



Fully Hague Accredited
Through 2013



Adoption

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA

Colombia

HERITAGE ADOPTION PROGRAM

THE CHILDREN...

The children in need of adoption from Colombia are generally healthy infants, toddlers, and children up to age 16. Many older children, sibling groups and special needs children are also available. Children may have been relinquished at birth in the hospital, abandoned, or taken into protection. Most children are waiting in one of several orphanages in Colombia, though some children are placed in foster care. The length of time you will wait for a child's referral, following LSSMN approval, will depend upon the age of the child requested. You may expect to travel to Colombia approximately three weeks after receiving and accepting your referral. Families choosing the Instituto Colombiano De Bienestar Familiar Program (ICBF) may wait 12-36+ months for a referral – typically the younger the child, the longer the wait for a referral.

LSSMN also provides humanitarian aid to Colombia to help care for the children who will not be able to find homes through adoption. Our goal is to help establish effective community outreach programs to help those families who are unable to provide adequate food and shelter for themselves.

If you feel that you could provide a loving home for these orphaned children, please contact us.

HERITAGE ADOPTION PROGRAM

Colombia, like most countries, favors domestic adoption. International families with **Colombian Heritage*** will be treated with the same priority as a domestic Colombian family. To help promote Colombian Heritage adoptions, LSSMN offers Colombian American families reduced rates for our adoption services. **To qualify for this program, one adoptive parent must have either a current Colombian passport or Cédula (National ID Card that can be applied for through the Colombian Consulate by someone who was born or had a parent born in Colombia).*

LUTHERAN ADOPTION NETWORK

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSSMN) works in partnership with more than 29 Lutheran service agencies in 26 states and the Virgin Islands to provide adoption opportunities for children and families. This partnership, called the Lutheran Adoption Network (LAN), aims to provide permanent adoptive homes for children from all countries in the world.



PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

CHILDREN AVAILABLE: Boys and girls, accepting MN applications for infants, toddlers, older children, sibling groups and children with medical special needs; families with Colombian heritage accepted for all ages

PARENT AGES: Must be open to children of either gender within the following age ranges (or older)
25-38 years of age for children 0-35 months;
39-41 years of age for children 36-59 months;
42-44 years of age for children 60-83 months
45+ years of age for children 84 months and older

LENGTH OF MARRIAGE: 1 year minimum

CHILDREN IN FAMILY: prefer families with no more than 1 child already in home (some flexibility)

SINGLE APPLICANT: Single women accepted for children age 7 and older or children with special needs

TRAVEL: One trip, approximately 4-7 weeks; both parents expected to travel; one parent may depart after 2 weeks, if necessary

TIMELINE: Varies; dossier to referral 12-36 months; travel generally 2-3 weeks after accepting referral

10.01.2009

FEES PAID TO LSSMN	DESCRIPTION	FEE	PAYMENT TIMELINE
Adoption Program Expenses in the United States Includes personnel costs, administrative overhead, operational costs, training and education, communications and publication costs, assistance with USCIS process and country specific application and dossier, and any other costs related to providing adoption services in the United States.	Registration	\$250 \$125	Due with completed registration
	Intercountry Program Fee	\$5,000 \$3,500	Due upon completion of adoption study
Total Fees Paid to LSSMN.....			\$3,625 \$5,250

FEES PAID TO LSSMN & PASSED THROUGH TO COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION	FEE	PAYMENT TIMELINE
Foreign Country Program Expenses Includes personnel and operational costs, administrative overhead, communication, translation and documentation expenses, and any other costs related to providing adoption services in Colombia. The administrative adoption process in Colombia before ICBF is free of charge.	This fee is determined by current conditions in Colombia and is subject to change. You will be billed for the fee current when you submit your dossier.	\$3,000 \$1,500	Due with submission of dossier
Humanitarian Program Support We strongly recommend that families provide Humanitarian Aid of \$1,000 (minimum) to support the family welfare programs sponsored by LSS in Colombia.	Supports humanitarian programs funded by LSSMN in Colombia	*	Due with acceptance of referral
Total Foreign Country Program Expenses Paid to LSSMN and Passed Through to Country.....			\$1,500 \$4,000

FEES PAID TO THIRD PARTIES	DESCRIPTION	FEE	PAYMENT TIMELINE
Estimated Third Party Fees Includes fees to Third Party Providers for services required in order to complete the adoption process.	USCIS-I-800A	\$670	All Third Party fees are paid directly to provider at time of service
	USCIS Biometrics (fingerprinting)	\$80/person	
	Misc. Documentation Fees	\$400	
	Legal Services	\$1500	
	Additional Translation	\$10/page	
	Child's Medical Exam	\$70	
	Child's Passport	\$100	
	Child's U.S. Visa	\$400	
	Naturalization/Citizenship	varies	
Estimated Travel Expenses Round trip airfare to Colombia for two adults and flight to U.S. for child under two years. Actual fares vary depending on travel season and departure city. In-country travel includes local transportation and miscellaneous expenses. Food and lodging estimate is calculated based upon a 6 week stay at \$150 per day per family.	Airfare	\$2,400	All Third Party fees are paid directly to provider at time of service
	In-country Travel	\$600	
	Food and Lodging	\$6,300	
Total Estimated Third Party Expenses			\$12,600

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR COLOMBIA GOVERNMENT ADOPTION PROGRAM..... \$17,725 \$21,850

This is a good faith estimate of charges deemed reliable as of **OCTOBER 1, 2009**. Fees are charged for services provided, not for children. The payment of fees for services rendered does not guarantee the placement of a child. All fees, timelines and program requirements are subject to change. Fees are non-refundable once the service has been provided. LSSMN fees will be honored at the rate that is current when the service contract is received by LSSMN. Clients are responsible for non-LSSMN fees billed at the rate current when the service is provided. The Agency may reduce, waive or refund fees when 1) deemed by the Agency to be in the best interests of the child; 2) requested by clients due to hardship; or 3) when paid for services which were not completed.