

# General Adoption Information

## Midland International Adoption Group

Monthly Meetings/Talks in MHB Central Offices, Tullamore

No Membership fee, simply complete application form to be placed on mailing list. €2.50 per person on attendance of meetings

Website: <http://homepage.eircom.net/~miagroup/Index.htm>

Email address: [miagroup@eircom.net](mailto:miagroup@eircom.net)

## International Adoption Association

Very good source of information. Monthly Meetings

Annual Membership €80 per annum

Regular newsletters with lots of information

Excellent website

Website <http://www.iaaireland.com/>

## Irish Adoption Board

[www.adoptionboard.ie](http://www.adoptionboard.ie)

Some good information available on this website

## Russian Specific Information

### Email Group – Subject: Independent Russian Adoptions

Primarily American but other nationalities participate.

Good Source of contacts/facilitators in Russia. Anyone can join

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ind\\_Russian\\_Adopt/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ind_Russian_Adopt/)

### Russian Medical Diagnosis, etc.

Website that has some excellent information relating to Russian Medical Diagnosis, Russian Medical Issues and considerations.

Website address: [www.russianadoption.org](http://www.russianadoption.org)

## Facilitators, etc.

### FRANK FOUNDATION (No longer working for Irish people in Russia or Kazakhstan)

Pre 2001 most adoptions in Russia were handled through the Frank Adoption Center of North Carolina and the Frank Foundation based in Washington. However, due to a change in the Russian adoption laws in March 2000 (requiring adoption agencies to work only with their own nationals), the Frank organisation no longer works with Irish adopters.

### ENROUTE TRAVEL

Since 2001 (Russian Law Change) Russian adoptions have been handled through En Route Travel rather than American Agencies (Frank) .

Enroute also work in Kazakhstan

En Route Travel, 518 Dogwood Lane, Wilmington, NC 289409, USA.

Tel: +1 (910) 794-2500, Fax: +1 (910) 794-2666

En Route Travel, Bolshaya Ordinka Ul., Dom 44, Str. 4, 2 etage, pomecheniye 1, Moscow, RU 119017. Tel: +7 (0) 95 721-1641, Fax: +7 (0) 95-721-1640.

Email: [enroutetravel@aol.com](mailto:enroutetravel@aol.com), website: <http://www.enrouteus.com/>

### OLEG OLEJNIKOV

Russian adoptions are also handled by independent facilitator, Oleg Oleynikov. Details of Oleg Oleynikov's services can be obtained through the contact details below

Dmitry V Gribov, Attorney-at-Law ,Leninsky Prospect 4A, 3rd Floor., Attorneys' and Notary Public Office, Moscow, Russia Ph: (Home/fax): 095-954 6255 Mobile: 095-747 2056 Email: [ecs@online.ru](mailto:ecs@online.ru)

## **DENIS RYBAKOV**

Another Independent facilitator who is willing to help Irish couples adopt . However, his is a small-scale operation.

Email address: [denisr@fns.ru](mailto:denisr@fns.ru) or [denis@fns.ru](mailto:denis@fns.ru) telephone: +7 095 777 6544 / 5 (not sure which email address is current)

fax 2925196 Home No is 3470854 mobile is 00790226873836

## **Olga Farrell**

Independent facilitator based in Ireland.

Olga Farrell, Naas, Co. Kildare. Phone: 045-870063

## **OTHERS**

There are two or three more independent facilitators in Ireland, helping Irish couples to adopt from Russia. These are working on a very small scale.

There are also other Russian and American based facilitators who are willing to help couples for a variety of different fees and services. There are some very reputable people out there but unfortunately there are others that are only too willing to give you the run around. It is critical that all facilitators are thoroughly checked out, references sourced independently and thoroughly vetted.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Couples adopting independently under Russian adoption law ( 2000) should expect to make two trips to Russia. The first trip is when you will receive your referral - meet the child and receive the child's medical information. This trip will take three to five days. Paperwork will then be submitted to the Russian Court. Some time later - it could be anything from a few weeks to a number of months - you will be given a court date. You then travel to Russia for your court hearing.

The ten days delay before Russian court decisions take effect is waived in some regions and never waived in others. Because of this the second trip can vary from three or four days up to three weeks. It is rumoured that in some regions the requirement may be to travel three times. In addition to the two trips listed above – the first trip would be to submit your application in person to the Department of Education.

## **Paediatricians**

**Dr. Kevin Connolly** [Kevin.Connolly@whb.ie](mailto:Kevin.Connolly@whb.ie)

Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Direct Line Number: 0905 48291 Hospital Number 0905 42140 Fax number 0905 48357

Rosemary is the secretary – works Mon, Tuesday and Thur morning's – until lunch time

## **Dr. Colm Costigan,**

Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, Dublin 12. Tel: 01 4558-111 or 01-4096399.

His secretary is called Jackie. The Fax number is 01-4560953.

## **Immigration Clearance Certificate**

Paula Jacobs, **Telephone:**  
Foreign Adoption,  
Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform,  
13-14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2.

Documents required:

- Marriage Certificate (Long form originals)
- Birth Certificates x 2 (Long form originals)
- Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability (**Original**)
- Four passport size photographs (2 each)
- Short letter of application detailing which country you will be adopting from

Note: As you are required to submit your Original Declaration – it is wise to send your application by registered post and request that they return the documents by registered post also.

## **Apostilling Documents :**

Contact: Fiona Whelan,

Consular Section, Dept. of Foreign Affairs, 69-71 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2.

Phone: 01-4082174

Phone in advance and make an appointment. Consular Section requests to allow at least four hours to have your documents processed.

## **Russian Embassy**

Consular section, 180 – 184 Orwell Road, Rathgar, Dublin 15.

Phone: 01 4923492 (consular section)

It can sometimes be very difficult to get through on the phone – you will need to keep trying and you should eventually get them.

It is a good idea to ring them to make an appointment. You will probably still have to queue. They are opened daily until 12.45

At the Russian Embassy you will

Register your pack of documents/dossier before sending them to Russia (after they have been notarised and apostilled) Costs about 40 euro

Get Visas for travel to Russia

Consularise Post Placement Reports (after they have been translated, notarised and apostilled).

## **Other Useful Information**

### **V.H.I.**

If you are a member of V.H.I. the child can be covered for all existing medical conditions from the date of your Court - provided you advise V.H.I. of the details in advance – as soon as you get a court date give them a call with the details.

### **D.H.L.**

D.H.L. offer a discounted rate of approx 30 euro for delivery of adoption related packages. This rate could be 50% or less of the actual cost.

## **After returning Home:**

**Register the child with the Russian Embassy** – they usually provide you with details of what is required to complete this process before you travel to Russia

## **Register the Adoption with the Adoption Board**

You will need to write to the adoption board advising them that you have completed the adoption and requesting information on how to register your child. The adoption board will send you out an application form and other information and requirements. There is quite a bit in this pack and the lingo can be difficult to understand. You will need to take the pack to your solicitor to sign an affidavit in their presence. In addition you will be requested to submit the original Court Decree in both Russian and English and Adoption Certificates. Register your application to the adoption board (since you are parting with original documents) and ask them to do the same when they return them. Also request an application form for an Irish Adoption Certificate.

Following this the adoption board will write to you to advise the registration of the adoption and should enclose an application form for an Adoption Certificate. Adoption certs cost about 5 euros each and you can apply for up to three.

## **Apply for Child Benefit**

To apply for child benefit you will normally require the Irish Adoption Certificate.

## **Irish Passport**

To apply for the child's Irish Passport – you will need

- the child's Irish Adoption Certificate
- Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Birth Cert of adoptive mother or father (safer to send both)
- Photos and other "other" requirements

## **Best Tips/Comments**

- It's Worth all the effort
- Stick Together with other people you meet on your journey – eg. People in your assessment group.
- Always have a backup country – Laws change more regularly than you might think
- Educate yourselves – This is a decision that will effect the rest of your lives.
- The Assessment, though sometimes heavy and difficult is an education process and every individual will take something different from the assessment that will stand to them at some point during the Adoption
- Listen to anybody you can find speaking on the subject of International Adoption even if it is a country that you are definite that you are **not** adopting from.  
YOU WILL LEARN SOMETHING that will benefit you and your child in the future

- It will be tough when you get home first (especially after the initial honeymoon period)
- When you get home make full use of all services available to you – Local Health Nurse, Speech and Language Therapists, Doctor, Pediatrician, Opticians, Dentists, etc.
- If you feel you are having a problem do not be afraid to ask for help from Social Workers, Health Professionals, Other Adoptive Parents, etc.. **Early intervention is critical.**
- Be honest with your children – never tell them something that is not accurate
- Find a “Buddy” who has adopted from your chosen country and who can help with paperwork, country details, travel details, etc.
- **Have Fun, Enjoy your uninterrupted night’s sleep, GOOD LUCK and .....it’s definitely worth it.**