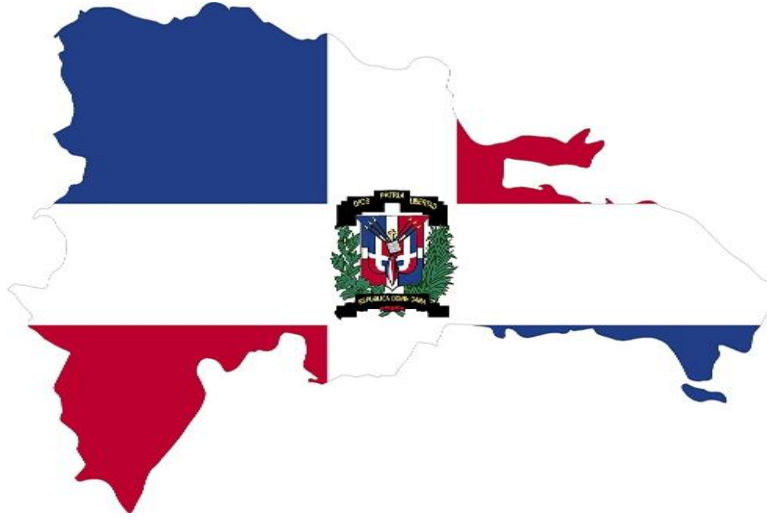


Dominican Republic Eligibility Requirements



Adoption between the United States and the Dominican Republic is governed by the Hague Adoption Convention. Therefore to adopt from the Dominican Republic, the adopting family must *first* 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).

In addition to these U.S. requirements, the Dominican Republic also has the following requirements:

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:** Both prospective adoptive parents must comply simultaneously with the period of cohabitation required by Law. If adopting a child under 12 years old, cohabitation shall be for at least 60 days. If adopting a child over 12 years of age, cohabitation shall be for at least 30 days.
- **AGE REQUIREMENTS:** The prospective adoptive parents must be between 30 and 60 years of age and at least 15 years older than the child they wish to adopt.
- **MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS:** Only heterosexual couples who have been married for five years or more are allowed to adopt from the Dominican Republic. Single individuals and unmarried couples are not permitted to adopt.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/DominicanRepublic.html>