

Peru Adoption Program

Dear Prospective Families:

Thank you for your interest in the MAPS Peru program. Our commitment is to improve the quality of life for children all over the world through adoption programs, humanitarian aid, and support services.

MAPS became licensed to place children from Peru on August 15, 2003. It was with great anticipation and enthusiasm that we launched this program because there are many children in need of permanent homes.

When you choose MAPS, you will work with a knowledgeable program coordinator who will walk you through the sometimes-complex adoption process. This person will coordinate the U.S. aspects of the program and will work closely with our in-country representatives who guide you while you travel. Together, these teams ensure a positive experience for your family and your new child, both before and during your trip.

When choosing to adopt a child internationally, an extra measure of patience and flexibility are required. In dealing with foreign governments, program and policy changes can occur during your adoption process. While these factors are out of any agency's control, our experienced staff will keep you informed of such changes and will help you navigate any challenges that arise during your adoption. MAPS provides you with the support and guidance you need throughout this journey, as we strive to bring you and your child together as quickly as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Betsy Bewsey
Peru program coordinator

MAPS International, 277 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101
Tel: 207-775-4101, Fax: 207-775-2255, Email: info@mapsadopt.org

www.mapsadopt.org

THE CHILDREN

The children available are toddlers, older children, special needs, and some sibling groups. Their heritage may be Hispanic, Indian, or Mestizo (a blend of Spanish and Indian ancestry).

Children are officially declared abandoned before they can be assigned to a family and tend to reside in one of the many state and private orphanages.

Most children adopted from Peru have mild orphanage delay, which is a direct result of having been institutionalized for a period of time. Although the orphanages provide the best quality of care possible, it is still not the optimum environment to enable a child to thrive.

Families who will be adopting older children must be aware that these children may have suffered some institutional and/or emotional deprivation during their early years of life. Characteristics of these children may be similar to those of any child with needs resulting from lack of proper parenting, multiple caregivers, a loss of personal history/genetic connection, geographical moves, and developmental delays that often result from institutional care.

MAPS recommends that adoptive families make every effort to understand the issues of adoption from their child's point of view. Since adoption issues do not end with placement, it is suggested that families remain open to support from a variety of resources as their child grows into adulthood. These resources include adoptive parent groups, the home study agency, professional counseling, and an ever-expanding body of literature on adoptive parenting. MAPS is always available to help parents with such resources.

FAMILY REQUIREMENTS

Adoptive parents must be at least 25 years old and no older than 55; couples and singles may apply. Age guidelines: Couples under 40 (average of combined ages) may request children aged 3 and under; couples with average age 41-50 may request children 4-6, couples with average age 51-55 must be open to children 7 or older. Single women can request a child that is 5 or older, or a younger child with special needs.

Families applying for a child from Peru should demonstrate a sincere willingness to get to know and appreciate the culture of Peru and be prepared to impart that knowledge and affirmation to their child.

TIMEFRAME AND PROCESS

Peru adoptions are overseen by MIMDES (the Ministry for Women and Social Development). This body is responsible for identifying children for adoptive families and approving the adoption.

Once your family has applied to the Peru program, a MAPS program coordinator will advise and work with you to complete a dossier (a notarized and authenticated set of documents). The dossier is sent to Peru to be translated and authenticated by the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Lima.

MIMDES assesses each dossier to determine suitability and assigns a child/ren in accordance to your child preference information. The time from dossier submission to child referral (infant or toddler) is typically 12-18 months. Referral time for children 5 years and older and sibling groups is generally 4-5 months. Travel takes place approximately 3-4 weeks after you accept the child referral.

Peru will issue the family a final decree of adoption. After the child's arrival in the U.S., there is a post-placement supervisory period and finalization or recognition in the court of the family's state of residence. During this time families are required to send, through MAPS, periodic reports and photographs to Peru.

Your patience and flexibility are essential to adopting internationally. The adoption process, as well as communication and the concept of timeliness, is very different in South America.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Travel is required of both parents for the final adoption piece. One parent may return home after finalizing, while the other remains in Peru to meet the U.S. Consulate regulations for obtaining the child/ren's visa(s). The adoption trip, including the Peruvian and U.S. Consulate immigration requirements, will take approximately 3-4 weeks.

Families will be met in Peru by a MAPS bi-lingual escort/translator who will greet and accompany families for the duration of their stay in Peru.

COSTS

The initial fee submitted to MAPS, with your application, is the application fee of \$600 and is not country-specific. MAPS agency fee for Peru is \$6,300 and is due upon acceptance to the program. The translation fee (including dossier and post-placement reports) of \$1,000 is due at time of dossier submission. The MAPS foreign program fee for Peru is \$7,500 and is due prior to travel to Peru. This includes MAPS costs both in the U.S. and in Peru; the dossier translation and Foreign Affairs Ministry authentication (in Peru); and foreign representative services. For more information, please refer to the fee schedule for typical additional costs.

GETTING STARTED

The adoption process begins with the application packet. In this information we walk you through the materials needed to open your file. Your application to MAPS can be submitted at any time, regardless of whether or not your home study has been completed. Your home study must be done by a licensed adoption agency that is familiar with international adoption and provides adoption education. We cannot accept studies done by licensed independent social workers or probate courts. We will be able to formally accept you into the Peru program after full review of your home study and related application materials.

Your home study is valid for approximately one year (varies by state). If placement has not occurred within that time, you will need your home study agency to provide MAPS with an original, notarized update. We recommend that you determine the fee for this service up front so that you will be prepared if the process takes longer than expected.

Families should be prepared to file an I-800A with their local CIS office, upon completion of their home study.

HUMANITARIAN AID

An important component of our Peru adoption program is humanitarian assistance. Placed families are encouraged to participate at whatever level of involvement they can offer. Contributions can range from a donation of supplies to your child's orphanage to giving financially to long-term orphanage projects. We are proud that our families continue to care and put forth efforts on behalf of the children of Peru. Their selfless efforts have made a difference to these children.

Please review the enclosed material and let us know if you have questions regarding adoption through our Peru program. I would be delighted to speak with you and look forward to discussing your plans to build your family through adoption.

Sincerely,

Betsy Bewsey
Peru Program Coordinator



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FEE SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTIONS FROM PERU

MAPS application fee (payable with application)	\$600
MAPS agency fee (payable on acceptance to Peru program)	\$6,300
Translation fee (payable at time of dossier submission)	\$1,000
MAPS foreign program fee (payable prior to travel)	\$7,500
For a second sibling adopted simultaneously the foreign program fee	\$3,500

The above fees and costs are estimated and, due to the nature of international adoptions, are subject to change without notice.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

These are some of the possible expenses that you should anticipate. They may vary on a case-by-case basis.

1. Home study fee and post-placement supervision fee (varies with agency)
2. Photographs
3. Passports
4. U.S. Citizenship & Immigration fees (\$670 + \$80/adult for fingerprints)
5. Medical examinations and tests
6. Obtaining and having dossier documents notarized and authenticated by local, state, U.S. Department of State, and consulate officials (\$400-900)
7. Additional medical costs for exams/tests on children - requested by family
8. Travel costs for family and child. MAPS estimates, but cannot guarantee, travel costs in the range of \$1,000 for airfare to & from Peru and approximately \$3,000 for in-country expenses. Any in-country flights will be additional. These estimates depend on the number of parents traveling, number of children, accommodations and life style, exchange rate, and costs at the time of travel
9. Transportation of MIMDES social worker for required assessment visits, if necessary.
10. Visa medical examination for child (\$100)
11. Child's birth certificate & passport
12. American embassy visa fee (\$400 per child + photos of child)
13. Psychological report for dossier (\$100-600)