

## South Africa

Updated: 6/1/2019

Bethany has been working in South Africa since 2009. Currently, Bethany is one of three approved agencies in the United States working with an accredited adoption agency in South Africa. We partner with Wandisa™, a nonprofit, accredited Child Protection Organization that facilitates national and international adoptions. Wandisa means “one who adds to the family” in Zulu and Xhosa. Wybrow Oliver Attorneys handle all legal matters in the adoption process and are experienced child welfare advocates.

Please keep in mind that international adoption is dynamic and unpredictable. Unexpected changes in time frames, laws, and procedures are possible. Families must be flexible, open-minded, and comfortable with uncertainty regarding their adoption process. Children placed from South Africa may have been born prematurely, have a history of neglect, or malnourishment. There is a high prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Exposure in South Africa. There is a need in this program for families open to older waiting children and children living with special needs.

Family Requirements	
<b>Age</b>	Ages 25 and up.
<b>Marriage</b>	Minimum of 18 months, 2 years is preferred.
<b>Singles</b>	Accepted, men and women.
<b>Income</b>	Must meet USCIS Poverty Guidelines and demonstrate sufficient income for household size.
<b>Children at Home</b>	Accepted with documentation of sufficient resources to care for additional children.
<b>Criminal</b>	Criminal histories on a case-by-case basis. Families with an arrest or criminal history must provide explanation of arrest, along with a certified final disposition from the court, submitted with formal application.
<b>Health of Adoptive Parents</b>	Significant health issues or disabilities may require a letter from the attending physician or specialist in support of the adoption.
<b>Concurrent Adoptions</b>	Allowed.
Travel	
One trip of 7-8 weeks is required.	
Process	
It takes approximately 12-30 months to receive a referral. This may be less if a family is open to a child with profound special needs. Waiting children with special needs are available and families may be matched with waiting children once they have an approved home study.	
The adoption is finalized in South Africa and children receive automatic citizenship upon arrival in the United States.	
Post-adoption placement reports are required at: arrival, 3, 6, 12, 24, and 60 months.	

## \*Estimated Fees and Expenses

Country Fee	\$11,916 - \$13,214
Third Party Fee	\$985 - \$2,464
Travel Fee	\$11,400 - \$14,700
Bethany Fee <i>*Below is a breakdown of Bethany estimated fees and expenses.</i>	\$18,350 - \$19,350
Preliminary Application	Free
Formal Application	\$550
Global Services Fee	\$2,000
IAAME Accreditation Fee	\$500
Home Study Services	\$2,500 - \$3,500
Program Fee 1	\$6,050
Program Fee 2	\$4,150
Post-Adoption Services <i>*This fee includes four post-adoption visits. Additional fees will be assessed if additional visits are required.</i>	\$2,600
<b>*Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$42,651 - \$49,728</b>
<i>*Please use our <a href="#">fee calculator</a> to get an estimate of fees based on your zip code for adopting from South Africa.</i>	