



Adoption Guide for Prospective Adoptive Parents

Registration through the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

This guide has been prepared by **Vatsalya** to help parents understand the legal and ethical adoption process in India. The document explains eligibility, registration, documents required, and the step-by-step adoption process as per CARA regulations.

1. Who Can Adopt?

- Prospective adoptive parents must be physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially stable.
- They should not have any life-threatening medical condition.
- They must not have any criminal conviction or involvement in child rights violations.
- A married couple must have at least two years of stable marriage.
- A single female can adopt a child of any gender.
- A single male cannot adopt a girl child.

2. Registration on CARINGS Portal

- Create an account on the CARINGS portal.
- Fill the Schedule VI application form.
- Upload required documents within 30 days.
- Choose preferred states for adoption.
- Receive a registration number for tracking.

3. Documents Required

- Recent family photograph or photograph of the single parent.
- Identity proof (Aadhaar, Passport, Voter ID, or Driving License).
- PAN Card.
- Birth certificate of adoptive parents.
- Proof of residence (utility bill, Aadhaar, passport etc.).
- Income proof (salary slip, ITR, or income certificate).
- Marriage certificate / divorce decree / death certificate of spouse (if applicable).
- Medical fitness certificate from a registered medical practitioner.

4. Age Eligibility Criteria

Age of Child	Max Age of Couple	Max Age of Single Parent
Up to 2 years	85 years	40 years
2 – 4 years	90 years	45 years
4 – 8 years	100 years	50 years
8 – 18 years	110 years	55 years

5. Adoption Process Overview

- Home Study Report (HSR) conducted by a social worker.
- HSR must be completed within 60 days.
- Child referral provided based on seniority and preference.
- Parents must reserve the child profile within 48 hours.
- Matching process completed within 30 days.
- Parents meet the child and review medical and child study reports.

6. Pre-Adoption Foster Care

After successful matching, the child may be placed with the adoptive parents in pre-adoption foster care. Parents sign an undertaking accepting responsibility for the child until the adoption order is finalized.

7. Legal Adoption Order

- The adoption petition is filed before the District Magistrate.
- The case should be disposed within 2 months.
- After approval, the adoption order is issued.
- A new birth certificate is issued with the adoptive parents' names.

8. Post-Adoption Follow-Up

- Follow-up visits are conducted every 6 months for 2 years.
- The first follow-up visit takes place within 3 months.
- Reports ensure the child's well-being and adjustment in the family.

Our Commitment

Vatsalya works to ensure that every abandoned or vulnerable child finds a safe, loving, and permanent family through ethical and lawful adoption. We believe that adoption is not just a legal process, but a life-changing journey for both children and parents.

Disclaimer: This document is an awareness guide. Parents must follow the official guidelines issued by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) and the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.