

Uganda Eligibility Requirements



Prospective adoptive parents seeking to adopt from Uganda must meet the following requirements:

Age of Adopting Parents: Applicants must be at least 25 years old and 21 years older than the child they plan to adopt. Uganda does not have an upper age limit for adoption. In the case of a married couple, it is sufficient for one spouse to meet these requirements.

Marriage: Married couples are not required to apply jointly, but both must consent to the adoption. Single parents may adopt, but they may not adopt a child of the opposite sex, absent the court's determination that special circumstances justify an exception.

Income: There are no specific income requirements for Ugandan adoptions, although prospective adoptive parents must be able to prove financial stability.

Residency: Prospective adoptive parents seeking to adopt an orphan from Uganda should be prepared to satisfy both the residency and fostering requirements in person in Uganda. The Children Act, as amended in 2016 ("Children (Amendment) Act"), requires non-Ugandan prospective adoptive parents to spend one year living in Uganda and foster the child(ren) they intend to adopt under the supervision of a probation and social welfare officer. Under this law, non-Ugandan citizens may seek a final adoption of a Ugandan child if they have resided in Uganda for at least one year and fostered the child for at least one year under the supervision of a probation and social welfare officer. The law authorizes the court to waive these requirements in exceptional circumstances, although the Ugandan government has not defined what may qualify as "exceptional circumstances." The court's decision to waive the residency or fostering requirements is a case-by-case decision.

Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development ("Ministry"), which oversees Uganda's adoption process, is drafting regulations to clarify how the Children (Amendment) Act will be implemented.

Other: Ugandan law restricts the ability of foreign citizens to obtain guardianship of Ugandan children. The Children (Amendment) Act states that no foreign citizen may apply for legal guardianship of Ugandan children.

While Uganda does not specifically prohibit adoption by LGBT couples or individuals, political and cultural perspectives in Uganda may mean that same-sex couples may not be approved for adoption by Ugandan courts.

Foreign adoptive parents must demonstrate that they have no criminal record and that they have been approved by their country of nationality to adopt.

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