

Adopting From Bangladesh

The first step in any adoption program is a general information meeting with our agency. If possible, this will be done in person at our offices, but can also be done by telephone for families who reside outside of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Once this meeting has taken place, you would submit an Application to initiate services with our agency. The Executive Director will prepare your contracting documents. Once you have signed the contracts and paid the initial agency fees, we immediately begin working on your home study, foreign dossier, and USCIS approval. Our agency strives to offer the fullest level of support and services possible - even sending for document authentications on your behalf in order to complete your adoption dossier in the quickest manner possible. While there are many aspects outside of our control with adoption and foreign adoptions in particular, we have found during our years of experience that our hard work on things we can control - paperwork, preparing and authenticating dossiers, etc. - usually quickens your overall adoption process.

The next step in your adoption is to obtain an approved home study. If you live in Texas, Hope International will complete the home study for you. If you live out of state, we will assist you in finding a home study agency. After your home study has been completed we submit it to USCIS for you and we will begin work on your dossier. Once you receive USCIS approval, we will send your dossier to Bangladesh for translation, legalization and submission to the Ministry of Justice. At this point, you are ready to be matched with a child. The submission of your dossier is assisted by our partners in Bangladesh.

Once your dossier has been approved by Bangladesh, you may schedule a time to travel to Dhaka to meet with our partner orphanages and be matched with your child. Our partners are able to match prospective families with children as young as one month old. There are also children up to the age of 5 years with identified special needs. When you accept a referral, you should remain in Bangladesh until the court hearing. After court, you have two options: you can choose to stay in Bangladesh while waiting for the paperwork necessary for the visa interview, or return to the United States. If you return to the U.S., you will plan to travel again within the next 8-12 weeks for a visa appointment.

Our partner attorney will first help you obtain legal guardianship of your child, then he and a local guide will be available to help you obtain the child's passport, no objection certificate, visa medical exam and a visa for the child. Hope International also continues to facilitate the process during this time.

When you return to the United States, Hope will continue to support you as your family adjusts to the adoption. The requirements to finalize the adoption differ from state to state; in Texas, the state requires 5 visits within the first 6 months of returning to the United States. After the completion of these visits, our family law attorney will finalize your adoption.

If you are interested in adopting a family member or other identified child who meets USCIS' orphan status definition, the process is very similar to that of an infant adoption. Our partner attorney is available to facilitate family guardianship cases as well. Please contact us to discuss your particular situation.

Requirements to be Eligible to Adopt from Bangladesh

1. You must be a U.S. citizen or a legal resident married to a U.S. citizen. You or your spouse must also be a Bangladeshi citizen.
2. Prospective parents must be at least 18 years old.
3. Both married couples and single women are eligible.

Note: The Family Court in Bangladesh grants guardianship of a child to prospective adoptive parents. This allows the family to leave the country with the child but they must then finalize the adoption in the United States.

