



MLJ Adoptions is a Non-Profit, Hague-Accredited Adoption Agency serving families across the United States and abroad.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MLJ provides ethical, compassionate and attentive adoption services to loving and committed families.

WHAT COUNTRIES DOES MLJ ADOPTIONS SERVE?

We have programs in Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Samoa, and Ukraine.

WHAT OTHER SERVICES DOES MLJ ADOPTIONS PROVIDE?

Our Social Services Department conducts home studies for Indiana residents wishing to complete a domestic, kinship, embryo or international adoption. We also complete post adoption reports.

WHAT MAKES MLJ ADOPTIONS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ADOPTION AGENCIES?

We have decades of collective **experience**, provide **support** from start to finish on a family's adoption journey and are committed to **community building** among our families.

WHO CAN BECOME AN MLJ ADOPTIONS CLIENT FAMILY?

MLJ Adoptions is happy to serve families in all fifty states and around the world who are interested in international adoption. We can also provide home study services to Indiana families.

WHAT IS THE COST OF ADOPTION?

The cost of adoption can range from approximately \$20,000-\$40,000 or more for the entire process. While expensive, there are many options for grants and raising funds to bring a child or children home. Finances should never stop a child from having a loving family.

WHY IS ADOPTION EXPENSIVE?

Adoption is expensive because there are a variety of services, individuals and organizations working collaboratively in order to bring your child home. The adoption process involves social workers, attorneys (at home and abroad), mental health professionals, caregivers, judges, immigration officers, translators, drivers, administrative staff and others. Often these individuals and entities are involved in your adoption process for 2-3 years or more.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE AN INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION?

Every adoption process is different because every country, every family and every child are different. It takes time to collect documents and complete the necessary paperwork. Once the paperwork stage is completed, then families wait to be matched with a child. These wait times depend on the characteristics of the child you wish to adopt. You may wait substantially longer if you are seeking to adopt a child with no known needs as young as possible, whereas wait times may be considerably shorter if you are open to adopting a child over the age of five, a sibling group, or a child with known additional needs.



A D O P T I O N S

IS MLJ ADOPTIONS A RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED ADOPTION AGENCY?

MLJ Adoptions is a secular international adoption agency. Our primary mission is to place children in need of homes into loving, permanent families, and we welcome families all all faiths and belief systems. Many of our staff members are members of the Christian Alliance for Orphans. Our entire team is thankful for and happy to work with prospective parents of all faiths seeking to love a child who needs a family.

WHAT DOES "SPECIAL NEEDS" MEAN?

Special needs can include children over the age of five, as well as sibling groups, because it is often more difficult to find families looking to adopt these children. Special needs may also include mental, physical and emotional needs that can range from mild to severe. We maintain a Waiting Child Photolisting of children, many of whom have special needs.

CAN I ADOPT IF I HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD?

All offenses will be considered on a case-by-cases basis by your adoption agency and home study provider. Some foreign countries also have their own restrictions. It is best to be forthcoming with your adoption agency and home study provider, and disclose all relevant information. It is the case worker's responsibility to ensure that the best interests of the child would be served with any placement with a family.

WHAT IS A HOME STUDY?

A home study is a process that includes paperwork, interviews, and a home safety review, which results in a document that is written by a social worker that is a thorough assessment of your family, home and suitability to adopt.

WHAT IS A DOSSIER?

A dossier is a collection of specific documents that are submitted to the country from which you are adopting. These documents contain detailed information about you and your family. Each country has its own dossier requirements and requests, but most generally includes: a home study, medical reports, proof of employment, birth certificates, marriage license, and reference letters. MLJ Adoptions provides detailed lists and instructions to assist families through the dossier process.

WHAT IS A REFERRAL?

Throughout the process, your family will outline the characteristics of the child who you hope to adopt. When a child becomes in need of a family who matches the characteristics that your family has outlined, the family is presented with the child's information and given the opportunity to accept the child. Receiving a match for a potential adopted child is call a referral.

FOR ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL INFO@MLJADOPTIONS.COM.

