

CHILE

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROGRAMME



Last Updated: May 2023

Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption	Chile has ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and it entered into force in Chile on 1 November 1999. As both Chile and New Zealand are parties to the Hague Convention, all adoptions must comply with the Convention's principles and procedural safeguards to be recognised and for the adopted child to be entitled to reside in New Zealand.
Central Authority	In 2021 the Chilean Government Department was renamed from SENAME to Mejor Ninez (Servicio Nacional de Protección Especializada a la Niñez y Adolescencia)
Legislation	An adoption order is granted in the Chilean Family Court prior the child coming to New Zealand. The adoption occurs in Chile under Act No. 19,620 of 1999 and Act No. 19,910 of 2003.
Facilitation	Applicants must enlist the services of an accredited organisation, Compassion for Orphans (CFO). An adoption is overseen and certified by the respective Central Authorities. The CFO website is www.cfo.org.nz .
Approval of the match	All matches of children from Chile must be considered and approved by Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children, which is the New Zealand Central Authority for Intercountry Adoption.
Citizenship and Residency	Applicants must be habitually resident in New Zealand, and either New Zealand Citizens or New Zealand Permanent Residents.
Age of Applicants	Applicants must be aged between 25 and 60 years old. They also must be at least 20 years older than the child to be adopted.
Applicant Couples	Couples must have been legally married for at least 2 years. However, couples where one applicant is infertile do not need to meet this marriage duration criterion. Recent legislation in 2022 allows same sex couples to apply to adopt.
Single Applicants	Mejor Ninez do not accept applications from single applicants.
Nationality	Applicants of Chilean descent must go through the same process as any other nationality.
Infertility	Infertility is not a criterion. However, applicants without children are given priority.
Number of Children in the Family	There is no set limit. However, if the applicants have more than three children, Mejor Ninez's position is that they will be disadvantaged. Priority is given to applicants who do not have any children or who only have one other child. Chile does not allow the adoption of a child older than any children in the applicants existing family.

Children Available for Intercountry Adoption	Children eligible for intercountry adoption present with very high emotional and physical needs. With regards to emotional needs, these children usually have been victims of severe violations of their rights (neglect, severe abuse, sexual abuse, progressive abandonment) and have been institutionalised for an extended period. This usually translates into complex developmental trauma affecting their attachment style and emotional and behavioural regulation. The children require neurological or psychological and pharmacological treatment. Applicants must have a serious commitment and capacity to parent these children, particularly all the challenges arising from complex trauma. Consequently, applicants will be required to undertake extensive training and be expected to demonstrate a good understanding of the child they plan to adopt.
Time Between Receipt of Documentation in Chile and a Match	No defined time frames.
Time Between Acceptance of Match and Travel	Approximately one month. However please be aware of the implications of the global pandemic on the making of travel arrangements.
Travel Requirements	Both applicants are required to travel to Chile. The length of stay in Chile is around 60 – 90 days to process the adoption proposal. Interpreters and escorts are provided as part of the CFO service.
Child's Background	The child's background information is quite extensive, covering all aspects of the child's life i.e., medical, social and educational needs are addressed.
Approximate Costs	<p>Breakdown of Costs (based on the adoption of one child)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychologist Report - approximately \$3,000 • Translation, notarisation, verification and authentication of documents - approximately \$4,800 • Travel and accommodation – pre COVID-19 was approximately \$12,200. However, it is not possible to provide an accurate cost • In-country costs whilst in Chile - approximately \$4,000 • Post Placement Reports - \$2,400 • As children have high and complex needs applicants must factor in sufficient funds for additional ongoing supports to assist children both psychologically and medically e.g. psychologist, mental health specialists <p>There is currently no cost associated with CFO facilitation. For more information, visit the CFO website (www.cfo.org.nz/cost-to-adopt).</p> <p>(Note: If applicants are being assessed by Adoption First Steps, there will be additional costs.)</p>
Post-Placement Reports	<p>Following the placement, Mejer Ninez require six reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six months after the child's arrival in New Zealand • 12 months after the child's arrival in New Zealand • 18 months after the child's arrival in New Zealand • 24 months after the child's arrival in New Zealand • 36 months after the child's arrival in New Zealand • 48 months after the child's arrival in New Zealand
<p><i>This fact sheet provides a brief general overview of the process and requirements. Intercountry adoption criteria, processes, costs, and the children in need of intercountry adoption change frequently. Applicants should speak to a social worker to confirm the most up to date information.</i></p>	