



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Highlights

- CAS is the first US agency to be accredited as an Adoption Service Provider in Ghana under the Hague
- CAS specializes in relative adoptions from Ghana.

### Children

- Age 2+
- Developmental delays
- Majority of children have some form of special need or medical diagnosis.

### Ghana Intercountry

### Adoption Requirements

- Couples must be married for at least 2 years
- Single women must hold dual citizenship in the US and Ghana. Must be under 50 years old.
- Must be at least 25 years old and maximum age of 50 for non-Ghanaians (must be at least 21 years older than child)
- Prospective adoptive parents pursuing an adoption of a relative must be under 65 years old.

### The Wait to Welcome Home

- Dossier to Referral: 7.5 months – 2.5 years
- Referral to Final Visa Interview: 9–20 months
- Non-relative adoptions: 7.5 months – 3 years for a referral

### Excited to Travel

- Prepare to stay in country for at least 45 days
- It is recommended by Ghanaian officials to spend three months in Ghana over the course of the adoption
- Families will be required to find care for their child after their mandatory 30-day bonding period is complete if they are unable to remain in country.







## PROGRAM OVERVIEW EXPLAINED

### The Children

Children placed through this program live in orphanages while awaiting adoption. The children vary from ages 2-15. The majority of children referred through this program are mainly male and there is a large need of children ages 5+. Some children within the program have developmental delays due to institutional issues.

### The Program

Ghana has transitioned to become a Hague convention country in 2017. CAS was the first US agency to become accredited in Ghana under the Hague in 2020. We work with relative and non-relative adoptions. We have a great team of foreign supervised providers in Ghana. Our team has traveled to Ghana to meet with Ghana government officials through the central adoption authority to abide by both countries laws and best serve families and children through international adoption.

### The Process

Once a family receives a referral, the adoptive family is able to travel right away or wait until additional paperwork is completed for the full Article 16 paperwork. Families are required to complete a minimum 30-day bonding period in Ghana with the child. The family will spend a few days doing day visits at the orphanage before bringing the child to their place of residence in country.

During the bonding period Ghanaian social workers will complete visits and reports on the bonding process. They will issue a letter of recommendation for the adoption process to continue. Once all Article 16 documents are received, the family is permitted to file the I-800 with USCIS. USCIS processing times vary, but on average takes 1-2.5 months to receive approval. Once the I-800 approval is received, the family will file the DS260 immigrant visa petition. This petition will be reviewed by a US Embassy in Accra for Article 5 issuance under the Hague convention. Depending on additional investigations that the US Embassy conducts, this part of the process can take between 1-6 months. After Article 5 has been issued, the case will be reviewed by the department of social welfare for approval to file for adoption order in the high court. CAS has a team of legal representatives in Ghana that will file the families' adoption petition with the high court. Adoptive parents are required to be in person at the scheduled court hearing date. The Ghanaian judicial system has the authority to request additional documentation pending case details.

Once an adoption order is issued by the Ghanaian high court the family has legal custody of the child and the adoption is finalized in Ghana. A new birth certificate with the adoptive parents' names and a Ghanaian passport for the child must be processed. Once both birth certificate and passport are received, the child must undergo a visa medical exam before the family may schedule a visa interview with the US Embassy in Accra. The family must attend the interview in person. After the visa interview the child's passport with the immigrant visa will be ready for pickup and the family is permitted to depart from Ghana.



# GHANA: COSTS AT A GLANCE

*\*These fees are applicable to both relative and non-relative adoptions*

## Total Costs

Placement Only: Estimated \$31,600

Full Service (Home Study & Placement): Estimated \$45,000

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## Learn More

800.632.9312

info@carolinaadoption.org

[childrensadoptionservices.org](http://childrensadoptionservices.org)

Call, email or visit our website to learn more, schedule a time to speak with one of our experts, or get started on your adoption journey!

## Connect with CAS

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram, sign up for e-mail updates, or register for our Waiting Child photo listing to receive news, updates, and resources for every step of your parenting journey.

## Paying for Adoption

A Federal Tax Credit is available to qualified adoptive parents. This and other resources like grants and low-interest loans can help reduce costs. Please visit our website for more information.

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## Visit these pages for more information:

### International Adoption

<https://childrensadoptionservices.org/international-adoption/>

### Ghana

<https://childrensadoptionservices.org/project/ghana/>

### Request a Consult

<http://childrensadoptionservices.org/adoption-information-request/>

### Post Adoption Reporting

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/Ghana.html>

