



## Ethiopia Network Adoption Program Overview

All Blessings International, Inc., proudly partners with Illien Adoptions International, a licensed child placing agency based in Atlanta, Georgia to assist Kentucky and Missouri families in their pursuit of an adoption from Ethiopia. ABI and Illien Adoptions have created a cooperative working relationship to provide ethical, professional and quality service delivery to both children and families.

ABI can assist Kentucky and Missouri families with homestudies and document preparation for an Ethiopian adoption, which will be processed directly by Illien. Families will enter a contract directly with Illien for adoption processing. The U.S. Embassy coordinates closely with the Ethiopian government to ensure the eligibility of each child placed for adoption.



**Children Available:** Children ranging from babies under one year old to sibling groups and children with special needs are available for adoption. Families may state their preference for the gender of the child and for the age range at time of referral. There are more boys than girls who are eligible for international adoption from Ethiopia.

**General Adoptive Parent Requirements:** There is no upper age limit for prospective adoptive parents, but they do ask that there be no more than 43 years difference between the age of the child and the age of the adoptive parents. Both married couples and single women are allowed to adopt from Ethiopia. Their preference is couples be married for 5 years, but are somewhat flexible and have allowed couples with only 1 year of marriage to adopt in the past.. There is no limit to the number of children adoptive parents can have residing in their home at the time of the adoption.

**Adoption Process**– The adoption process from Ethiopia can appear overwhelming initially. However, it is a step-by-step process and ABI will guide you. The first step in adopting from Ethiopia is to have a **Home study** conducted by an agency licensed in your state of residence. The second step, that can be done concurrently, is to file your Immigration and Naturalization Paperwork: the **I-600A**.

**Dossier.** The next step is the Dossier. It is a compilation of documents that require various seals at different levels of government. ABI, Inc. will provide adopting families with exact directions about how to prepare their dossier and an up-to-date Dossier document list when they have decided on their specific country. Don't be overwhelmed - we'll help you with this and ABI Inc. will even manage dossier preparation and domestic and international mailing! Once your dossier is ready to submit, your documents will be reviewed and prepared to enter the Ethiopian legal system when you have accepted a referral. Once your dossier is ready to submit, your documents will be reviewed and forwarded to Illien for processing.

**Referral.** An adoption from Ethiopia takes approximately 6 to 9 months to complete once your dossier has been submitted. A realistic time line from the beginning to the end of the process is approximately 12 months. However, please note timelines routinely change. Referral information includes photographs, HIV testing, hepatitis testing, tuberculosis screening, and a current medical evaluation and social history when available.

**Travel.** Two trips are required and each stay in Ethiopia is approximately one week.

**Post-Adoption.** A report describing the child's health and adjustment is then written and submitted to Illien at 2,5, and 11 months after your court date.

