

ETHIOPIA FACT SHEET

DISCLAIMER: The information provided below is based on the adoption law of Ethiopia, as well as information provided by the adoption authority of Ethiopia. This Fact Sheet has not been reviewed by the foreign adoption authorities.

Note: Prospective adoptive parents should ensure that the Canadian licensed agency they are working with is approved by the Children and Family Affairs Department in Ethiopia.

Non- Hague Country

Contact information of Adoption Authority:

Children and Family Affairs Department (CFAD)
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA)
P.O. Box 2056
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 011-251-1-505-358
Fax: 011-251-1-515-316 or 51-8396

Note: Information provided applies to the adoption of an unrelated **child** or **children**. Reference to **applicant/adoptive parent** also applies to **applicants/adoptive parents**.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Couples:

- Married for at least two (2) years.
- Common-law and same sex couples are not accepted.

Singles:

- Single women who are no more than forty (40) years older than the child to be adopted may be considered. Exceptions may be made if the applicant is applying to adopt special needs children, specifically, older children and children who are physically and/or developmentally challenged.
- Single men are not accepted.

Age requirements:

- Applicants must be twenty-five (25) years of age or older. For married couples, at least one spouse should be twenty-five (25) years of age. There is no maximum age limit of adoptive parents. However, some Regional States are incorporating a maximum age of 65 to adopt in their Revised Family Code.

TYPE OF CHILDREN GENERALLY PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION

- Children range in age from six (6) months to eighteen (18) years of age.

ESTIMATED WAITING PERIOD

- The waiting period is approximately six (6) months from the time the adoption application is received by the CFAD to the referral of a child.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

1. Letter of Intent to Adopt an Ethiopian child (Annex A).
2. Letter of recommendation from the provincial/territorial adoption authority which must:
 - I. certify that the homestudy has been completed by an approved/licensed social worker;
 - II. recommend the prospective adoptive parent for the adoption of an Ethiopian child as described in the homestudy; and
 - III. confirm that an adoption completed in Ethiopia has the same effect as if the adoption had been completed under the laws of the province/territory.

3. Homestudy report prepared by a qualified social worker which covers the following:
 - Motivation for adoption
 - Psychosocial history of each prospective adoptive parent
 - Family dynamics
 - Attitudes of any children residing in the household towards the potential adoption
 - Attitudes of the extended family towards adoption
 - Knowledge of culture of Ethiopia
 - Number, age range, sex, and special needs and characteristics of the child that the prospective adoptive parent is approved to adopt
 - Educational background
 - Other information (e.g. religion, hobbies, interest, etc.)
4. Birth certificate
5. Marriage certificate (if applicable)
6. Divorce decree (if applicable)
7. Police clearance confirming that the applicant does not have a criminal record
8. Medical report stating physical and mental health, issued by a qualified medical practitioner
9. Statement of family income:
 - Letter certifying employment, salary, date of employment and position
 - Letter from the bank confirming assets.
 - Letters of reference from two (2) persons (friends, relatives, church)
10. Two passport sized photographs
11. Photographs of the home environment

LANGUAGE IN WHICH THE DOCUMENTS MUST BE PRESENTED

- All documents must be submitted in English.

NOTARIZATION/ LEGALIZATION/AUTHENTICATION

Notarization:

- All documents (except photographs) must be notarized.

Certification/Legalization and authentication:

- All notarized documents must be certified/legalized by Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) or the Department of Justice of the appropriate province/territory.
- All certified/legalized documents must be authenticated by the Embassy of Ethiopia.

Note: Please see the Chart (Annex B) which outlines the requirements for notarization, legalization/certification and authentication for each document.

COPIES

- One set of originals plus one copy of all the documents.

EXPENSES IN ETHIOPIA

There are no fees charged by the CFAD. Adoptive parent should obtain from a Canadian licensed agency detailed information about the fees for the adoption of a child from Ethiopia.

PROCESS

- The provincial/territorial adoption authorities or a Canadian licensed agency which has also been approved by Ethiopia sends the application (adoption documents) to the Children and Family Affairs Department for their review. **Note:** The Canadian licensed agency should have a licensed agency in Ethiopia to assist with the process.
- If the adoption documents are in order, the licensed agency in Ethiopia obtains the prospective adoptive parent's application from the CFAD and has it authenticated by the Claims and Authentication Section of the Protocol Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **Note:** There is a fee for authentication stamps; adoptive parent should ask the Canadian licensed agency information about the cost.
- The licensed agency returns the authenticated adoption documents to the CFAD.
- The CFAD submits the adoption file to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) for screening/approval.
- Once the adoptive parent has been approved, a child is identified for the prospective adoptive parent.
- Once the licensed agency in Ethiopia receives confirmation that the adoptive parent accepts the child, it works with authorities in having the adoption finalized in the court.
- The licensed agency in Ethiopia obtains from the MOLSA a letter to apply for birth certificate and passport for the child.
- The adoptive parent is advised by the Canadian agency to go to Ethiopia to receive the child.

TRAVEL TO COUNTRY AND LENGTH OF STAY

- The adoptive parent should travel to Ethiopia to receive placement of the child(ren).

POST ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

The CFAD requires post adoption reports, prepared by a social worker, at intervals of 3, 6, 12 months and then yearly until the child reaches the age of 18. Reports should include the following information:

- description of the child's physical, mental and emotional development
- relationship of the child to the adoptive parent and his/her/their surroundings
- major events that have affected the child
- overall evaluation and assessment of the child
- 12 photographs of the child in his/her/their environment

Each progress report should have a cover sheet providing the following information:

- child's Ethiopian name
- date of birth
- place of birth and institution
- date of court decree
- date of child's arrival in Canada
- name of the adoptive parent
- address of the adoptive parent
- progress report number
- date of progress report
- name of the social worker responsible for completing the report.

LICENSED AGENCIES IN THE FOREIGN COUNTRY

Information is not available

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Legalization of documents

Mr. Mario Nunez
Document Authentication Officer
Foreign Affairs Canada
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1a 0G2
Tel: (613) 992-6602
Fax: (613) 944-7078

Authentication of documents

Embassy of Ethiopia
#210 – 151 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5H3
Tel: (613) 235-6637
Tax: (613) 235-4638
E-mail: infoethi@magi.com

Web site : <http://www.ethiopia.ottawa.on.ca>

USEFUL LINKS

- [Canadian Representatives Abroad](#) – Canadian High Commission in Kenya
- [United States Government Travel](#) - Information regarding International Adoption in Ethiopia

**LETTER OF INTENT TO ADOPT
(Sample)**

I/We _____, residing at
_____, Canada,
say :

It is my/our desire and intention to legally adopt an Ethiopian child. The adoption will be with full effects, and in compliance with the laws of Ethiopia.

I/We undertake to provide follow-up reports, along with twelve (12) photographs, describing the adjustment of the child into my/our family. Reports will be prepared by an approved/licensed social worker, at my/our expense, and forwarded to the CFAD through the appropriate authorities at intervals of 3, 6 and 12 months after the child's arrival in Canada.

I/We also undertake to prepare and send annual reports directly to the Children and Family Affairs Department (CFAD), along with photographs, until the child reaches eighteen (18) years of age.

I/We also agree to the release of information to the in the event of adoption breakdown or abandonment of the child.

Date :

Signature(s) :

ANNEX B

ETHIOPIA DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

DOCUMENT	NOTARIZED		LEGALIZED		AUTHENTICATED.	
Letter of intent	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Provincial letter	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Homestudy	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Birth certificate	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Marriage certificate (if applicable)	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Divorce Decree if applicable	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Police clearance	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Medical report	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Statement of income	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Letters of recommendation (2)	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Two passport sized photo of each applicant and photo of home.	No		No		No	

Note: Notarial Certificate listing all the documents must be provided by the notary.

Notarization: Done by a Notary Public or Lawyer
 Legalization: By FAC or the Dept. of Justice of the appropriate province/territory's Legal Ministry
 Authentication: As a group, done by the Embassy of Ethiopia
 Language: English
 Copies: Original +1 copy