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Dear Adoption Applicants:

From the Legal Talk and during the preparation workshops, we have been talking about how adoption is above all a measure of restoration of rights that makes it possible to materialize the right of children and adolescents to grow up in the bosom of a family.

Children and adolescents with legal status to be adopted are not necessarily babies, most of them are over 6 years old, some of them are over 10 years old, others belong to a group of siblings with whom they wish to grow up and others due to different biological circumstances common to the entire population, have diagnoses associated with illness or disability.

It is important to remember that many of the factors that led to the opening of an Administrative Process for Restoration of Rights are associated with the experiences of adversity of children, adolescents, and their families. These stories are crossed by factors such as substance abuse by parents before and during pregnancy, street life behaviors, mental health history in parents, infectious diseases transmitted from mothers to children during pregnancy, malnutrition and acts of various forms of violence, including sexual violence. In some cases, but less and less frequently, entry into the protection system is marked by very little, limited or even non-existent information about the family of origin.


Thus, the different realities that came to be configured as reasons for entering the protection system are part of the life histories of children and adolescents, but they do not necessarily condition the existence of special characteristics and needs.

Therefore, all families requesting an adoption procedure must incorporate within their adoptive project, that these histories are common to children and adolescents waiting for a family and that their responsibility as parents will be to integrate this past into family life, the relationship, and the bond they will build with their son or daughter.

In this sense, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, family history without clinical manifestations, belonging to a group of two siblings of which the oldest is under 10 years old, or the general conditions for all children and adolescents in the Protection System are **NOT special characteristics**.

However, to a greater or lesser extent, these experiences of accumulated adversity, added to the low availability of families, result in the configuration of characteristics and needs that, it is essential to point out, the majority of children and adolescents who are part of the adoption program hold. That is, it is also considered as a need or special characteristic, when for certain conditions there is no family on the waiting list for adoption.

Therefore, for the Adoption Program in Colombia, the following circumstances are considered special needs or characteristics:

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- Be ten (10) years of age or older.
- Belong to a group of two siblings, where the oldest of them is ten (10) years or older.
- Belong to a group of three (3) or more siblings.
- Be a child or adolescent with a disability
- Be of any age and have a chronic, serious and permanent illness or condition that requires specialized care from the health system

For this reason, next you will find lists where different characteristics are indicated so that you, as part of your assessment process for suitability and pre-selection, area aware of and analyze which of them you could consider and which you could not. We know that each family or person has different conditions, which will be evaluated by the teams and analyzed by the Adoption Committees, but our intention is to invite you to continue with a process of reflection on the capacities to raise these children and adolescents waiting to be adopted.

This activity is fundamental for you, for us as an entity, but mainly for the children and adolescents who are part of the adoptable population of the country and who have not yet managed to materialize the opportunity to have a family. Therefore, this invitation involves much more than filling out matrixes. Please take your time! Consult with health professionals who can guide you, who can explain some characteristics and thereby demystify some prejudiced notions that sometimes due to lack of knowledge we forge in the face of some diagnoses that are common to the population of children and adolescents who are not or have gone through the protection system or histories of adversity.


Consult, investigate, ask!

In case you consider that you do not have the conditions or openness for the adoption of children and adolescents of special characteristics and needs, in any case, your evaluation process will continue and in case you are granted an eventual suitability by the Adoption Committee you would enter with a pre-selection aimed at children without characteristics or special needs.

The completion of the following sections does not represent the adoption of a specific child and adolescent or the automatic approval by the Adoption Committee, or the endorsement by the Adoptions Sub Directorate. The objective is to encourage the evolution of the adoptive project and that the expectation corresponds to the real conditions of children and adolescents in search of family. Therefore, the content of the following sections will be taken into consideration within the evaluation process.

Now, if the course of your adoptive project and your family and / or personal characteristics, makes you, in short, not feel prepared for any of these two (2) antecedents, which can be part of the history of children and adolescents, please indicate the ones you could accept as referral:

History	Couldn't
Mental health history in parents	

 BIENESTAR FAMILIAR	PROTECTION PROCESS FORMAT OPENNESS TO SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND NEEDS	F16. LM16. P	05/11/2021
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Infectious diseases transmitted from mothers to children during pregnancy (negative after treatment)	
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Other history mentioned above are NOT subject to consideration.

Table I. Special characteristics by age

In order to promote the achievement of families, please indicate in the columns whether or not you could consider the option of being an adoptive father or mother for children or adolescents with these conditions. In case you have the required openness, you can write down in the comments column the restrictions or information that you consider relevant according to the case.

Characteristics and Special Needs by Age Presented to Adoption Committees	You Might Consider It	Couldn't	Comments
Children and adolescents, age 10 years, read up to 10 years and 11 months			
Children and adolescents age 11 years, read up to 11 years and 11 months			
Adolescents age 12 years, read up to 12 years and 11 months			
Adolescents age 13 years, read up to 13 years and 11 months			
Adolescents age 14 years, read up to 14 years and 11 months			
Teens 15 and older			

Additional Comments:

Table II Special characteristics by sibling group

In order to promote the achievement of families for these children and adolescents, please indicate in the columns whether or not you could consider the option of being an adoptive parent with these conditions. In case you have the required openness, you can write down in the comments' column the restrictions or information that you consider pertinent according to the case.

Characteristics and Special Needs by Sibling Group Presented to adoption Committees	You Might Consider It	Couldn't	Comments
Group of three siblings where the oldest is 6 years old, read up to 6 years and 11 months.			
Group of three siblings where the oldest is 7 years old, read up to 7 years and 11 months.			
Group of three siblings where the oldest is 8 years old, read up to 8 years and 11 months.			



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Group of three siblings where the oldest is 9 years old, read up to 9 years and 11 months.			
Group of three siblings where the oldest is 10 years old, read up to 10 years and 11 months.			
Group of three siblings where the oldest is over 10 years old			
Group of two siblings where the oldest is 10 years old, read up to 10 years and 11 months			
Group of two siblings where the oldest is 11 years old, read up to 11 years and 11 months			
Group of two siblings where the oldest is 12 years old, read up to 12 years and 11 months			
Group of two siblings where the eldest is over 12 years old			
Groups of four or more siblings			

In case you wish to adopt a group of more than 4 siblings, please note the additional characteristics below:


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Table III Special characteristics by health conditions

In order to promote the achievement of families for these children and adolescents, please indicate in the columns whether or not you could consider the option of being an adoptive parent with these conditions. In case you have the required openness, you can write down in the comments column the restrictions or information that you consider relevant according to the case.

It is important to clarify that the pathologies that you write down in order to be classified as "special characteristics and needs" are those that denote a definition by the health system as **chronic, permanent, serious and that demand more than specialized care from the health system**, such as: constant interventions, medications, therapies or additional aids that other children do not usually need or only require it from time to time.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

Characteristics and special health needs of children and adolescents presented to adoption committees (pathologies)	You might consider it	Couldn't	Comments Indicate your observations and if you can the name of the pathology
ONCOLOGICAL PATHOLOGIES			
DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM - HEART DISEASE			
ENDOCRINE, NUTRITIONAL AND METABOLIC DISEASES			
CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS, DEFORMITIES AND CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES			
DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM			
INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES			
ORPHAN DISEASES*			
RARE DISEASES*			

You can add rows in the box.

³NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

* It is recommended to consult resolution 5265 / 2018 of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, which updates the list of orphan diseases and dictates other provisions.

³ The classifications hereinafter indicated are based on the DSM V Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders DSM-V, revised version, but according to Colombian regulations and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection the



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Characteristics and special health needs of children and adolescents presented to adoption committees (pathologies)		Mild	Moderate	Grave	Couldn't	Comments
Intellectual Disabilities	Intellectual Disability (Intellectual Developmental Disorder)					
	Overall developmental delay					
	Unspecified Intellectual Disability (Intellectual Developmental Disorder)					

Communication disorders	Characteristics and special health needs of children and adolescents presented to adoption committees (pathologies)	You might consider it	Couldn't	Comments
	Language disorder			
	Phonological Disorder			
	Childhood-onset fluency disorder (stuttering)			
	Social communication disorder (pragmatic)			
	Unspecified communication disorder			

Motor Disorders	Characteristics and special health needs of children and adolescents presented to adoption committees (pathologies)	You might consider it	Couldn't	Comments
	Developmental Coordination Disorder			
	Stereotyped Movement Disorder			
	Tic Disorder			

Characteristics and special health needs of children and adolescents presented to adoption committees (pathologies)	You might consider it	Couldn't	Comments
Autism spectrum disorder			
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder			
Specific Learning Disorder			
Other specified neurodevelopmental disorder			
Unspecified neurodevelopmental disorder			

OTHER MENTAL DISORDERS - OTHER PROBLEMS THAT MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF CLINICAL CARE

Characteristics and special health needs of children and adolescents presented to adoption committees (pathologies)	You might consider it	Couldn't	Comments

Diagnostic Classification will be made based on the provisions of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Problems Related to Health ICD-10 of the WCO (Resolutions 3374 of 2000 as amended by 1531 of 2014) The identification codes used in the DSM V, are found in some with their respective equivalences in the ICD-10.



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Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders			
Bipolar disorder and related disorders			
Depressive Disorders			
Anxiety disorders			
Trauma-related disorders and stressors			
Eating and feeding disorders			
Excretion disorders			
Destructive impulse control disorders and conduct			
Child sexual abuse			
Limit intellectual functioning			

Other pathologies, diseases, syndromes or unrelated disorders in the pictures that we consider (or), we could get to attend:

CHARACTERISTICS AND SPECIAL NEEDS DUE TO DISABILITY⁴

In order to promote the achievement of families for these children and adolescents, please indicate in the columns whether or not you could consider the option of being an adoptive parent with these conditions. In case you have the required openness, you can write down in the comments' column the restrictions or information that you consider relevant according to the case:

Characteristics and special disability needs of children and adolescents presented to adoption committees	You might consider it	Couldn't	Comments
Physical Disability (permanently presents functional body deficiencies at the musculoskeletal, neurological, integumentary level of congenital or acquired origin, loss or absence of any of the body parts or disorders of body movement)			
Hearing impairment (functional impairments related to the perception of sounds, their location, pitch, volume or quality. As a consequence, it presents different degrees of difficulty in the production or reception of verbal messages and oral communication)			
Visual impairment (impairment of light perception, shape, size, color. Blind people and people with low vision are included)			

⁴ See resolution 0113 of January 31, 2020, of the Ministry of Health and the Social Protection, by which provisions are issued in relation to the certification of disability and registration of location and Characterization of people with disabilities.



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Deafblindness (combination of a visual and hearing impairment that generates in people who present them problems with communication, orientation, mobility and access to information)			
Intellectual Disability (Refers to impairments in general mental abilities, such as reasoning, problem solving, planning, abstract thinking, judgment, academic learning, and learning from experience)			
Psychosocial Disability (alterations in thinking, perceptions, emotions, feelings, behaviors, and relationships, considered as signs and symptoms according to their duration, coexistence, intensity and functional affectation)			
Multiple Disability: (Presence of two or more associated physical, sensory, mental or intellectual deficiencies, which significantly affect the level of development, functional possibilities, communication, social interaction and learning.			

We confirm that we have read and understood the entire content of this format.

Name _____
Signature _____

Name _____
Signature _____

Date _____
