



Salient Provisions of CARA Guidelines on Adoption (2017)

Adoption in India is regulated by the [Central Adoption Resource Authority \(CARA\)](http://www.cara.nic.in), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Parents need to register with CARA (www.cara.nic.in) for adopting a child. A detailed knowledge of CARA guidelines is essential to understand your eligibility, the documentation required, the preferences you should indicate, the associated wait time, the child referral process and the long term benefits of accepting the first child you are referred.

Following are the key provisions of the latest 2017 CARA Guidelines:

- A married couple, a single male/female (unmarried, widowed or legally divorced) can adopt a child up to 18 years of age
- A single male can only adopt a male child. A single female can adopt a child of any gender.
- Parents with maximum composite age of 90 yrs (single parent's age of 45 yrs) can adopt a child up to 4 yrs of age
- Parents with maximum composite age of 100 yrs (single parent's age of 50 yrs) can adopt a child between 4-8 yrs of age
- Parents with maximum composite age of 110 yrs (single parent's age of 55 yrs) can adopt a child between 8-18 yrs of age
- Minimum age difference between the child and the parent should be 25 yrs
- The parent need to register online with CARA Adoption System – CARINGS and upload required documents as per their status
- The parent can indicate following preferences while registering
 - Age of Child – 0-2, 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, 12-14, 14-18 yrs
 - Gender of Child – Boy / Girl / any Gender
 - State to adopt from – Give top 3 preferences or Anywhere in India
 - Kind of Child – Normal / Sibling / Special Needs
- The Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) nearest to the parent's address will conduct their Home Study. The parent will become eligible for receiving a profile of the child only after the Home Study report (HSR) is uploaded in CARINGS.
- The parent will be offered profiles of 3 children in one or more referrals, as per availability of the children according to their preferences.
- The parent can see the entire profile and medical history of the child in the referral.
- The Parent can then choose to Reserve or Not Reserve a child within 48 hours of the referral (online only)
- Upon reserving, the child has to be accepted within 20 days. Parents who do not accept the child in the above period will be relegated to the bottom of the wait list.
- Parents who do not Accept any of the 3 profiles will be relegated to the bottom of the wait list. However, their registration shall continue to be valid, with revalidation of the Home Study Report in every three years.
- A fee of Rs. 46,000 is payable to the SAA. The fee includes expenses for home study, legal services etc and no other sum is payable by the parent.