



El Salvador

El Salvador was the first country from which Christian Adoption Services made adoptive placements when the agency was founded in 1979. When CAS conducted a Motherland Tour for adult adoptees to their native country of El Salvador, CAS was warmly received and renewed its commitment to re-establish a viable program through which needy and orphaned children could find permanency.

With CAS holding accreditation for the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoptions, the rapport with social work officials in El Salvador seems to have grown stronger. The country is mindful to uphold Hague policies which provide safeguards for children as well as for birth and adoptive parents.



CHILDREN

Children from El Salvador are of Spanish or Native Indian (Mestizo) heritage. Those who are most readily adoptable are children four years of age and older. As in most countries, the legal process to clear children for adoption is lengthy so the youngest children are likely to be close to two years of age at placement.

CRITERIA FOR ADOPTION

Applicants are to be practicing Christians who are at least 25 years of age, yet no more than 45 years older than the child. There is a degree of flexibility in family size. Single adoptive applicants are accepted in the program although priority is given to couples who have been married for 5 years.

LENGTH OF PROCESS

With El Salvador being a new program, full details of the adoption process are somewhat undefined. Those who wish to become engaged in this program must be accepting of this fact, yet the dedicated team of workers both at CAS and in San Salvador, there is every reason to be optimistic about the program. The process to adopt toddlers is anticipated to be 18-24 months and about 12 months for those who are older. When CAS is recruiting families for children who have been referred to the agency for home finding, the placement is a priority case and placement is anticipated within 6-9 months.

TRAVEL

Shortly after receiving a referral that will include a photo of the child and his or her social and medical history, the adoptive parents are required to travel to San Salvador. They will be engaged in the court process that leads to the child's adoption decree. This stay is estimated to be for 2-3 weeks, yet one parent can return to the States after the court hearing.

Estimated Fees and Expenses

CAS Fees

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| Application Fee (due with application) | \$200 |
| Coordination Fees (due upon approval of home study) | 3,500 |
| CAS Acceptance Fee (due upon acceptance of referral) | <u>2,000</u> |
| Total | 5,700 |

Additional Expenses (Based on 2 adults)

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|-------------------------|--------------|
| USCIS I600A Fee | \$750 |
| Fingerprints | 80 |
| Passports | 120 |
| Passport photos | 30 |
| Psych Evaluation- MMPI | 2,000 |
| Child's U.S. Entry Visa | <u>380</u> |
| Total | 3,360 |

Estimated International Expenses

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| Dossier Application Services (due when submitting dossier, \$3,000 for siblings) | \$2,000 |
| Translation Fees (due when submitting dossier) | 1,000 |
| Referral/Acceptance Fee * (\$3,000 for siblings) | 2,000 |
| Dossier Authentication * | 200 |
| Humanitarian Fee * (\$1,500 for siblings) | 1,000 |
| Travel & Accommodations Abroad (RT-2 adults, 1 way child) (* due upon acceptance of referral) | <u>3,000</u> |
| Total | 9,200-11,700 |

GRAND TOTAL \$18,260-20,760

CAS fee is \$1,000 per additional sibling.

All fees are non-refundable

Payment: All CAS fees and expenses are to be made payable to CAS via cash, check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard).
Payments made via credit card are subject to a 2% processing fee.

*Many families will qualify for the adoption tax credit of approximately \$12,150 per child as created by the Hope for Children Act.
 Possible North Carolina adoption tax credit is 50% of the allowable tax credit claimed on your federal return.*

***Please contact CAS at
 cas@christianadopt.org
 or 704.847.0038
 for more
 information on our
 El Salvador program.***

