



Scope of Practice: Dominican Republic Program

Disclosure

Prospective adoptive parents must work with an attorney to complete the legal requirements for adoption in Dominican Republic. The Dominican Central Authority (CONANI) is responsible for the administrative phase of an international adoption and the adoption is processed by the Dominican judiciary in the Court of Children and Adolescents. CONANI is the only authorized central adoption authority in Dominican Republic that handles the assignment of all children to prospective adoptive parents. Adoption ARK works with a law firm in Dominican Republic that assists with filing the documents with the Central Authority and Court and represents the family in court.

Adoption ARK is a registered adoption service provider in the Dominican Republic. Dominican Republic 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
- Assists with translation and authentication of dossier and coordinates dossier shipment and submission to Dominican Republic authorities
- Communicates with an in-country attorney who receives information on an available child or children from CONANI
- Provides information made available by CONANI to prospective adoptive family
- Assists with travel logistics, helps with arranging lodging (if requested by prospective adoptive family), offers assistance arranging transportation and translation
- Provides assistance, while the prospective adoptive family is traveling, via in-country travel coordinator and provides an emergency contact in US
- Helps to prepare parents for the American Embassy appointment prior to travel
- Provides post adoption support and supervises preparation & submission of post placement reports to the proper authorities

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/Disclosure

Adoptive family has to work with an Attorney to complete the legal requirements for adoption in Dominican Republic.

- Coordinates communication and information among CONANI, Court, U.S. agency and prospective adoptive family
- Collects necessary paperwork on the child from foreign government officials and medical center
- Coordinates registration of the dossier with the Court
- Assists prospective adoptive family with travel logistics within the country
- Represents clients in Court
- Assists with preparation for the American Embassy Visa interview

Role of the Foreign Government (from the Department of State's website)

The Dominican Republic is party to the *Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention)*. Therefore all adoptions between the Dominican Republic and the United States must meet the requirements of the Hague Adoption Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention. Dominican adoption law is governed by the Dominican Code of Fundamental Protection and Rights for Children and Adolescents, Law 136-03, Articles 82-169. The adoption process is comprised of an administrative and judicial phase. The Dominican authorities will not allow a child to exit the country until the adoption is complete under Dominican law. The Dominican Central Authority (CONANI) is responsible for the administrative phase of an international adoption. The Dominican judiciary in the Court of Children and Adolescents, is responsible for the child's physical locality, and completes the judicial phase.

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