

India Update for January 2017

At the beginning of the year, CARA announced new guidelines that went into effect immediately. These guidelines appeared to be just slight changes to the new process that was introduced in the fall of 2015. Below are listed the changes as they affect our families.

- 1) Families with 3 more children currently in their home are only allowed to adopt special needs or older children.
- 2) Bond/Deposit is no longer needed in any court in any State as a part of the court order.
- 3) There is only one waiting list. Domestic families still are given priority by being allowed to register with CARA earlier (after home study completion). NRI families are still said to be “on par” with domestic families; however have to follow the same rules as other overseas adopters when it comes to registration with CARA.
- 4) Available children must first be given the opportunity to be adopted domestically or by NRI families. The time allotted before a child can be considered by all others depends upon the age of the child:
 - a. Under the age of 5, requires 60 days priority for domestic or NRI
 - b. Above the age of 5 or is a sibling, requires 30 days priority
 - c. Special needs child, requires 15 days priority
- 5) CARA is now requesting to see the family’s Article 5 letter before issuing NOC. This means families will want to complete their I800 paperwork ASAP after accepting a referral.
- 6) Exit permit- discussion and negotiation is underway but is likely to take several more weeks before we can do away with this requirement.
- 7) The orphanage fee is increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000. The timing of this fee has not been clarified yet.

You can review the current complete guidelines on CARA’s website at:

http://cara.nic.in/writereaddata/uploadedfile/NTESCL_636201813101455214_NTESCL_6361940330711_98891_english%20regulation.pdf

Or by going to cara.nic.in then clicking on “Regulations” and then “Adoption Regulations 2017” – there is also a version in Hindi.