

Helpful Hints for Prospective Adopting Parents Coming to India

* Ensure that USCIS is aware of any irregularities in the processing of your case. For example, you should not obtain legal guardianship until you receive the Article 5 letter. If you have not processed the case in the standard order, we cannot process the visa without USCIS approval of the change. Any irregularities not noted prior to the interview may cause delays in the visa processing, perhaps requiring you to extend your stay in India.

* Please be sure to have your fingerprints updated when they are due to expire and submit the updated fingerprint notice to National Benefits Center (NBC). We are unable to process the visa if the Prospective Adoptive Parents fingerprints have expired.

* Please notify us as soon as you obtain legal custody and the child's passport, so we may confirm a visa appointment based upon your timeline and availability. We are very flexible about scheduling your appointment, so if you need to change your appointment, this generally will not be a problem, but we recommend you check the embassy's list of holidays to make sure we will be open on the day you would like to see us. <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/holidays.html>

* Please always include the child's name and the case number in your correspondence, in the subject line if possible. If that information was not included in your original inquiry, you may wish to resubmit it.

* U.S. panel physicians can accept Form DS-1981 (Affidavit Concerning Exemption from Immigrant Vaccination Requirements for a Foreign Adopted Child) for Hague adoption cases (I-800 applications). Form DS-1981 can be accepted for I-800 applications if the adoptive parents are willing to have an immunization waiver for their adopted child.

* Complete your child's medical examination with an approved panel physician prior to the visa interview appointment. A list of approved panel physicians throughout India can be found at the following address:
http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/medical_report.html#panelphysicians
<http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/medical_report.html#panelphysicians> .
You may have the panel physician exam complete at any of the sites listed in the above link. However, experience has shown us that having the exam done in New Delhi will help the embassy more quickly address questions or problems that might arise from the exam.

The implementation of the 2007 Technical Instructions for Tuberculosis Screening and Treatment may result in delays on the basis of the medical results. We therefore suggest that you plan your return travel accordingly. We make every effort to process adoption visas on a priority basis, but it is not always possible to guarantee same day visa issuance.

* Bring all documents related to your case with you to the interview:

1. Electronic Immigrant Visa Application (DS-260) confirmation page: DS-260 can be completed at <http://ceac.state.gov/iv/> <<http://ceac.state.gov/iv/>> . To complete the DS-260 online you will need to enter the Case Number and Invoice ID Number on the DS-260 login page. You can contact the National Visa Center (NVC) by e-mail at NVCAdoptions@state.gov <<mailto:NVCAdoptions@state.gov>> , or call 1-603-334-0700 to obtain the invoice ID Number.

2. Child's birth certificate

3. The Original court order and a copy of the court order

4. 2 photograph of the child (photograph should measure 2 inches square with the head centered in the frame and must have only a plain white background)

5. NOC from CARA

6. Article 23 letter from CARA (if the adoption is completed in India)

7. Visa Fee of \$325 (in cash - Indian rupee or U.S. dollar or U.S. credit card)

8. Medical examination report of the child. Medical examination needs to be done by an approved panel physician. A list of approved panel physicians can be found at http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/medical_report.html#panelphysicians <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/medical_report.html#panelphysicians> .

* For IH3 cases (when the adoption is completed in India), we require the Article 23 letter to process the case. You may send us the scanned copy of the court order and the bio page of your U.S. passport when you request a visa appointment. We will coordinate with CARA for issuance of the Article 23 letter so that we are able to obtain the Article 23 letter on the day of your visa interview.

* We highly recommend registering your travel online prior to leaving the U.S., regardless of the length of your stay in India. In a crisis situation we want to be able to reach American Citizens quickly with updated information. By registering with the Embassy, you will receive updates and any security alerts from the Embassy related to travel in India. Register online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs> <<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>> .