, health status) and the children in need of families at any given time. The typical time frame to complete an adoption from Nicaragua is approximately 24-36 months after the dossier is received in the country.

Please note that time frames may vary on a case-by-case basis and are subject to change.

What Travel Is Required?

One trip to Nicaragua for approximately 10-20 weeks is required. The family will travel within a short time after receiving their prospective match, usually within one to two months. In general, both parents will need to be in country for the first few weeks. Thereafter, only one parent is required to stay in Nicaragua for the remainder of the adaptation period; one parent must remain in the country for the entire time because the child remains in the care of the parents. Extended family members, such as grandparents and siblings, are welcome to visit or stay with the parents in country during this time as well.

Despite the extended stay being inconvenient for our hectic lifestyles, the time spent in Nicaragua is very beneficial for both the family and children, and this program is our most child-centered. The adaptation period allows families to spend quiet time with their children without the interruptions of other family members, friends, and other commitments, affording the family an opportunity to relax and spend time together. Additionally, the child is able to come to know the family in a quiet atmosphere with fewer disruptions. Another benefit of this time is that foods that are familiar and comforting to the child are available, and the sounds, including the speech of those around them,

are familiar and comforting as well. Moreover, if a family requires assistance, individuals familiar with the child are available for help.

While it may be difficult to spend an extended time away for most families, the benefits to the child and to the family far outweigh the negative.



Why Choose MLJ Adoptions to Adopt from Nicaragua?

Experienced and Compassionate Team. MLJ Adoptions' Nicaragua adoption program began in 2008. Over the years, we have witnessed the program become more predictable and procedural in nature. Families wishing to adopt from Nicaragua will primarily work with Sonja Brown, one of MLJ Adoptions' Program Directors. Sonja Brown, has ten years of experience in adoption, and has united more than 200 children with their forever families.

Furthermore, MLJ Adoptions retains full-time licensed attorneys domestically and works with a Nicaraguan attorney. It is beneficial to families to have attorneys in both the United States and Nicaragua reviewing and assisting with the legal processes of adoption.

In our time in Nicaragua, we have seen that younger children in need are able to be matched with waiting families. Due to the length of the in country stay, it is not a country program that is feasible for all adoptive families. However, for those that are open to the stay in country, we work closely with a Nicaraguan tour guide who assists our families with their needs while in country.

Country information is to be considered general information and subject to change. The information is based upon state, federal, foreign, and international law, as well as our own business policies.

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Nicaragua Adoption Program Fees

All amounts listed are in United States dollars. Clients are responsible for making all payments in U.S. dollars. Clients may pay with check, all major credit cards, bank wire or a direct bank debit. A 3% transaction fee will be added to all credit card payments excluding application payments. A fee of \$16 will be added for each incoming wire payment. Fees will not be waived, reduced or refunded, except as noted below.

Application Fee **\$295 USD** **Due with Adoption Application**

This fee is waived for all past MLJ Adoptions clients and for all US military families. Military families must submit a copy of Form DD 214 with their application.

1st Payment **\$3,450 USD** **Due with Service Agreement to Begin Process**

Agency Fee (1st portion)	\$2,700
Home Study Review/Education Administration	\$750 ¹
<i>Indiana clients will add \$1,200.²</i>	

2nd Payment **\$5,500 USD** **Due upon Completion of Home Study Draft**

Agency Fee (2nd portion)	\$2,900
This fee will be reduced \$1,000 for past MLJ Adoptions clients.	
Dossier Assistance/Review	\$2,600

3rd Payment **\$6,500 USD** **Due at Dossier Submission**

Translation/Authentication	\$2,000
Program Country Fee (1 st portion)	\$4,500

4th Payment **\$5,150 USD** **Due upon Acceptance of Referral**

Program Country Fee (2 nd Portion)	\$3,500
Exit documents, power of attorney and in country support	
Additional Agency Services	\$1,650
Post-Adoption ³ Report Administration Fee	\$1,000
Post-Adoption Report Refundable Deposit ⁴	\$500
Support Services	\$150
<u>Indiana client services only</u>	
(2) Post-Adoption Reports ¹	\$800

1. Non-Indiana clients will be responsible for obtaining home study services, and required Post-Adoption reports from a Hague-accredited service provider within their state and also for obtaining the domestication of foreign decree (Re-Adoption) or full adoption from a local attorney. The estimated standard fee for a home study is \$1200-\$4500. The estimated standard fee for a Post-Adoption report is \$300-\$600 per report. The estimated standard fee for a re-adoption is \$500-\$1,000.
2. Clients will be charged the standard IRS mileage rate for the miles travelled roundtrip for each home study and post-adoption visit.
3. "Post-Adoption" incorporates for post-adoption and post-placement.
4. The Post-Adoption deposit will be placed in an escrow account and will be returned upon the successful completion of all Post-Adoption reports required within the first two years of the child arriving home.

Third Party Payments	\$1,810 - \$5,310 estimated	Throughout the Process
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Hague-accredited home study (Non-Indiana clients)		Varies by provider
NCFA Online Hague Education		\$115 Single/\$195 Couple
Authentications		Varies by state
USCIS I-600A & Biometrics		\$775 plus \$85 per person
Orphan Visa: I-600 (non-Hague)		\$400
Visa fee		\$325
U.S. Legal Services		Varies
Post-Adoption reports (Non-Indiana clients)		Varies by provider
Re-adoption/Adoption in state of residence		Varies by provider

These fees are estimates only and may change at any time. Additional expenses may include medical services, child's passport, money wiring fees and mailing of documents.

Estimated total cost of adoption less travel	\$25,555
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Travel Expenses Per Trip	\$5,000 - \$7,500 estimated
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Includes, but not limited to:

Airfare	\$600-\$800 round trip per person, estimated
Hotel	\$60 per night
Apartment	\$1,000 per month
Other regional expenses including meals	\$2,000 - \$2,500 per trip

Second Child Adoption

Fees are for the adoption services for one child. It is possible to adopt sibling groups. Clients adopting a second child will not pay additional agency fees to MLJ Adoptions. They will pay foreign country program expenses and Post-Adoption costs for the second child as outlined below. These fees do not include additional medical services, immigration or travel expenses which may be necessary.

Due upon acceptance of additional child referral

Foreign country program fee	\$5,000
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Due with fourth payment, 14 days prior to travel

Post-Adoption report administration fee	\$500 per additional child
(2) Post-Adoption reports, Indiana clients	\$50 per report per additional child
(2) Post-Adoption reports, non-Indiana clients	Varies by provider

Waiting Child Adoption

MLJ Adoptions maintains the [Waiting Child Photolisting](#). Should you choose to adopt child(ren) from this list, the timing and amount of your foreign country program fee may vary based upon the child selected. Additional costs could be incurred if further medical testing or treatment is deemed necessary.

Post-Adoption Reporting

Currently, Nicaragua requires agency-completed reports, with at least ten printed photos to include pictures of the whole family and pictures of the child alone, annually until the child turns 21. Reports must be notarized and apostilled. Country requirements are subject to change with no notice.

Foreign Country Program Fee Itemization

Foreign Country Program Fee (First Portion)		\$4,500
Prepare/present dossier to Mi Familia	\$2,500	
Administrative, Document & Court Fees	\$2,000	
Foreign Country Program Fee (Second Portion)		\$3,500
Birth Certificate, Passport	\$500	
Proof of Abandonment	\$2,000	
Adaptation Period Support	\$1,000	

Adoption Assistance

Adoption grants are available from a variety of organizations. Please refer to the [MLJ Adoptions Financial Resources Guide](#). The [adoption tax credit](#) for the adoption of a child with special needs is \$13,400, and the maximum credit allowed for other adoptions is the amount of qualified adoption expenses up to \$13,400. Please consult your tax professional to see if you will benefit from this credit.

Additional MLJ Adoptions Agency Services

Should clients request the additional services listed below, the following fees will apply:

Home Study Update/Addendum Translations	\$50 plus additional documents at \$15/page (estimated)
Home Study Update/Addendum Shipping	\$40-\$100 (estimated)
Home Study Update/Addendum Authentication	\$25/document (estimated)
Copy/Mailing Fees (Subsequent services)	\$90/hour
Indiana Background Checks	\$125 per adoptive parent
Indiana Background Checks Additional Household Member	\$25 per person
Out-of-State Background Check	\$25 per background check

RFE/NOID/NOIR/CNA

The above mentioned fees do not contemplate services associated with preparing and submitting additional responses to USCIS at their request. Such additional responses may become necessary through the course of MLJ Adoptions' serving the client. In the event USCIS issues a Request for Evidence (RFE), a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID), or a Notice of Intent to Revoke (NOIR), or the Embassy issues a Clearly Not Approvable (CNA), MLJ Adoptions may assist Parent(s) with the response or refer Parent(s) to an immigration attorney.

Past Due Accounts

Payments are due within thirty (30) calendar days of the time specified on the fee sheet. All payments must be made in full prior to travel. Therefore, the final payment invoice, which is due at time of travel, may be due sooner if travel is scheduled to commence in less than thirty (30) days.

Families with a past due balance greater than 90 days will have a hold placed on their adoption services until such time as the account is brought current. A 1% finance charge will be assessed to all accounts more than 90 days past due.

If it becomes necessary to pursue collection of any past due account balance through outside sources (collection agency, IN Attorney General, or local attorney) reasonable

collection costs, attorney fees, court costs, and contingency fees will also be added to the outstanding balance.

Refund Policy of Adoption Fees

If Parent(s) provide a written request for a refund to Accounts@MLJAdoptions.com and also to 617 E. North Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 within thirty (30) days of the initial payment, Parent(s) will be reimbursed 75% of initial fee. The 75% reimbursement of the initial fee will be refunded to Parent(s) within sixty (60) days of the request. The adoption application fee is nonrefundable.

Payments made to MLJ Adoptions are for services rendered and are not to be considered payment for children. If your adoption is suspended due to program changes, MLJ Adoptions may at their discretion choose to credit up to \$5,000 to another country program for which the parents are eligible.

In the case of country closure, parent ineligibility, contract termination, or adoption failure or adoption withdrawal, international fees that have been collected for services that have not yet been distributed abroad will be refunded. Although MLJ Adoptions will work hard to obtain the refund of any international fees paid to a foreign coordinator/attorney/authority, MLJ Adoptions cannot make any assurances or promises for the return of international fees/program country expenses.

As adoptions may take many months to complete, fees and costs are subject to change over the course of the adoption process.

Signature of First Parent Print Name of First Parent Date of Signing

Signature of Second Parent Print Name of Second Parent Date of Signing

Effective date: 7/1/2017