



Adopting from Jamaica

Welcome to Adoption by Shepherd Care's Jamaica Program! As an agency, Adoption by Shepherd Care is committed to serving the children of Jamaica, and we are grateful for your interest in this program and the lives of these children. We are here to walk with you every step of this journey and allow you to focus on your goal of bringing a child into your family. In this packet, you will find comprehensive information about adopting from Jamaica and gain a clear picture of what the process will look like for your family.

Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC) has over 40 years of experience in international and domestic adoptions. ASC is a licensed non-profit child-placing agency in the State of Florida and is Hague-accredited to perform international adoption services. Our agency has an ongoing relationship with Jamaica's Central Authority that oversees adoptions, the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA). Our staff is experienced, competent, and dedicated to helping families through the process of adoption. We value the relationships we cultivate with our families and look forward to working with you.



The country

Jamaica is a Caribbean island located approximately 700 miles south of Florida. The country is known for its beautiful beaches, waterfalls, and reggae music. Some local flavors include Blue Mountain coffee and jerk chicken. The island enjoys a tropical climate, with some cooler temperatures at higher altitudes.



The children

Children between 6 weeks and 18 years old are eligible for adoption in Jamaica; however U.S. immigration guidelines hold that the child's application must be submitted prior to his or her 16th birthday. Some children available for adoption in Jamaica are living in children's homes. Others may be living with caregivers and become available for adoption due to abandonment, neglect, or death of a parent. Children may have experienced poor living conditions and limited access to educational and medical resources.



Who can adopt?

Single or married applicants at least 25 years old may adopt from Jamaica. Applicants who are closely related to the child being adopted can be between 18 and 25 years old. There is no upper age limit. Jamaica does not have specific requirements regarding applicants' income or health, but the country will take these factors into consideration when evaluating the applicants' overall suitability to adopt. The U.S. income requirement for international adoptive families is 125% over poverty.



Types of adoptions from Jamaica

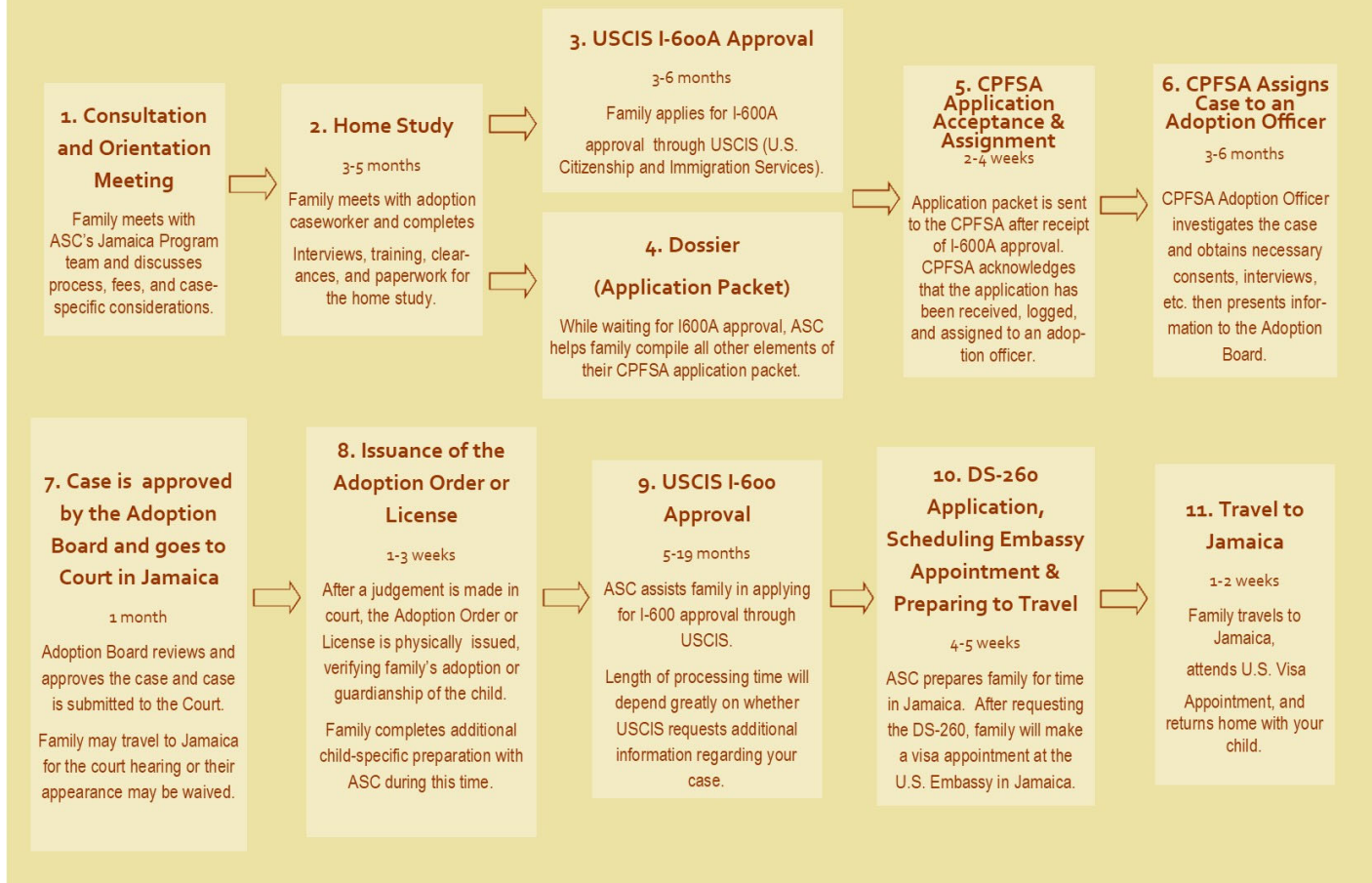
- Pre-identified (designated): Seeking to adopt a child that is a relative or with whom you have already have a connection.
- Non-pre-identified (non-designated): A waiting child referred by the CPFSA.
- At this time, ASC is only accepting applications from families with pre-identified children .



The adoption process

- Jamaica is not party to the Hague Convention. However, per the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act (UAA), international adoptions to the U.S. from any country must meet Hague Standards. Intercountry adoptions from non-Hague countries are approved by USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services). You can visit their website for additional information at: www.uscis.gov
- An adoption from Jamaica is granted through an **Adoption Order** or an **Adoption License**.
 - Order:** Jamaica courts grant a final adoption of the child in Jamaica. The child will enter the U.S. with an IR-3 visa. Once the adoption is completed in Jamaica and your child arrives in the U.S., the child will be granted automatic US citizenship. Your family will need to complete at minimum one post-adoption report after your child arrives home.
 - License:** Jamaica courts grant placement of the child in Jamaica. The child will enter the U.S. with an IR-4 visa. Once the child arrives in the U.S., your family will complete post-placement reports and finalize the adoption in the U.S. After finalization, you will apply to receive your child's U.S. Certificate of Citizenship.
- The Adoption Board has responsibility for adoption of children in Jamaica. This service is undertaken for the Board by the country's Central Authority, the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) (*previously known as the CDA: Child Development Agency*). The CPFSA processes all adoption applications. You can visit their website for additional information at: www.childprotection.gov.jm

Overview of the Adoption Process from Jamaica: Pre-Identified Child



Home study

The CPFSA adoption application packet (dossier) must include a Hague-approved home study and I-600A approval. If you live in Florida, an ASC adoption specialist will complete your home study. If you live outside of Florida, ASC will help you find an agency licensed in your state of residence to complete your home study. This agency will work as an exempted provider for ASC, and ASC will coordinate with that agency to ensure all home study requirements are met.



Post-adoption/ Post-placement reporting

After you return home with your child, you will meet with an adoption caseworker to see how everyone is doing. If you were granted an Adoption Order, you will complete one post-adoption visit. If you were granted an Adoption License, you will complete a minimum of three post-placement visits prior to finalizing your adoption in the U.S. A copy of these reports is sent to the CPFSA.



Next steps

- Review the accompanying Jamaica Fee Schedule, Jamaica Service Plan Template, and Sample Adoption Services Contract for additional information. These documents can be found on our website at www.adoptabsc.org.
- Request an application form by completing the inquiry form on our website, by email at assist@adoptabsc.org, or by phone at 954-981-2060.
- Schedule a one-on-one Adoption Consultation and Orientation meeting. This meeting is with both spouses and is conducted in person or via video conferencing, depending on your location. To schedule your consultation and orientation meeting, complete the application form and return it along with the application fee. Upon receipt of your documents, we will contact you by phone or email to schedule your meeting.

To learn more about adopting from Jamaica, please call to talk to one of our Jamaica program representatives. We would be happy to discuss any questions you have.*

*In accordance with Hague standards, additional information is available from ASC upon request, including: 1) The number of its adoption placements per year for the prior three calendar years, and the number and percentage of those placements that remain intact, are disrupted, or have been dissolved as of the time the information is provided; 2) The number of parents who apply to adopt on a yearly basis, based on data for the prior three calendar years; and 3) The number of children eligible for adoption and awaiting an adoptive placement referral via ASC. Please contact ASC directly if you would like this information provided to you.

Thank you for your interest in adopting from Jamaica.
We hope you find clear direction and peace as
you continue your adoption journey.