



Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc.



The Dominican Republic

Help a Waiting Child find their
“Forever Family”



The Dominican Republic is a Latin American country located in the Greater Antilles archipelago on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. It shares a border with the Republic of Haiti. Hispaniola lies west of Puerto Rico and east of Cuba and Jamaica. Spanish is the official language.

Climate: The country is a tropical, maritime nation. Wet season is from May to November, and periodic hurricanes between June and November. The main annual temperature ranges from 69°F in the mountainous regions to 77°F on the plains and the coast. The average temperature in Santo Domingo is 77°F in January and 86°F in July.

Places of Interest: The Dominican Republic is an island recognized as a tourist destination full of history, culture and fun. Aside from its magnificent beaches and resorts, vast extensions of white sand and clear, sparkling waters; you will find many quaint cobble streets and stonework houses.

The mountainous region of the island is the perfect spot for adventure travelers. You can tour through the jungle, visit canyons and waterfalls. If you happen to be there at the right time, in the north coast town of Cabarete you may see where thousands of humpback whales migrate every year to breed and care for their calves.

The Dominican Republic is known for many things: Christopher Columbus' entrance to the Americas, baseball superstars, sugarcane, cigars and golf destinations.

Adopting from the Dominican Republic

Like all children, the children in the Dominican Republic are beautiful and in need of a forever family. The children in the Dominican Republic become available for adoption mainly due to the extreme poverty conditions in the country. Some of these conditions include lack of housing, proper nutrition, and medical care. Although some of the children have medical needs, the majority of them are healthy. In addition, all children are tested for HIV, TB and Hepatitis B.

International Adoptions in the Dominican Republic must be done through CONANI (“Consejo Nacional para la Niñez y la Adolescencia” - National Council for Children and Adolescents) which is the official government entity in the Dominican Republic that handles the assignment of all children to their adoptive parents.

Adopting a child in the Dominican Republic is a three-step process:

1. The applicants work with FFTA to file an application with the Adoptions Department at CONANI.
2. If approved, the decision by CONANI must be reviewed and approved by the Court for Children and Adolescents.
3. The decision by the Court is reviewed by the Civil Registry Division of the Junta Central Electoral which authorizes the issuance of a new birth certificate.

Number of Visas issued to orphans: In 2006; 20 - in 2007; 26 – and in 2008; 18.

Age of Children:

Range from infants three (3) months and up, toddlers and pre-schoolers up to sixteen years of age. Sibling groups of two or more are also available.

Average Cost: \$28,000 (subject to change)

General Requirements:

1. The adopting parents must be married heterosexuals, having lived together as a couple for at least five years.
2. The adopting parents must be at least thirty years old and no more than sixty years old.
3. The age difference between the adopting parents and the adopted child must be at least fifteen years.
4. The child's parents must consent to the adoption. In case of orphans, the authorization is obtained from the Court of Children and Adolescents. ("Tribunal de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes.")
5. The adopting parents must live with the child in the Dominican Republic for at least sixty days. This period is automatically reduced to thirty days if the child is twelve years old or older.
6. Children twelve years old or more must approve their own adoption.
7. The adopting parents' biological children who are twelve years old or older must give their opinion on the adoption.

How long is the Wait: Wait time for Proposals have typically been approximately 1 – 2 years from the time your file arrives in the Dominican Republic. Couples must remain open to accepting the proposal of either a male or female child.

Travel: Families will travel approximately 6 weeks following the acceptance of a child proposal to cohabit with the child in the D.R. for at least 60 days. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know the country, culture, people and your child. The adoption is finalized in the Dominican after the mandatory cohabitation period which could take an additional 3 – 8 months.

Post-placements reports must be submitted to CONANI once a year for the first five (5) years, by a licensed social worker.

Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc. works closely with the family and has an agreement with the Law Firm of Guzmán Ariza in the Dominican Republic. These local attorneys will handle obtaining and filing the documents needed to finalize the adoption.

For more information contact: Joy S. Goldstein, LCSW, ACSW, Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc. at (914) 939-1180.