

# ADOPTION A LIFE LONG BOND

*"I looked for you, though I didn't know your face and when  
at last you were ours, our life took on a new dimension.*

*"We were A FAMILY....."*

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A Family for a life time
- CARA since 1990
- UNCRC
- Hague Convention-1993
- JJ Act 2000 (amended in 2006)
- Associated Adoption Agencies
- In-country Adoption
- Inter-country Adoption
- Contact Details



**CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY**  
Ministry of Women & Child Development

## A FAMILY FOR LIFE TIME

Would you not like to bring a bundle of joy in your family?

Adoption is a process and that is for life long one. The love and understanding between the adopted child and the adoptive parents strengthen through a continuous process of nurturing. Adoption not only provides full opportunities to a child to bloom into a complete human being, but also gives a chance to the adoptive parents to experience parenthood in its most beautiful form.

The bond of love between a parent and a child is a result of nurturing and not just an outcome of biological birth.

Adoption is based on the principle that the child should grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of love and affection. Where a child is deprived of her/his family environment permanently, the adoptive family is then considered the best environment for the child. The family is the only natural environment for the growth as well as well-being of the child. The parents have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child.

The Government of India always considers adoption as the best non-institutional support for rehabilitation of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children who become homeless and whose separation from their biological parents cannot be avoided for various reasons. In pursuance of its constitutional mandate, the Government of India has evolved a National Policy for the Welfare of Children.

### CARA since 1990

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Women & Child Development works as a nodal body in the matter of adoptions in the country. CARA was established on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1990 by the then Ministry of Welfare through a Resolution. Subsequently, a Task Force Committee, constituted by the then M/o Welfare with Justice P. N. Bhagwati as Chairman, submitted its recommendation on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1993 for the issuance of a set of guidelines by the Govt. for the regulation of the inter-country adoption. The Committee in its recommendations favoured for CARA



playing a pivotal role in inter-country adoption with an autonomous status.

Pursuant to a decision of the Union Cabinet dt: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1998, the then Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment conferred the autonomous status on CARA on 18.3.1999 by registering it as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It was designated as Central Authority by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 17.7.2003 for the implementation of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children & Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993). The Ministry of Women & Child Development has of late been mandated to look after the subject matters 'Adoption' & 'Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000' pursuant to 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2006 notification of Govt. of India regarding reallocation of the Business.

#### KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of CARA is to promote adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children in the country and regulate inter-country adoptions.

#### UNCRC

The Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November 1989 and ratified by India recognizes that each child should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding and a child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth. It further states that in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interest of the child shall be a primary condition. In fact, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 recognizes family as the fundamental group of the society and the natural environment for growth and well being of all its members and particularly children.

#### HAGUE CONVENTION 1993

India signed the Hague Convention on "The Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Inter-country Adoption (1993)" on 9<sup>th</sup> January'2003 and ratified the



same on 6<sup>th</sup> June'2003 with a view to strengthen international cooperation and protection of Indian Children placed in inter-country adoption. For the purpose of implementation of the Convention in the country, the Ministry of Women and Child Development functions as the Administrative Ministry and Central Adoption Resource Authority as the Central Authority.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE & PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT 2000 AMENDED IN 2006 & ADOPTION GUIDELINES NOTIFIED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

In-country Adoption procedure is governed by In-country Adoption Guidelines 2004 while Inter-country Adoption by Guidelines of Adoption from India 2006. Both the guidelines are under revision now.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 amended in 2006 is a specialized law to deal with children in need of care and protection. As per Article 41 (3) of the Act, Children may be given in adoption by a court after satisfying itself regarding the investigations having been carried out as are required for giving such children in adoption.

#### ASSOCIATED ADOPTION AGENCIES

1. Enlisted Foreign Adoption Agency (EFAA) : A Foreign Social/Child Welfare Agency that is enlisted by CARA for sponsoring the applications of Prospective Foreign / NRI / OCI / PIO adoptive parents for Inter-Country Adoption of an Indian child.
2. Recognized Indian Placement Agency for Inter-country Adoption (RIPA) : An Indian Social/ Child Welfare Agency recognized by CARA for placement of Indian Children in Inter Country Adoption.
3. Adoption Coordinating Agency (ACA) : ACA is a centralized agency recognised by CARA in a state/ region set up for the promotion of In-country Adoption through co-ordination of its member agencies, and to issue clearance certificate for a child to be placed in inter-country adoption.



4. Sishu Grehs : NGOs and Govt. run Homes get grant-in-aid under Shishu Greh Scheme from Ministry of Women & Child Development. CARA functions as Programme Division for the Scheme.

#### HOW TO START

If you are thinking of adoption, get in touch with a recognized/licensed adoption agency in your locality / area. You may also contact any other adoption agency or adoption coordinating agency in your state. Experienced Professional Social Worker of the Adoption Agency will share with you the information about adopting a Child. She will guide you and support you to make a decision about adoption. You may also go through pre-adoption counseling if suggested by the adoption agency. Initially as a prospective adoptive parent, you may have number of queries in your mind which can be addressed by the professional social worker of the adoption agency. The preparation starts with an exchange of thoughts.

#### PROCEDURE: IN-COUNTRY ADOPTION

- (i) Firstly, prospective adoptive parents should register themselves with the local licensed Adoption Agency or Adoption Coordinating Agency. The couple's interest in adoption, and its decision to adopt is ascertained at this stage.
- (ii) A home study of the prospective adoptive parents is completed by the social worker of the agency. To allay the fears and apprehensions of the prospective adoptive parents, pre-adoptive counseling sessions are undertaken by the social worker during the process of home study. Assessing the ability of a couple to parent a child not born to them is of crucial importance in a successful adoption. Therefore, the couple's suitability to care for an unrelated child is ensured through this home study.
- (iii) Subsequently, the prospective adoptive parents submit the documents related to their financial and health status to the agency.
- (iv) A child is then shown to the parents. The agency takes care to match a child with the description, if any, desired by the parents.



- (v) Once a successful matching has been done, the agency then files a petition in the court for obtaining the necessary orders under HAMA or JJ Act or any other relevant Act. The child may also be placed in pre-adoption foster care with the adoptive parents with the pending court order.
- (vi) Fees will be charged by the recognized agency for the cost of caring for the child and the legal procedures.
- (vii) There are regular follow-up visits and post adoption counseling by the social worker till the child adjusts in his/her new environment.

#### PROCEDURE: INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION

- (i) All prospective adoptive parents (foreign /PIO /NRI/ OCI) are required to contact foreign adoption agencies enlisted by CARA and Central Authorities.
- (ii) Home studies of the prospective adoptive parents (PAPs) are completed by the above agencies/authorities.
- (iii) Applications containing the home study of the PAPs are forwarded to Indian Placement Agencies recognized by CARA.
- (iv) Indian Placement Agencies send Child Study Reports for acceptance by the prospective adoptive parents. The PAPs may also come down to India to see children before giving their approval.
- (v) On receiving the child study report(CSR) approved by Prospective Adoptive Parents, the Recognized Placement Agency in India sends a copy of the HSR and CSR to CARA for NOC.
- (vi) CARA issues NOC ensuring that all the documents are complete and in order.
- (vii) On receiving NOC from CARA, the Placement Agency files petition in the court. After court order, the child gets the passport and visa and gets ready to travel with his/her adoptive parents.



# CARA

## CONTACT DETAILS

Adoption related queries by Prospective Indian Parents residing in India  
Please contact Adoption Coordinating Agencies (ACAs), Recognised Indian Placement Agencies (RIPAs) and Specialised Adoption Agencies (Shishu Grehas getting grants from Central Govt. and other recognized adoption agencies by the State).

Adoption related queries by Prospective NRI/OCI/PIO/Foreign Parents  
Please contact Central Authorities/Foreign Adoption Agencies Enlisted by CARA.

Regarding recognition for In-country Adoption  
Please contact concerned Deptt. of State Govt. dealing with adoption matters.

Regarding recognition/enlistment for Inter-country Adoption  
Please contact CARA.

### **CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY**

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