

Pakistan Country Information



Pakistan is **not** party to the *Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* ([Hague Adoption Convention](#)). Therefore, when the Hague Adoption Convention entered into force for the United States on April 1, 2008, intercountry adoption processing for Pakistan did not change.



Pakistani law does not allow for adoptions of Pakistani children in Pakistan. United States citizens considering adoption of Pakistani children must obtain guardianship from a Pakistani court and subsequently adopt the child in the courts of the United States. Prospective United States citizen guardians should refer to our flyer on **Adoption of Children from Countries in which Islamic Shari'a Law is Observed**

(http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_3132.html) for more information on this issue.

Islamic Shari'a law does not allow for adoptions as generally understood in the United States; guardianship is a limited proceeding and does not terminate or grant full parental rights. U.S. immigrant visas can be issued in cases where the Islamic court grants guardianship of an **orphan** (as defined under United States immigration law) and it is clear that the court understands and specifically rules that the child is permitted to leave the jurisdiction of Pakistan and emigrate to the United States for the purpose of being adopted in the courts of the United States by the prospective parents.

Per Pakistan's laws, prospective parents who are non-Muslims may not adopt or be appointed as guardians of Muslim children. Children abandoned at an Islamic orphanage are deemed Muslim unless there is any evidence to prove otherwise.

In Pakistan it can be very difficult to determine whether children who appear to be orphans are in fact eligible for an immigrant visa for adoption purposes. Due to the security situation in Pakistan, children may be temporarily separated from their parents or other family members, or criminal actors may separate children from their families. As there is no central governmental adoption authority in Pakistan which can certify that specific children are indeed abandoned or orphaned, it can be extremely difficult to fulfill the legal requirements of United States immigration law.

Recently, the Government of Pakistan in cooperation with the United States Embassy in Islamabad discovered a criminal trafficking group involved in selling children for intercountry adoptions to the United States. This investigation is currently pending and criminal charges are being filed in Pakistan. As a result, United States citizens considering adopting children from Pakistan should exercise extreme caution and are advised to fully research any adoption agency or facilitator they plan to use. It should be noted that the Pakistan Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance of 2002 includes certain activities relating to adoption in or out of Pakistan as part of the definition of human trafficking.

Last Updated: January 2010

[DISCLAIMER](#)

WHO CAN ADOPT

To bring an adopted child to the United States from Pakistan, you must be found eligible to adopt by the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government agency responsible for making this determination is the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). [Learn more.](#)

Interested U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to contact U.S. Consular officials in Islamabad before formalizing any adoption agreement or making any adoption plans to ensure that appropriate procedures have been followed which will make it possible for the Embassy (Consulate) to issue a U.S. immigrant visa for the child.

As Pakistan has no statutory law on adoptions, there is no law setting forth age, residency, or marriage requirements. Prospective parents must comply with United States legal requirements in the I-600 process and applicable provisions of the Guardians and Wards Act of 1890 in Pakistan.

WHO CAN BE ADOPTED

Pakistan has no statutory law on adoptions, but does have a law governing guardianship. Prospective parents should consult a lawyer in Pakistan regarding the guardianship requirements.

Again, it should be noted that the guardianship process in Pakistan requires several additional procedures and concerns not associated with Hague countries with accreditation agencies. If you have a particular child in mind for

adoption, especially a relative, you must consult a lawyer or USCIS to assist you in determining whether this child meets the specific U.S. legal definition of *orphan* before proceeding.

In order to adopt a child from Pakistan, a child must meet the definition of an *orphan* under U.S. law for you to bring him or her back to the United States. [Learn more](#) about these U.S. requirements.

HOW TO ADOPT

Pakistan's Adoption Authority

There is no central government adoption authority. Guardianship proceedings are filed in the family courts.

The Process

The process for adopting a child from Pakistan generally includes the following steps:

1. Choose an Adoption Service Provider
2. Apply to be Found Eligible to Adopt
3. Be Matched with a Child
4. Adopt the Child in Pakistan
5. Apply for the Child to be Found Eligible for Adoption
6. Bring Your Child Home

1. Choose an Adoption Service Provider

The first step in adopting a child from Pakistan is usually to select a licensed agency in the United States that can help with your adoption. Adoption service providers must be licensed by the U.S. state in which they operate. [Learn more](#) about choosing the right adoption service provider.

There are no adoption agencies in Pakistan; however, the U.S. Embassy provides a list of attorneys on the website that parents can use. You will find this information at [http:// Islamabad.usembassy.gov](http://Islamabad.usembassy.gov).

2. Apply to be Found Eligible to Adopt

To bring an adopted child from Pakistan you must apply to be found eligible to adopt (Form I-600A) by the U.S. Government, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). [Learn how](#).

The adjudication of such petitions can be very time-consuming and parents are encouraged to begin the process well in advance.

In addition to meeting the U.S. requirements for adoptive parents, you need to meet the requirements of Pakistan as described in the Who Can Adopt section.

A prospective adoptive parent may file Form I-600A Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security (USCIS) office having jurisdiction over their place of residence. This form allows the most time-consuming part of the process to be completed in advance, even before the parent has located a child to adopt. In addition, a parent who has an approved I-600A may file an I-600 in person at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

Detailed information about filing these forms can be found on [USCIS's website](#). Americans who have adopted or hope to adopt a child from Pakistan should request, at the time they file these forms, that USCIS notify the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad as soon as the form is approved. Upon receipt of such notification, the Embassy will contact the parents and provide additional instructions on the immigration process. U.S. consular officers may not begin processing an orphan adoption case until they have received formal notification of approval from an USCIS office in the US.

3. Be Matched with a Child

If you are eligible to adopt, and a child is available for intercountry adoption, there is no central adoption authority in Pakistan to provide you with a referral to a child. You will have to locate a child by contacting orphanages, charitable institutions or social welfare agencies. Each family must decide for itself whether or not it will be able to meet the needs of a particular child and provide a permanent family placement for the child. [Learn more](#) about this critical decision.

One part of the petition process that USCIS cannot complete in advance is the "orphan investigation". An orphan investigation Form I-604 Report on Overseas Orphan Investigation) is required in all orphan adoption cases - even if an I-600 has already been approved - and serves to verify that the child is an orphan as defined by US immigration law. This investigation is performed by a consular officer at the time of the child's immigrant visa interview. As Pakistan is a high fraud post, this investigation is important to ensure that no fraud, child trafficking or illegal activities have occurred in the process.

The child must be eligible to be adopted according to Pakistan's requirements, as described in the Who Can be Adopted section. The child must also meet the definition of an orphan under U.S. law. [Learn more](#).

4. Adopt the Child (or Gain Legal Custody) in-country

The process for finalizing the adoption (or gaining legal custody) in Pakistan generally includes the following:

Documents Required: The following documents are required to complete the adoption process

- Proof of U.S. citizenship of petitioner
- Proof of marriage of petitioner (if married); if the petitioner is unmarried but was previously married, submit proof of termination of all previous marriages
- Fingerprint cards of petitioner, spouse, and all other adult members of the petitioner's household
- Approved home-study

NOTE: Additional documents may be requested. If you are asked to provide proof that a document from the United States is authentic, we can help. [Learn how.](#)

5. Apply for the Child to be Found *Eligible for Adoption*

After you finalize the adoption (or gain legal custody) in Pakistan, the U.S. Government, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) MUST determine whether the child is eligible under U.S. law to be adopted (Form I-600). [Learn how.](#)

6. Bring Your Child Home

Now that your adoption is complete (or you have obtained legal custody of the child), there are a few more steps to take before you can head home. Specifically, you need to apply for several documents for your child before he or she can travel to the United States:

Birth Certificate

You will *first* need to apply for a new birth certificate for your child, so that you can later apply for a passport. Your name will be added to the new birth certificate.

Pakistan Passport

Your child is not yet a U.S. citizen, so he/she will need a travel document or Passport from Pakistan.

U.S. Immigrant Visa

After you obtain the new birth certificate and passport for your child, you also need to apply for an U.S. visa from the United States Embassy for your child. After the adoption (or custody for purpose of adoption) is granted, visit the U.S. Embassy for final review and approval of the child's I-600 petition and to obtain a visa for the child. This immigrant visa allows your child to travel home with you. As part of this process, the Consular Officer must be provided the "Panel Physician's" medical report on the child if it was not provided during the provisional approval stage. [Learn more.](#)

Contact the Embassy in Islamabad to schedule an immigrant visa interview for the orphan. In addition to the approved I-600 petition, the child will need the additional documents for the interview:

- Application- Form OF-230, Parts I and II
- Medical report from a physician approved by the Embassy
- Birth certificate- original Urdu and a copy; original English translation and a copy
- Affidavit of support from the petitioner; form I-864; copy of three most recent years' federal tax returns (form 1040 and all attachments) and evidence of employment
- Two visa photos, according to the instruction sheet provided

Basic requirements for pursuing an IR-4 visa:

- *Form I-600A:* "Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition"- used when the petitioner has not yet identified a specific child but wants to obtain USCIS pre-approval for adoption. A prospective adoptive parent is not required to use form I-600A; however, if he/she chooses to do so, he/she will also need to submit and obtain USCIS approval of form I-600 once a specific child has been identified
- *Form I-600:* "Petition to Classify an Orphan as an Immediate Relative"- used when the petitioner has identified a specific child. This form is needed in all orphan visa cases
- The USCIS officer should adjudicate both forms with jurisdiction over the petitioning parents" residence. If a petitioner has an approved form I-600A and is traveling to Pakistan to finalize the orphan visa process, they may choose to file form I-600 with the USCIS officer in Islamabad.

Child Citizenship Act

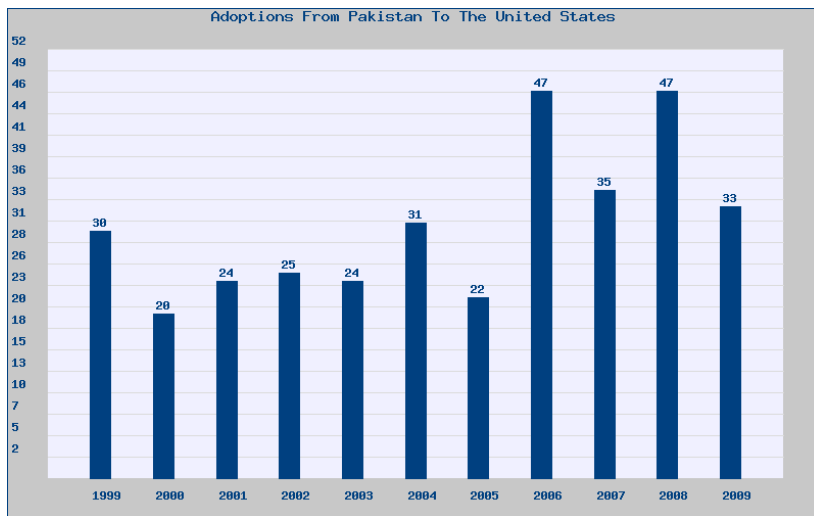
For adoptions finalized abroad: The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 allows your new child to acquire American citizenship automatically when he or she enters the United States as lawful permanent residents. This part is not applicable to children brought from Pakistan under an immigrant visa as there are no adoptions in Pakistan.

For adoptions finalized in the United States: The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 allows your new child to acquire American citizenship automatically when the court in the United States issues the final adoption decree.

**Please be aware that if your child did not qualify to become a citizen upon entry to the United States, it is very important that you take the steps necessary so that your child does qualify as soon as possible. Failure to obtain citizenship for your child can impact many areas of his/her life including family travel, eligibility for education and education grants, and voting.*

[Learn more](#) about the Child Citizenship Act.

Statistics



TRAVELING ABROAD

Applying for Your U.S. Passport

A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave Pakistan. Only the U.S. Department of State has the authority to grant, issue, or verify U.S. passports.

Getting or renewing a passport is easy. The [Passport Application Wizard](#) will help you determine which passport form you need, help you to complete the form online, estimate your payment, and generate the form for you to print—all in one place.

Obtaining Your Visa

In addition to a U.S. passport, you also need to obtain a visa. A visa is an official document issued by a foreign country that formally allows you to visit. Where required, visas are attached to your passport and allow you to enter a foreign nation.

To find information about obtaining a visa for Pakistan, see the Department of State's [Country Specific Information](#).

Staying Safe on Your Trip

Before you travel, it's always a good practice to investigate the local conditions, laws, political landscape, and culture of the country. The State Department is a good place to start.

The Department of State provides [Country Specific Information](#) for every country of the world about various issues, including the health conditions, crime, unusual currency or entry requirements, and any areas of instability.

The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens against travel to Pakistan, which remains very dangerous. See the full text of the Travel Warning at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs' website travel.state.gov.

Staying in Touch on Your Trip

When traveling during the adoption process, we encourage you to register your trip with the Department of State. Travel registration makes it possible to contact you if necessary. Whether there's a family emergency in the United States, or a crisis in Pakistan registration assists the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in reaching you.

Registration is free and can be done [online](#).

AFTER ADOPTION

What does Pakistan require of the adoptive parents after the adoption?

We strongly urge you to comply with the wish of Pakistan and complete all post-adoption requirements in a timely manner. Your adoption agency may be able to help you with this process. Your cooperation will contribute to that country's history of positive experiences with American parents.

What resources are available to assist families after the adoption?

Many adoptive parents find it important to find support after the adoption. Take advantage of all the resources available to your family -- whether it's another adoptive family, a support group, an advocacy organization, or your religious or community services.

Here are some good places to start your support group search:

- [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
- [North American Council on Adoptable Children](#)

Note: Inclusion of non-U.S. Government links does not imply endorsement of contents.

CONTACT INFORMATION**U.S. Embassy in Pakistan**

Islamabad, Pakistan
 Tel: (92) (51) 2-080-2700
 Fax: (92) (51) 2-822-632
 Internet: www.usembassy.state.gov/pakistan

Embassy of Pakistan

Address: 3517 International Court NW
 Washington, DC 20008.
 Tel. (202)243-6500
 Email: info@imbassyofpakistanusa.org
 Internet: www.pakistan-embassy.org :

**Pakistan also has consulates in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Houston and Boston.*

Office of Children's Issues

U.S. Department of State
 2201 C Street, NW
 SA-29
 Washington, DC 20520
 Tel: 1-888-407-4747
 E-mail: AskCI@state.gov
<http://adoption.state.gov>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

For questions about immigration procedures, call the National Customer Service Center (NCSC)
 1-800-375-5283 (TTY 1-800-767-1833)

Authorized Adoption Attorneys

There are no adoption agencies in Pakistan; however, the American Embassy provides a list of attorneys that parents can use:

Muhammad Mahboob Alam

Office Address: 10-E Upper floor
 New Milli Stores, Super Market
 F-6, Islamabad
 Office Phone: 92-51-812-320 (Evening 6:00 p.m. to 8:30pm), District Court Islamabad: 92-51-251-921

Choudhry Ghazanfar Ali

Office Address: District Courts
 F-8 Markaz
 Islamabad AND 661
 Aabpara Market, Islamabad
 Office Phone: Bar- 92-51-850-850
 Office- 92-51-273-250
 Fax- 92-51-264-035

Maulvi Anwar ul- Hague

Office Address: 1-B Civil Lines
 Rawalpindi
 Office Phone: 581-982

Syed Zia Hussain Kazimi

Office address: H. 135-A Murree Rd.
 Rawalpindi
 Office Phone: 530-997

Anees Jillani

Office Address: No. 7, Second floor
 Sardar Begum Plaza
 109- West Blue Area
 Islamabad
 Office Phone: 92-51-279-255

Sardar Muhammad Ishaq Khan

Office Address: 10-A Civil Lines
 Rawalpindi
 Office Phone: 564-346

Dr. Sajid Qureshi

Office Address: Second Floor
 Ginza Center
 Jinnah Ave., Blue Area
 Islamabad
 Office Phone: 92-51-278-350
 92-51-278-776
 Fax: 92-51-278-351

Basharat Qadir

Office Address: Legal Consultant/ PPIB
 50 Khawaja Nazimuddin Rd.
 F-7/4
 Islamabad
 Office Phone: 9-222-378, 9-206-357, 9-214-731
 Fax: 9-217-735, 9-215-723

Farrukh Karim Qureshi
Office Address: House 40
St. 40, F- 8/1
Islamabad
Office Phone: 92-51-260-601
92-51-260-605