

International Family Services The India Adoption Referral Process

In brief, once a referral is accepted, the following steps must take place for every family working with any agency for every international adoption.

1. Get an approved home study done by an accredited home study agency.
2. File the I-800A with USCIS (United States Citizenship & Immigration Services).
3. USCIS will contact the family with a date and time to come for their fingerprints.
4. USCIS will send the family an I-797C, Notice of Action "Case Type: I-800A, Application for Determination of Suitability to Adopt a Child from a Convention Country."
5. Official acceptance of a referral/child.
6. Family files the I-800 with USCIS.
7. USCIS will send the family an I-797C, Notice of Action "Case Type: I-800, Petition to Classify Convention Adoptee as an Immediate Relative."
8. USCIS will notify the U.S. Embassy in India of the family's provisional I-800 approval.
9. The U.S. Embassy will contact the family requesting the DS-230 form to be submitted.
10. The U.S. Embassy will process the case and issue an Article 5 letter.
11. CARA processes the case and grants NOC (No Objection Certificate) CARA must have received your completed dossier and the Article 5 letter before NOC can be granted.

AT THIS POINT YOUR REFERRED CHILD CANNOT BE ASSIGNED TO AN INDIAN FAMILY.

12. The case is filed with the local court.
13. Court grants guardianship.
14. IFS receives a copy of the court documents.
15. IFS files for ICPC approval on behalf of the family.
16. Texas ICPC office notifies IFS Texas office of family's ICPC approval.
17. IFS will notify the family of ICPC approval.
18. IFS will contact our staff in India regarding possible travel dates for

the family.

19. Family travels to India to bring their child home!

CARA's priority in adoptions is always to place the child with an Indian family living in India, then an NRI or OCI family, then an international family. While losing a referral is extremely rare, it can happen. We can't stress enough how important it is to move quickly on all documentation from the time the referral is accepted. That is why we have each family sign a document stating that they have 45 days after acceptance of referral, to send everything to us, including the all important I-800. Until we have those documents, nothing can be submitted to complete steps 9-11.

A quick return of your completed dossier does not "guarantee" that the facility will not give the referral to a family in India, but it lessens the chances of this happening.