



A Helping Hand  
ADOPTION AGENCY

# Adopting from Russia

## Program Facts

Russia is a country about 1.8 times the size of the US occupying the vast area between Europe and the North Pacific Ocean. It has an area of 10, 672,000 sq. miles and a population of almost 150 million people. Russia has been a top choice for many Americans when considering adoption. This program has remained relatively stable over the past years. In 2005, US citizens adopted an estimated 4,639 children from Russia.

- Boys and girls ages 9 months and up are available.
- Russian Adoptions can take, on average, 8-14 months to complete
- Children reside in the care of an orphanage while awaiting adoption
- Russian officials will invite the family to an orphanage where the family will be given a referral.
- Both adoptive parents are required to travel to Russia for the official referral. (one week)
- Adoptive parents must return to Russia for the court date (6-8 weeks after Referral) This trip can take 4-10 days

## Eligibility Requirements

Review the following standards as you consider the program, and please contact AHH directly if you have any questions about how the requirements of this program will impact your ability to adopt from Russia.

- Married couples are eligible to adopt and must be married 1 year.
- Single women may adopt and must be at least 25 years old.
- Adopting Parent(s) may be no more than 45 years older than the child
- Applicants must be a minimum of 25 years old.
- Adopting Parents must be in good health
- Only two divorces are allowed per adoptive family

# Fee Outline

*AHH has attempted to fully disclose all fees below. Other agencies may not do so. When comparing agency fees, please be sure that necessary fees in other fee schedules are not omitted. Be sure to compare “apples to apples.”*

## **A Helping Hand Adoption Agency Fee..... \$6,250**

The Agency Fee is broken into the following 4 payments:

**Application Fee - \$250:** This payment is due before your application can be processed. It should be sent with your application or paid online the day you submit your application. We perform considerable work in the evaluation of applications; application fees are therefore non-refundable.

**Orientation Fee - \$2,000:** This payment is due at the time of your adoption orientation with your Family Advocate. It should be mailed to our office or paid online when your orientation is scheduled.

**Agency Fee at Dossier - \$2,000:** This payment is due two weeks before your dossier is turned into AHH. Your dossier cannot be sent to Russia until this payment has been posted to your account; therefore it is best to pay it at least two weeks before sending your dossier to our office.

**Agency Fee before travel- \$2,000:** Must be paid before any travel plans can be made.

## **AHH Home Study Fee (KY Only) ..... \$1,600**

If AHH is conducting your home study, half of this fee is due at the first home study visit and the balance is due at the last visit. This service is only provided to Kentucky residents. If you live in another state, you will need to pay a local agency directly to work with you on your home study, and their fee may vary significantly.

## **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).....\$830**

USCIS charges \$670 to process the I-600A, the petition to adopt internationally that you must file with USCIS. In addition to this fee, you will also pay \$80 per person to be fingerprinted. The total for couples is \$830; for singles it is \$750.

## **County, State, and Consulate Authentication Fees ..... \$350 - \$475 (estimate)**

Each of your dossier documents will need to be authenticated at the appropriate authorities in your state. Since each state charges a different amount for this service, we are providing an estimate for the costs of this step. Your Family Advocate will be able to advise you on the exact authentication costs for your dossier.

## **AHH Post-Adoption Deposit.....\$600**

A deposit in the amount of \$600 is due for post-adoption reports at the time of the **Agency Fee at Dossier**. Your deposit will be returned as follows: \$100 refund upon completion of 2-month post adoption; \$100 refund upon completion of 6-month post adoption; \$200 refund upon completion of 18-month post adoption; \$200 refund upon completion of 30-month post adoption. *Failure to complete post-adoption reports as scheduled will result in forfeiture of the deposit.*

## **ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR Russia (Contact AHH Russian Advocate for more details)**

**Russian Foreign Fees: .....\$18,000.00 (ages 0-6)**  
**\$15,000 (ages 7 -up)**

### **Some Important Notes on the Fees:**

Some of the individual fees explained here are set, but others are variable depending upon the time of travel or your state of residence. We have given our best effort to provide an accurate range of costs that we believe will prove true for a high percentage of clients. **This is a reasonable guide based on past experiences; individual costs can fluctuate, and these figures do not constitute a contract.** Costs for obtaining birth certificates and passports are not included in this estimate and are payable directly to Vital Records or Passport Services Office. Furthermore, the cost for re-adoption is not included. Re-adoption is required for many families; for those for whom re-adoption is not required, it is still recommended. The cost depends on your state of residence.

# Fee Schedule

*One of the most common questions we are asked is for an explanation of the fee schedule. We have done our best to clearly explain all of the fees above, and we hope the following fee schedule is helpful in your financial planning. We have not attached an exact timeline to this schedule, because each family's adoption journey is different and it is very difficult to predict exact time-frames. However, this should serve as a general guide, and we'd be happy to answer any specific questions you may have.*

## **Stage 1: Application to Dossier Completion**

For most families this stage takes approximately 3 to 6 months. The time-frame for this stage depends on several factors including the time that it takes for you to complete your home study and dossier, and the time that it takes for your USCIS office to process your I-600A. Most of these factors are beyond your control. In this stage, the following fees are due, typically in this order. Specifics for each of these fees are discussed in the Fee Outline section of this document.

**Application Fee**  
**Orientation Fee**  
**Home Study Fee**  
**USCIS Application Fee**  
**State Authentication Fees**

## **Stage 2: Dossier Submission**

You will submit your dossier to Russia as soon as it is complete. The following fees are due before your dossier can be sent to Russia. We recommend that you pay these fees at least 2 week prior to your dossier being submitted to avoid any delay in shipping your dossier to Russia

**Agency Fee at Dossier**  
**Post-Adoption Deposit**  
**First Installment of Russian Foreign Fee**

## **Stage 3:**

### **Russian Court Date**

Typically once you get your travel invitation you will travel approximately 6-8 weeks later. In this stage, the following fees are due. Specifics for each of these fees are discussed in the Fee Outline section of this document.

**Second Installment of Russian Foreign Fee**  
**AHH Travel Fee**  
**International Airfare**  
**In-Country Travel and Accommodation Expenses**  
**U.S. Visa for Your Child**  
**Childs Medical in Moscow**

***If you have any questions, please contact A Helping Hand Adoption Agency.***

**1.800.525.0871**

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