

she attains age 16 years. The adopter is not required to have resided with the child.

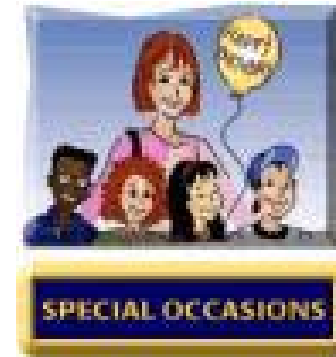
- Orphans who have been filed for migration to the United States can be adopted after they attain age 16 years.
- Changes in the United States Immigration laws allows for sponsorship to the United States of children adopted or sponsored while under the age of 16 years old and their siblings who are over 16 but under 18 years who have been adopted by the same persons. This is applicable to orphan and non-orphan children.

Please consult with U.S. Immigration for further clarification of information provided in C above.

D. Canadian residents and citizens who are considering adopting their relatives in Jamaica should first consult Canadian Immigration, Canada to explore sponsorship options that are available for them.

E. The Adoption Board cannot assist adopted persons to obtain visas to other countries. We will however, share with you, information on immigration procedures available to the Adoption Board.

F. Please note that other countries have specific immigration requirements. Please contact the Embassy's, High Commissions or their Immigration Department abroad regarding eligibility for adopted persons to migrate to those countries.



The ADOPTION PROGRAMME IN JAMAICA



**The adoption service is
delivered by the Child
Development Agency
(Head Office)
2—4 King Street
Kingston**



The Adoption Service in Jamaica:

The Adoption Board has responsibility for adoption matters pursuant to Section 5 of the Children “Adoption of” Act. It is the only organization in Jamaica authorized to do the following:

- Process applications from persons who wish to adopt children in Jamaica.
- Process applications from citizens of Scheduled Countries abroad who wish to apply for licences permitting them to take children to Scheduled Countries and conclude the adoption in those countries.
- Process/accept children 6 weeks old to under the age of eighteen (18) years who are available for adoption.
- Place children available for adoption with approved applicants.

Who can be adopted?

Children from age six (6) weeks can be placed for adoption. A child can be adopted at the latest the day before his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday. The application must be received at least six months before so that the adoption process can be completed in the Court before the child’s eighteenth (18th birthday).

Children who can be adopted are in any of the following categories:

- ◆ Children who are Wards of the State and are available for adoption.
- ◆ Where the Court has dispensed with the consent of the parents.

- ◆ Children who are released for adoption by their parents.

Who cannot be processed for adoption?

- ◆ Children under six (6) weeks old.
- ◆ Persons over age eighteen (18) years.

Who can apply to adopt in Jamaica?

A. Persons should be domiciled in Jamaica - That is, born in Jamaica or living in Jamaica permanently. Jamaicans living abroad maybe required to reside in Jamaica for 6 months.

B. Applicants can be married or single.

C. A married person cannot adopt jointly with a relative or friend but can adopt with his/her wife/husband or singly with the approval of their spouse.

D. Persons who are unmarried or persons who are separated from their spouse or are divorced or widowed can only adopt children **singly** and **not jointly** with partners, relatives or friends.

E. Applicants who are not the parents or relatives of the child to be adopted should be over 25 years old.

F. Persons who are over eighteen (18) year can apply to adopt relatives.

Who can apply for a Licence to adopt a Jamaican child in a Scheduled Country?

Persons over twenty-five (25) years old who are citizens of scheduled countries:

The scheduled countries are: Sweden, Denmark, all Commonwealth Countries and the United States of America.

What is the Fee?

There is no fee. However applicants are required to meet medical and other incidental costs.

Other facts that you need to know:

A. Persons who have completed the adoption of children become the legal parents of the children they have adopted and all legal rights of biological parents are transferred to the adoptive parents permanently.

B. Adoption documents issued by the Courts in Jamaica and the Registrar General’s Department carry Jamaican addresses for the adopter and adoptee.

C. The United States Immigration Laws require that adoptive parents meet the following:

- Adopted children who will eventually migrate to the United States must have been adopted before their sixteenth (16th) birth date. (Read other bullets)
- Prior to petitioning for an adopted child as a relative, adoptive parents should have resided with the adoptee for a two year period before or after a legal adoption. Adopters are required to have had legal custody of the adopted child for two years.
- The **I 600** orphan petition should be filed for an orphan child before he or