

Russia Adoption Program

Dear Prospective Families:

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

In March of 1991, MAPS International was the first American agency to work directly in cooperation with the Russian government. Our first children arrived home in October of that year and since that time; we have placed over 1,000 children in loving families.

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 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 soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Stacey Dudley
Russia Program Coordinator

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www.mapsadopt.org

THE CHILDREN

The children available are infants, toddlers, and school-aged. Sibling groups are also available. Families interested in sibling groups must be open to children from infants to school-aged. Childless families may not specify gender unless requesting a boy, or a girl over 5 and/or with special needs. Families with a boy may request a girl under 4, if willing to wait in excess of 12 months for a child offer.

Most children coming from Russia have mild orphanage delay and a few have physical handicaps, mostly correctable. Children may have some degree of prematurity in their birth history. Others may have social histories that include family neglect and/or alcohol abuse in one or both parents.

Families who will be adopting older children must be aware that these children 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 special needs stemming from lack of proper parenting, a loss of personal history and genetic connection, multiple caregivers, geographical moves, and developmental delays that often result from institutional care. For families adopting a child(ren) over the age of 10, the child must consent to the adoption before procedures can begin.

It is very common to not have background information on a child. As long as Russia considers adoptions to be a closed process, this will be difficult to change. The amount of information available to you before your 1st trip to Russia will be limited. Rarely, a family will receive a name and date of birth, medical records, or photos. Videos are not available before the 1st trip, but you may make videos while in Russia. For any medical information received, there are experienced clinics in the U.S. available to examine the records and some doctors may also be available for you to consult with while in Russia. MAPS will provide a list of international doctors before you travel.

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

Couples and single women are accepted. You must be 25 years old and not exceed a maximum of 45 years difference between the youngest parent (preferably mother) and child. There is no religious requirement.

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

TIMELINE & PROCESS

Once your family has applied to the Russia program, a MAPS program coordinator will work with you to determine your child preference. We estimate child referrals to take approximately 2-8 months for males under 2 and at least 12 months for females under 5. Some sibling groups, school age children and children with special needs may be available much more quickly. This estimate can vary depending on factors such as your specific child request, political and bureaucratic changes, and delays. For the 1st trip, parents typically travel 2-4 weeks after an invitation to travel. Once you return home from this trip, we will work with you to complete a dossier (an apostille certified set of documents), according to the rules of the Russian government. You will typically hear a response from the court 6-12 weeks after the dossier has been sent to Russia and travel back for court 3-9 months after dossier submission.

MAPS staff, here and in Russia, work with the Russian central and local governments on pre-adoption steps that must be completed prior to travel. In addition, MAPS will assist you in obtaining your visas to enter Russia.

Administrative processing of the actual adoption occurs while the family is in Russia. The U.S. immigration and visa procedures are completed in Moscow.

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

Your patience and flexibility are essential to working with this program. The adoption process, as well as communication and the concept of timeliness, is very different in Russia.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

There are two trips required for families adopting from Russia. The 1st trip is about one week in length and both parents must travel. The 2nd trip will be about 3 1/2 weeks, unless a 10-day waiting period is waived; in which case it will be shortened to about 2 weeks in length. Families may elect to come home during the 10-day waiting period and make a third trip to bring your child home.

Families will be met in Russia by a bi-lingual MAPS coordinator who will greet and assist families during their stay in Russia. Families must travel to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to process the immigrant visa for the child.

COSTS

The initial fee submitted to MAPS, with your application, is the application fee of \$600 and is not country-specific. The first installment of the \$6,300 MAPS agency fee (\$3,300) and the translation fee of \$1,500 are due upon acceptance to the Russia program. The remainder of the MAPS agency fee (\$3,000) and the refundable post-placement deposit (\$1,000) are due prior to your first trip. The Russia foreign program fee of \$14,750 is payable at the time of child acceptance. This includes MAPS costs both in the U.S. and Russia. 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 will 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 in your state. We cannot accept studies done by licensed independent social workers or probate courts. We will be able to formally accept your completed file 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.

MAPS will also need one copy of your USCIS I-600A approval/cable notice (Form I-171H or 1797C). If you have not received this, file your I-600A immediately and state that you would like the approval notice cabled to the American Embassy in Moscow. You should file your

I-600A with INS as early as possible. The INS approval usually takes 2-4 months.

HUMANITARIAN AID

An important component of our adoption program in Russia is humanitarian aid. Placed families are encouraged to participate at whatever level of involvement they can offer to help support the children who remain behind. Contributions can range from a donation of supplies to their child's orphanage to giving financially to long-term orphanage assistance projects. We take great pride that our families continue to care and put forth efforts on behalf of the children of Russia. Their selfless efforts have made a difference to these children.

Please review the enclosed material and let us know if you have any further questions regarding adoption through the MAPS Russia program. We would be delighted to speak with you about the details of adopting from Russia and your plans to build your family through adoption.

Sincerely,

Stacey Dudley

Russia Program Coordinator

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FEE SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTIONS FROM RUSSIA

MAPS application fee (payable with application)	\$600
MAPS agency fee ((\$3,300 payable at program acceptance and \$3,000 payable before 1 st trip)	\$6,300
Dossier translation fee (payable at program acceptance)	\$1,500
*Refundable post-placement deposit (payable before 1 st trip)	\$1,000
MAPS foreign program fee (payable upon acceptance of child assignment)	\$14,750
Sibling fee for second related child	\$8,000
Sibling fee for third related child	\$1,500

MAPS will place unrelated older children in the same family under special circumstances and with the recommendation of the orphanage director.

Typically 90% of the foreign program fee covers in-country adoption program expenses/services, 10% may be used for humanitarian aid in-country. For a sibling adopted simultaneously, the foreign program fee includes \$2,500 for stateside adoption program expenses/services and \$5,500 for in-country adoption processing). For additional siblings adopted simultaneously the foreign program fee is \$1,500 per child.

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

Other expenses to plan for:

Immigration application (I600A)	\$670
USCIS fingerprints (per adult in home)	\$80
Passports/visas fees	Approximately \$200-\$1000 per person
Lodging, food, necessities for parents & child(ren) accommodation	\$150-\$500 per day, depending on
Travel for child/children	Approximately \$500-\$2,000 per child
Fee for translator, if needed	Approximately \$100-\$2,000
Fee for car and driver, if needed	Approximately \$500-\$2,500
International Flights	\$500-\$2,000 per person per round trip
Domestic (within Russia) flights	\$200-\$600 per person per round trip
Translation fee documents translation)	\$1,500 (due at program acceptance for
Child's physical	\$150 per child
Child's U.S. Visa	\$400 per child
Photographs	Approximately \$25 per child
Embassy Registration Fee	\$70

Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:

Home study and post-placement fees	Approximately \$2,000-\$6,000
MMPI or MMPI-2 assessment if required	Approximately \$300-\$700 per parent
Physical exams for parents for dossier	Approximately \$200-\$1,200 per parent
Notarization & authentication of dossier	Approximately \$1,000-\$2,000
Medical exams/lab expenses for child as requested by adoptive parents	Approximately \$500
Child's travel – depends on age of child	
Gifts for orphanage, director, various officials if desired	Approximately \$0-\$500
Miscellaneous personal expenses	

*Monies will be held in a non-interest bearing account and refunded within 14 business days of receipt of final post-placement report.