



# Adopting from **Colombia**

Welcome to Adoption by Shepherd Care's Colombia Program! As an agency, Adoption by Shepherd Care is committed to serving the children of Colombia, and we are grateful for your interest in this program and in 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 Colombia and gain a clear picture of what the process will look like for your family.

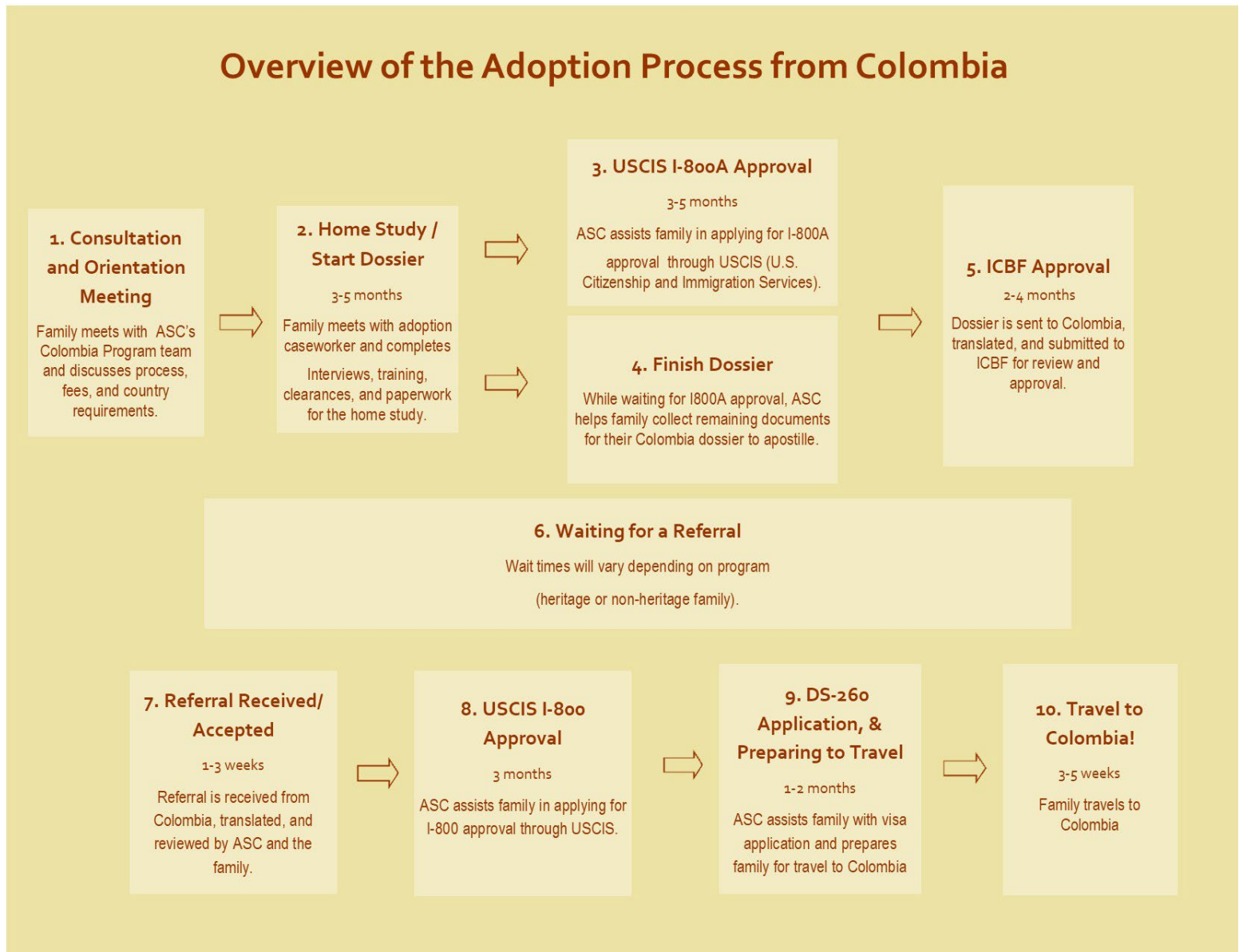
Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC) has over 40 years of experience in international and domestic adoptions. ASC is a licensed non-profit child-placing agency in the State of Florida and is Hague-accredited to perform international adoption services. ASC is licensed in Colombia through the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF), the Central Authority that oversees adoptions in the country. Our staff in the U.S. and in Colombia are experienced, competent, and dedicated to helping families throughout the adoption journey. We value the relationships we cultivate with our families and look forward to working with you.

**The country** Colombia is a beautiful country in South America that boasts a diverse landscape of beaches, mountains, and rainforests. The country is known for its warm hospitality, delicious cuisine including tropical fruits and fresh coffee, and rich culture such as salsa dancing.

**The children** Children are available for adoption in Colombia for a variety of reasons. Some were placed in orphanages at birth due to the mother's living situation and some were brought into care as a result of abandonment or the parents' inability to care for them properly. Adoptions in Colombia take place through ICBF, a government agency. When a child comes into the care of ICBF, all attempts are made to reunify the child with their birth family or with other family members prior to the child becoming available for adoption. The children available for adoption are cared for in well-run government orphanages or foster homes where caregivers make significant efforts to engage with the children and show them love. The age range of available children is nine months to 15 years. Both healthy children and children with identified physical and medical special needs are waiting for loving homes.

**Who can adopt?** Singles and married applicants between 25 and 54 years of age may adopt from Colombia. Older applicants may be eligible for a child with special characteristics and needs. Married couples must be married for a minimum of one year. Singles or couples where at least one spouse is of Colombian heritage may qualify for the Colombian Heritage program and be eligible for a child under the age of 6 with no identified special characteristics.

## The adoption process



**Home study** Your Colombia dossier will include a Hague-approved home study. 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 reporting** After you return home with your child, you will meet with an adoption caseworker to see how everyone is doing. Your caseworker will write a report which is sent to the ICBF in Colombia. Colombia has the following requirements for post-adoption reports:

- Children up to 7 years old : 4 reports at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months after the adoption
- Children ages 8 and up: 6 reports at 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, and 36 months after the adoption

Post-adoption reports are an important part of the adoption process. They help ensure your family is receiving the support it needs and they allow Colombia to see how your child is doing in his or her new home.

## Next Steps

- Review the accompanying Colombia Fee Schedule, Colombia Service Plan Template, and Sample Adoption Services Contract for additional information. These documents can be found on our website at [www.adoptabsc.org](http://www.adoptabsc.org).
- Request an application form by completing the inquiry form on our website, by email at [assist@adoptabsc.org](mailto: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 Colombia, please call to talk to one of our Colombia 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 Colombia.  
We hope you find clear direction and peace  
as you continue your adoption journey.