Scope of Practice: Colombia Program

Disclosure:
Colombian law does not allow for private adoptions. Children may be adopted only through the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) and approved adoption agencies. The ICBF will match the child with the prospective adoptive family and help with obtaining paperwork before the case moves to the Colombian courts.

The Colombian courts require a letter from the U.S. Embassy in Bogota stating that they will issue an immigrant visa to the child if all adoption and U.S. immigrant requirements are met. When all documentation is completed, the courts will provide the adoption decree, a new Colombian birth certificate, and a new Colombian passport.

Adoption ARK is a registered adoption service provider with the Colombian Central Authority.
Colombia is a pilot adoption program.

Adoption ARK

- Provides initial adoption consultation
- Reviews program requirements with the prospective adoptive family
- Provides dossier instructions and dossier forms to prospective adoptive family
- Assists with dossier preparation
- Reviews the home study (if the home study agency is not Hague accredited, provides supervision and approves the home study)
- Assists with USCIS process, providing step-by-step instructions
- Coordinates registration of the dossier with the Colombian Embassy
- Coordinates dossier shipment, translation, and submission to the Central Authority of Colombia
- Communicates with in-country attorney who receives a referral from the Central Authority of Colombia
- Coordinates translation and provides the available information to prospective adoptive family
- Assists with travel logistics, helps with arranging lodging (if requested by prospective adoptive family), transportation and translation
- Provides assistance, while the prospective adoptive family is traveling, via in-country attorney and provides emergency contact in U.S.
- Helps to prepare prospective adoptive family for the American Embassy appointment prior to travel
- Provides post adoption support and supervises preparation & submission of post placement reports to the proper authorities
- **Adoption Ark does not refer or place children for adoption**

Home Study Agency

- Interviews the prospective adoptive family
- Obtains clearances, background information, medical reports, and references on the prospective adoptive family
- Writes home study report and grants adoption approval (at State level)
- Provides post placement / post adoption supervision

Department of Homeland Security /USCIS/ US Embassy Overseas

- Reviews home study and conducts a more comprehensive background check
- Issues approval for international adoption (at Federal level)
- Investigates the child orphan status
- Issues a U.S. visa

Foreign Attorney

- Submits documents to the Central Authority in Colombia
- Obtains referral and coordinates translation of referral
- Obtains permits from all relevant organizations
- Submits documents for court
- Represents clients in court
- Coordinates, provides translation and transportation assistance while the prospective adoptive family is traveling
- Assists with preparation for the American Embassy interview

Due to the nature of international adoption, all information contained herein is subject to change without notice.

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