

**Central Adoption Resource Authority
Ministry of Women and Child Development
Government of India**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. We want to adopt a baby, How can we adopt?

Reply : Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) who wish to adopt a child legally, please register yourself online on <https://carings.wcd.gov.in>
There is a separate protocol for NRIs/OCI they need to register through AFAA.

2. What are the documents needed while registering online for Adoption?

Reply : Please refer to Schedule VI of Adoption Regulations, 2022, specifying list of documents to be upload while registering online. Click on this link:
https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption_regulations_2022_2709.pdf (For Hindi please refer page 68-73, For English please refer page 193-196)

3. What is the eligibility criteria for prospective adoptive parents under adoption regulations?

Reply : Please refer to the eligibility criteria of PAPs given in Section 57 of JJ Act, 2015 (amended in 2021) link: https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/JJ%20Amendment%20Act%20-2021_27.pdf and Regulation 5 of Adoption Regulation, 2022 link: https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption_regulations_2022_2709.pdf

4. Can CARA give custody of already reserved child to other PAP without informing to first PAP?

Reply : No, however CARA always upholds the best interest of the child.

5. What are the criteria for inter country adoption of children?

Reply : Please visit CARA's website (<https://cara.wcd.gov.in>) and go through the Adoption Regulations, 2022 for process of adoption. You may also refer to the protocols available on CARA website to understand the adoption process of the inter country adoption.

For Orphan, Abandoned or Surrendered:

[https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/Procedure%20Inter-Country%20Adoption%20\(OAS%20Children\)_.pdf](https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/Procedure%20Inter-Country%20Adoption%20(OAS%20Children)_.pdf)

For relative:

https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/Procedure%20Inter-Country%20Relative%20Adoption_.pdf

6. Where can we check the adoption data?

The adoption data can be accessed from CARINGS Dashboard and the link for the same is provided below:

https://carings.wcd.gov.in/CARA_Dashboard.aspx

7. Can an Indian Citizen know the status of an abandoned/Surrendered/Orphaned child?

Reply : Section 10 of JJ Act, 2015 (amended in 2021), deals with restoration of child in need of care and protection. In case you are interested to know about the welfare of the child, you may approach the Child Welfare Committee of the district. You may note that the JJ Act, 2015 is meant for safety, welfare and permanency of all orphans, abandoned and surrendered children.

8. If a couple already registered to Adopt a child, has filed divorce, is She/He eligible for adoption?

Reply : You may note that “PAPs need to wait for the finalization of divorce, as it will change their category as “Single”. Accordingly, their HSR will be re-validated.

- 9. For Adoption, Is court order compulsory or registered adoption deed is sufficient?**
Reply : All the Adoption Orders issued by the Courts are now replaced by Adoption Order issued by the District Magistrate, as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021. Except for Maharashtra, since the matter is subjudice and as an interim relief to the PAPs lower courts have been asked to issue the adoption orders till final judgement is out.
- 10. In the case of one step parents and one biological, how CWC process the adoption?**
Reply : You can get information about the eligibility and procedure for adoption by step parent which are available under the “Parents” main menu at our website (<https://cara.wcd.gov.in>). For more information please refer the protocol for the same.
https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/Procedure%20Adoption%20by%20Step%20Parent_.pdf
- 11. What will be the process for step parents to adopt their step child?**
Reply : The eligibility and procedure for adoption by step parent can be seen on CARA Website (<https://cara.wcd.gov.in>) under the “Parents” main menu. For more information please refer the protocol for the same.
https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/Procedure%20Adoption%20by%20Step%20Parent_.pdf
- 12. What are the rules & regulations for Central government employees regarding adoption’s fee wave off or any concession in charges or reimbursement?**
Reply : There is no such provision. Further, please check the Regulation 49 of the Adoption Regulation 2022 regarding adoption fees (refer Schedule XV).
https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption_regulations_2022_2709.pdf (refer page 214-216)
- 13. Can CARA reject any parent who has a reserved child in portal without giving any reason or information to them?**
Reply : It may be case specific and it all depends on the best interest of the child where CARA can take appropriate decision.
- 14. Does CARA has the right to change seniority of any parent without informing them?**
Reply : No.
- 15. If a woman is separated from husband since years but divorce is still pending, can she proceed for Foster Adoption?**
Reply : You may contact the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to know about foster care programme.
- 16. What are the provisions/sections through which you can get adoption a legal status after a lapse of 25 years? What would be the procedure for it?**
Reply : You may approach to the State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) of the State in this matter.
- 17. Is adoption possible for gay/lesbian couple?**
Reply : Child adoption can be done by either single PAPs or married couple with 2 years of stable marriage. Please visit CARA's website (<https://cara.wcd.gov.in/>) and go through the Adoption Regulations, 2022 for process of adoption.
- 18. How to get copies of CARA annual reports?**
Reply : Annual Reports Reports are available year wise in both hindi and English and can be downloaded from CARA’s website (<https://cara.wcd.gov.in/>) under “Resources” main menu.
- 19. What documents are required to confirm the address of Prospective Adoptive Parents?**
Reply : Information regarding requisite documents are available on CARA website. Kindly click on this link
https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption%20regulations%202022%20english_27.pdf
(Schedule VI, refer page: 193-196).

- 20. What are the guidelines for the pre-adoption counseling? By whom it should be done and what documents are required?**
Reply : All data available on CARA website. Kindly click on this link https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption%20regulations%202022%20english_27.pdf
- 21. Why eventuality letter from PAP is required when there is no such rule for biological parent? Does it violate Article 14 of the Constitution?**
Reply Information can be seen by clicking on this link https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption%20regulations%202022%20english_27.pdf
- 22. Is there any minimum Income criterion for PAPs?**
Reply : No, the PAPs are not ruled out on the basis of financial status.
- 23. Is there any requirement of giving an advertisement to declare a child legally free for adoption in two months to complete the process?**
Reply : All data available on CARA website. Kindly click on this link <https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/JJ%20act%202015.pdf> (Section 38 refers) and https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption%20regulations%202022%20english_27.pdf [Regulation 6(7) refers].
- 24. Can live-in Couples adopt a child?**
Reply : Circular available on CARA website. Kindly click on this link https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/Registration-of-cases-of-single-PAPs-having-a_live-in_partner-in-a-long-time-relationship-and-not-married160622.pdf
- 25. Which social media handles of your organization are active?**
Reply : CARA's Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CARAWCD/> , Instagram https://www.instagram.com/cara_mwcd/ , Twitter <https://twitter.com/CARAWCD> and Youtube https://www.youtube.com/@cara_mwcd - all are active.
- 26. Which agency/company is managing Social Media handles of the department?**
Reply : CARA's Social Media handles all managed by the In-house Media Team.
- 27. Applied for Adoption one year ago, what is the reason for delay in getting a child?**
Reply : The waiting period of PAPs depends upon their seniority and availability of children as per the preference of children given by PAPs regarding age, gender, health State/UT of child etc. However, the PAPs can access their seniority with their login ID and password.
- 28. How long should we wait to get a child?**
Reply : Time period depends upon PAP's seniority and availability of children as per their preference of children regarding age, gender, health State/UT of child etc. Seniority can be accessed by PAPs with their log in ID and password.
- 29. What is the complete process of Step Parent Adoption process?**
Reply : One can refer to the protocols uploaded on the CARA website to understand the process of Step Parent adoption: https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/Procedure%20Adoption%20by%20Step%20Parent_.pdf
- 30. What is the Current waiting time for adoption with respect to same states and age group?**
Reply : The waiting period for adoption depends upon seniority of PAPs in the chosen States as well as availability of children in those States/UT's in the particular age group. It also depends on the preference of the PAPs.
- 31. Does adoption order would bear the new full name of the child or as per the old name?**

Reply : Please refer Schedule XXXIII, Part 2 of Adoption Regulations, 2022 for details in this regard. You can access a copy of the Regulations from. https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption_regulations_2022_2709.pdf (please refer page 248)

32. What are the requirements for single father to adopt child?

Reply : The eligibility criteria of PAPs are mentioned in Section 57 of the JJ Act, 2015 as well as in Regulation 5 of the Adoption Regulation, 2022. Further to mention that Section 57(4) and Regulation 5(2)(c) clearly mentions that a single male is not eligible to adopt a girl child.

33. After completion of registration and HSR, why I am facing delay to get information on possible referral of child for adoption?

Reply : The entire adoption process is carried out in accordance with the provisions of juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (amended in 2021) and Adoption Regulations 2022. The database of Prospective Adoption Parents (PAPs) is maintained and managed through designated CARINGS portal. There is no manual intervention at any stage in the process.

34. Why my Waiting period is increasing frequently?

Reply : The seniority list is dynamic. The waiting period and seniority depends on the number of Prospective Adoptive Parents, the availability of legally free children for adoption and preference of children age, gender, health status, preference of State/UT etc.

35. What is the rules/regulations or law stating the seniority list?

Reply : Please refer Regulations 09 & 11 of the Adoption Regulations, 2022 which deal with priority in referral of a child from a SAA through the designated Portal to PAPs.

36. From the date of registration how much time will be taken to refer the child to parents?

Reply : The adoption process is system-driven and dynamic, and depends on the availability of legally free children in the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) adoption Preference, subject to PAP's seniority queue.

37. By when shall a prospective parent expect for getting referral for adoption?

Reply : Seniority is variable and influenced by factors such as the count of potential adoptive parents, the availability of legally free children for adoption, and the performance of children in terms of age, gender, health status, and the preferences of the state/union territory..

38. After rejecting a referral child, how much time it will take to get second or third referral?

Reply : As per Regulation 11(2), "On the basis of seniority, the prospective adoptive parents shall be referred maximum three referral with one month interval in between two consecutive referrals subjects to availability of children through the designated portal which shall include their photographs, child study report and medical examination report, in their preference category, if any, from one or more Specialised Adoption Agencies". It all depends on availability of children.

39. Why the adoption process is so slow in the age group of 2-4 years, and at this rate by when can we expect to receive our referral?

Reply : The adoption process is carried out by Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) in accordance with the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 (as amended 2021) and Adoption Regulations 2022. The waiting period depends on the seniority of Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) and of legally free children on the bases of preference of Prospective Adoptive Parents as per age, gender, health status, state etc. There is no waiting period for adopting children having special needs, those available in the category of immediate placement and also for reserving a child through 7 days portal meant for RI/NRI/OCI

PAPs. At present, the numbers of Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) are much more than the available legally free children in the portal.

- 40. Can an Indian residence adopt kids from war-torn nations like Sudan, Afghanistan?**
Reply : If any specific case comes to CARA from the Non-Hague Signatory Country then it would be addressed on Merit.
- 41. What are the procedures for mentioning guardians & relevant rules, acts or any order related to Guardians And Wards Act?**
Reply : Query related to the Guardians And Wards Act (GAWA), 1890. CARA does not deal with GAWA Act.
- 42. Procedure to adopt child under HAMA Act, 1956?**
Reply : Information regarding procedure to adopt child in case of NRI & OCI PAPs under HAMA Act, 1956 are available on CARA website. Kindly click on this link https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/adoption%20regulations%202022%20english_27.pdf (Chapter VIII, refer page 172).
- 43. Whether Adoption fees once paid is refundable in case the child is returned to the agency?**
Reply: Regulation 49 of Adoption Regulations, 2022 states that the prospective adoptive parents shall bear the expenses for adoption and the Specialised Adoption Agencies shall adhere to the adoption fees and their utilisation pattern as provided in the Schedule XV which shall be revised by the Authority from time to time. In continuation of the same, the Steering Committee of the Authority in its 36th meeting held on 02/01/2024 has decided that the adoption fees once submitted by the prospective adoptive parents to the Specialised Adoption Agencies, stands non-refundable.