

Nepal Adoption Program

Dear Prospective Families:

Thank you for your interest in the MAPS Nepal program. Our commitment is to improve the quality of life for children all over the world through adoption programs, humanitarian aid, and support services.

MAPS International coordinates the American aspects of the Nepal program by working with families and agencies nationwide. MAPS also coordinates with its foreign program representatives to ensure a positive experience for the families and their new children. There is a great need for families for the many children residing in orphanages who are legally available for adoption and have no hope of being adopted in their country of origin. Nepali parents do adopt in small numbers; nevertheless, there are many more children needing families.

When you choose MAPS, you will work with a knowledgeable program coordinator who will walk you through the sometimes-complex adoption process. This person will coordinate the U.S. aspects of the program and will work closely with our in-country representatives who guide you while you travel. Together, these teams ensure a positive experience for your family and your new child, both before and during your trip.

When choosing to adopt a child internationally, an extra measure of patience and flexibility are required. In dealing with foreign governments, program and policy changes can occur during your adoption process. While these factors are out of any agency's control, our experienced staff will keep you informed of such changes and will help you navigate any challenges that arise during your adoption. MAPS provides you with the support and guidance you need throughout this journey, as we strive to bring you and your child together as quickly as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jenny Mills
Nepal program coordinator

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www.mapsadopt.org

THE CHILDREN

Children available are of all ages, from 10 months to middle school age. Twins and siblings are not available. The children are not typically born in hospitals and thus do not have birth certificates or birth health histories.

Many Nepalese children have prematurity and/or low birth weight. They are small but will thrive once they come home. Most often, Nepalese children available for adoption are abandoned without any social or medical history prior to arrival in the orphanage. As with any country, there are always some children presenting with special needs, correctable or otherwise.

Life in the Bal Mandir orphanage is spartan but the individual attention from the caretakers is exceptional. Bal Mandir orphanage falls under the umbrella of the Nepal Children's Organization (NCO), a non-profit organization dedicated to the well being of children. The Bal Mandir orphanage is situated in Kathmandu, although NCO has offices and programs in all 75 districts of Nepal.

Families adopting older children must be aware that these children have suffered some emotional deprivation due to institutionalization and early loss. The nurturing these children receive by caretakers helps to compensate for these early losses. Characteristics of the older children will be similar to those of any child with special needs stemming from a lack of proper parenting, multiple caregivers, a loss of personal history, and developmental delays that are often a result of institutional care.

MAPS recommends that adoptive families make every effort to understand the issues of adoption from their child's point of view. Since adoption issues do not end with placement, it is suggested that families remain open to seeking support from various resources as their child grows into adulthood. These resources include adoptive parent support groups, professional counseling, and an ever-expanding body of literature on adoptive parenting. MAPS is always available to help parents with such resources.

FAMILY REQUIREMENTS

Both married couples and single women can adopt children of all ages. Couples must be married a minimum of four years and for infants there should be no more than 45 years between the youngest parent and child. Single women should be between the ages of 35 and 55, and for couples there is a minimum age

requirement of 30. Couples need to have proof of infertility. If there is already a child(ren) in the household, families must maintain birth order and request a child of the opposite gender. If a family already has children of both genders living in the home, they may not adopt from Nepal.

Families applying for a child from Nepal should demonstrate a sincere willingness to get to know and appreciate the culture of Nepal, and be prepared to impart that knowledge and affirmation to their child.

TIMEFRAME AND PROCESS

Once your family has applied to the Nepal program, a MAPS program coordinator will assist your family to complete a dossier (a notarized set of documents), according to the Nepali child welfare system. MAPS works with each family to determine child preference. The Board at Bal Mandir will then select and offer a child referral. Our families typically receive infant referrals within 6-8 months after their dossier is processed and submitted to Nepal. Referrals for children over two years typically take 0-3 months.

Administrative and judicial processing takes approximately 6 months after the referral is accepted. The child can travel after the U.S Immigration and Visa procedures are completed.

Families are required by the Nepali government to send semi-annual reports and photographs, through MAPS, until the child is 18 years of age; at which time it is expected the child will communicate through letters once a year thereafter.

Please be aware that international adoption programs are always evolving. During the course of your adoption, you may encounter some policy and procedural changes, delays, restrictions, or moratoriums placed on programs by the foreign government. We will work diligently to bring you and your child together as soon as possible.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

One trip to Nepal is required. At least one parent must travel. While in Nepal the parent/parents will appear at the Nepalese Ministry of Social Welfare to sign formal papers and then will be able to process the child's American Visa. Length of stay is 10-14 days.

COSTS

The initial fee, submitted to MAPS, is the application fee of \$600 and is not country-specific. MAPS agency fee for Nepal is \$9,000 (\$6,000 is due upon acceptance into the Nepal program and the balance of this fee is due with dossier submission). MAPS Nepal foreign program fee is \$8,000. This includes MAPS costs both in the U.S. and Nepal, Nepal's administrative fees, orphanage child maintenance costs, and orphanage donations. There is a dossier filing fee of \$1,000 for Nepal. For more information, please refer to the fee schedule for possible additional costs.

GETTING STARTED

The adoption process begins with the application packet. In this information we walk you through the materials needed to open your file. Your application to MAPS should be submitted as soon as possible, whether or not your home study has been completed. Your home study must be done by a licensed adoption agency in your state. We cannot accept studies done by independent social workers or probate courts. We will be able to formally accept your completed file after full review of your home study and related application materials.

Your home study is valid for approximately one year (varies by state). If your placement has not occurred within that time, you will need your home study agency to provide MAPS with an original, notarized update. We recommend that you determine the fee for this service up front so you will be prepared if the process takes longer than expected.

Families should also be prepared to file an I-600A with their local CIS office, upon completion of their home study.

HUMANITARIAN AID

An important component of our adoption programs in Nepal is humanitarian assistance. Families are encouraged to participate at whatever level of involvement they can offer to help support the children who remain behind. Contributions can range from a donation of supplies to your child's orphanage to giving financially to long-term orphanage assistance projects. We are proud that our families continue to care and put forth efforts on behalf of the children of Nepal.

Please review the enclosed materials and let us know if you have any further questions regarding adoption through the MAPS Nepal program. We would be delighted to speak with you about the many children who are waiting for homes and your plans to build your family through adoption.

Sincerely,

Jenny Mills
Nepal Program Coordinator
jennym@mapsadopt.org



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FEE SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTIONS FROM NEPAL
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MAPS application fee (due with application)	\$600
MAPS agency fee	\$9,000
(\$6,000 of this fee is due upon acceptance into Nepal program and remaining balance of \$3,000 is due w/dossier submission)	
MAPS foreign program fee (payable at acceptance of child assignment)	\$8,000
(Typically 80-90% of this fee covers the in-country adoption program expenses/services and 10-20% goes towards humanitarian aid.)	

The above fees and costs are estimated and, due to the nature of international adoptions, are subject to change without notice.

Other expenses to plan for:

Immigration application (I600A)	\$670
USCIS fingerprints (per adult)	\$80
Visa (per person)	\$60
Travel to and from Nepal	Approximately \$1,500-\$2,000 per person
Travel within Nepal	Approximately \$50 per person
Travel for child	Approximately \$500-\$1,000 per child
Lodging, food, necessities for parents and child/ren accommodation	Approximately \$100-\$140 per day depending on
4-5 Days lodging expenses for MAPS Coordinator	Approximately \$500-\$800
Fee for car and driver if needed	Approximately \$200-\$300
Child's US Visa	\$380
Child's visa photos	Approximately \$10 per child
Child's visa medical + any lab work per child	Approximately \$25 per child

Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:

Home study and post-placement fees	Approximately \$2,000-\$6,000
Family passports & visas	Approximately \$100- \$150 per person
Indian visa (if traveling through India)	Approximately \$60 per person
Thailand transit visa for child	Approximately \$50 per child
Notarization & authentication	Approximately \$50-75
Physical exams for parents for dossier	Approximately \$25-\$150 per parent
Medical exams/lab expenses for child, as requested by parent	Approximately \$100-\$200