

Nigeria Eligibility Requirements



In addition to being found suitable and eligible to adopt by USCIS, prospective adoptive parents seeking to adopt a child from Nigeria must meet the following requirements:

- **Minimum Residency:** There is no specific minimum residence requirement to be eligible to adopt in Nigeria, however, prospective adoptive parents may be required to stay in Nigeria for a minimum of a few months to two years to bond with the child before petitioning a court to adopt. Each state determines the length of time for the required bonding period.
- **Age of Adopting Parents:** In Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo and Rivers, prospective adoptive parents must be at least 25 years of age and 21 years older than the child. For married couples, at least one parent must meet the age requirements.
- **Marriage:** Both single individuals and married couples may adopt. Note that a single person will not be allowed to adopt a child of the opposite sex except in extraordinary circumstances. In most states, married couples must adopt jointly. If married, both members of the couple must be Nigerian citizens (with the exception of Lagos and Ogun states). In a case where only one member of a married couple adopts the child, only the adoptive parent's name should be listed on the Nigerian birth certificate and the other parent's name should be left blank. Same-sex married couples are explicitly not allowed to adopt children in Nigeria.
- **Minimum Income:** Nigeria does not have any income requirements for intercountry adoptions.

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